

CULTURAL DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2014
Creativity Center Conference Room

Attendance

Commission present: Vicki Tilton, Carol Baker, David Hauman, Sherry Galbreath, Neeraj Joshi, Mike Kerber, Jamie Mathy, Carole Ringer, Karen Schmidt, Curtis Trout

BCPA staff present: Tina Salamone, Graham Cowger, Brandy Maloney, Erin Mangian, Rodney Stickrod, Bev Spencer, Eric Veal, Dave Young

Guests: Dexter O'Neal, Jeremy Haley

Meeting opened at 7:30 a.m. by Chair, Vicki Tilton. Roll call taken. Commission members, BCPA staff and Dexter O'Neal and Jeremy Haley, participants in the Multicultural Leadership Program, made brief re-introductions.

With a motion by Ringer and second by Mathy, previous minutes were approved.

Review of recent activities and events

Commission and staff received a copy of Veal's August Commission Report (attached).

Salamone shared an overview of the past month's activities from her Director's Highlights sheet (attached). Regarding the Creativity Center renovation, she noted there has been a shift in thinking about considering a geothermal system, as well as completing the building in one shot rather than in phases. Salamone reported the BCPA outdoor café space planning continues.

Other Business

Tilton reported she and Giordano are serving on the Arts and Cultural Group for the City. She noted it has been very interesting and a great learning experience for all. Tilton also stated there is a need for a common outlet to let people know what's going on in the arts community. Ringer responded the Area Arts Round Table (AART) is attempting to do this; they have a website and calendar but one of the problems is a lack of staff to place events on the page. Tilton acknowledged the lack of resources and noted other sites also have incomplete information, including the City of Bloomington, CVB and the Chamber. She added that those in the arts need a more open dialogue with each other. Others agreed. Tilton reported two members of the Arts and Cultural Group will speak before the City Council at some point. Tilton noted this is a positive thing and applauded the City for their efforts. Baker asked if there is a target date for those on the committee to address City Council. Tilton responded it will be at least a few months, as it will be after their group sessions are over and as there are still two monthly meetings remaining.

Hauman asked if we have an annual deal with WGLT. Mangian responded that WGLT promotes our shows and we give them tickets to give away on air. Salamone reported she is unhappy with their lack of support for the BCPA's Northern Exposure, an event for which WGLT was supposed to be a sponsor and added that it may work better to identify 4-5 BCPA shows for them to devote time to promoting rather having them promote across the board.

Baker reported a new banner will be arriving soon to promote BCPA tours.

Salamone announced Graham Cowger's last day with the BCPA is tomorrow. All thanked him for his work at the BCPA and wished him well in his new endeavors. All are welcome to join us in a goodbye dinner at Lucca Grill tonight.

With a motion by Ringer and a second by Schmidt, meeting adjourned.

Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts

Commission Report - August 2014



The Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts hosted several large outdoor summer programs in August. Events included three Miller Park Summer Theatre musical performances of *The Music Man*, an all-day Blues Festival on the BCPA lawn called Northern Exposure presented with Guitar Remedies, and two days of Bruegela – A Festival of Beer, Wine, & Music co-presented with the Jaycees of Bloomington/Normal.

The first ever Northern Exposure Blues Fest on the outdoor CEFCU Summerstage featured incredible musicians out of the Chicago area including: Billy Flynn & Friends, Rob Blaine's Big Otis, Toronzo Cannon, Lucky 3 Blues Band, Nicholas Tremulis Orchestra, and the Wayne Baker Brooks Band. A guest appearance by guitar phenom Tallan Noble Latz from Wisconsin rounded out the evening. Food trucks from Healthy in a Hurry, The Pop Stop, Oogies, and The Dinner Bell pleased patrons with a variety of eats while the BPCA provided beer and soft drinks. Guitar Remedies gave away a Les Paul guitar to a lucky raffle ticket holder.



Bruegela 2014 served up over four hundred craft beers and fifty wines. This year, staff and volunteers battled rainy weather which made for a soggy lawn. A little bit of luck kept the rain away while the music was playing though. Kudos to the crew who set up the CEFCU Summerstage in light rain for almost 3 hours and maintenance personnel that worked in the mud to clean up the lawn and parking lot areas. This year, four new Bruegela additions made for a more pleasing environment. A new outside tent was placed in the McLean County Arts Center parking lot and a portion of the crafts beers were served there. This created less congestion in the BCPA ballroom for new releases and traffic flow. Several new food vendors were on hand to serve up tasty food complementing the beer, wine and music selections and



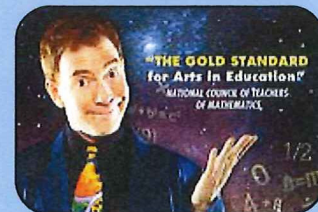
porta-potties were added to the outdoor festival space. The music was even expanded on Saturday to include more local acts from 2-5 pm. A total of eleven different bands performed both Friday and Saturday including headliners Modern Echo and Switchback. Over 5300 patrons and volunteers enjoyed this year's Bruegela Festival of Beer, Wine, and Music at the BCPA both inside and outside on the lawn.

With so much bottled beer, Bruegela created a great recycling opportunity! The BCPA staff and Jaycee volunteers stepped up recycling efforts and over the course of the two day Bruegela event filled seventy, ninety-five gallon recycle containers of glass and two, four cubic yard dumpsters of cardboard.



The BCPA also hosted thirty-five community-based programs and rental events in August 2014 with 8300 people in attendance. These functions included piano lessons, BCPA tours, three usher trainings, improvisation classes, four wedding receptions, Cultural Commission meeting, 1st Friday with the Downtown Bloomington Association, Miller Park Summer Theater - The Music Man costume collection and wrap-up, a baby shower, Microsoft seminar and more...

MatheMagic! is the first show of the year on Monday, October 20th. *MatheMagic!* features comedy, theatre and magic where kids unknowingly practice math skills, critical thinking and problem solving right in their seats! The BCPA will host a 10 am show for grades Kindergarten through 3rd, and a 12:30 pm show for grades 4th-8th. www.mathemagic.com



The BCPA will present **A Christmas Carol** for grades 1-7 on Friday, December 12 at 10 am only. *A Christmas Carol* captures the humorous and touching moments of the classic story with witty dialogue and fresh new songs, conveying Dickens' original message that the holiday season should be a "kind, forgiving, charitable time". www.theatreworksusa.com

Thursday, January 29th students can join **Curious George** as he takes the audience through a fun-filled adventure in which he learns more about Rome -- and meatballs...and the "secret ingredient" to cooking! Join the inquisitive little monkey who is the star of books, movies and the award winning PBS television show in this delightful new musical. There will be a 10 am and 12:30 pm offering for grades Pre-K through 5th grade. www.theatreworksusa.com



Kalapriya will celebrate the rich, ever-evolving diversity of Indian performing arts at the BCPA on Friday, February 6 at 12:30 pm only. Kalapriya specializes in Bharata Natyam, an Indian dance tradition whose history spans several millennia. Bharata Natyam is a dance form recounting Indian mythology and cultural traditions. Today, it is the most widely practiced style of dance in India. www.kalapriya.org

The Lightning Thief is the hottest new school show this season and coming to the BCPA on Friday, March 13 at 10 am & 12:30 pm. *The Lightning Thief* is recommended for grades 2-6 and is based on the popular book series by Rick Riordan. In the show, Percy Jackson has ten days to find and return Zeus's stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus. To succeed on his quest, Percy has to do more than catch the true thief: he must come to terms with a father who abandoned him; solve the riddle of the Oracle; and unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves. www.theatreworksusa.com



Fly Guy & Other Stories hits the BCPA stage Wednesday, April 29 for two shows at both 10 am & 12:30 pm. Below is a list of all the great stories your students will see in just one hour. Talk about getting a great value for one admission!

Fly Guy Meets Fly Girl (by Tedd Arnold) **Diary of a Worm** (by Doreen Cronin)
Fluffy the Classroom Guinea Pig (by Kate McMullan) **Horace & Morris But Mostly Dolores**
(by James Howe) **Kitten's First Full Moon** (by Kevin Henkes) **Lilly's Big Day** (by Kevin Henkes)
and **Paper Bag Princess** (by Robert Munsch). For grades K-5. www.theatreworksusa.com

New for the 2014-15 season is PRIORITY SEATING! First to reserve gets closest to the stage! BCPA Student Spotlight Series ticket base price is at \$6.50 per ticket, with every 18th ticket free plus the City of Bloomington Amusement Tax implemented August 1st, 2014. To reserve your seats, please call the BCPA Box Office at (309) 434-2777 or visit the BCPA event website at www.artsbloomington.org.

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DIRECTOR'S HIGHLIGHTS OF BCPA ACTIVITIES

Commission Meeting to Commission Meeting, 8/14/14-9/11/14

(This document is an offshoot of a digest report I do to keep Bobbie apprised of when I'm out in the community. It is not comprehensive of my time or that of any other staff member; it is truly a snapshot of the highlights of public interaction.)

In addition to the myriad rentals and day-to-day hard work on the part of our staff, the following dates reflect moments where we were critically engaged with the public and/or media.

8/14.....Took photos of Volunteers at Orientation & Review Meeting

8/15.....Met with Bruegala staff

8/18.....Met with Jeff Secord to discuss development options; also began a one week intensive with Gretchen McIntosh, a PhD candidate in Arts Administration & Public Policy from The Ohio State University; began a collaboration on THE PHILADELPHIA STORY with Community Players serving as lighting designer of their show

8/19.....did radio with Susan Saunders, WJBC; was the subject of an interview with *Pastelle* magazine; attended an AART board meeting

8/20.....Met with Jeff from WGLT and Erin to discuss our annual deal with them

8/21.....Spoke at a morning Kiwanis meeting

8/22.....BRUEGALA

8/23.....BRUEGALA

8/26.....Radio with Susan Saunders, WJBC; Took photos of Volunteers at Orientation & Review Meeting

9/03.....Met with Michael Ingersoll of *Under The Streetlamp* for a site inspection and to discuss future collaborations.

9/04.....Attended *Millenials In The Workplace* webinar at IWU

9/05.....DEON COLE

9/08.....Met with Team Farnsworth to discuss Creativity Center thoughts

Graham's last day is 9/12/14

Plethora of meetings, both internal and external; positive buzz from community, colleagues and media; unsolicited calls to help us move the mission forward.