

Harvard Cultural Council Meeting Minutes

3 June 2014, 7pm

Volunteers Hall, Harvard Public Library

Present:

Members - Alice Bartram (Chair), Fran Nickerson, Edith Joyce, Robin Carlaw, Rebecca Wright, Lily Moore-Eisenberg

Guests: Alison Thornton (PTO), Melissa Carshaw (Fruitlands), Bob Eiland (self), Laura Vilain (Fresh InkK)

I. Call to Order (Alice Bartram) – 7:06pm

a. Introduction - main points to address today:

- i. Sharing ideas
- ii. Guests update the council on their projects
- iii. Fewer, bigger projects, or numerous smaller ones?

II. Membership updates

- a. Fran Nickerson renewing for a second term
- b. Robin Carlaw leaving
- c. Treasurer Elinor Stapleton resigning
- d. Lily Moore-Eisenberg to do administrative duties and record minutes

III. Vote to accept minutes from 11/6 meeting

- a. Passed unanimously

IV. Grants

a. Please get reimbursement paperwork in ASAP

- i. Final deadline is 12/31/14
- ii. Fran Nickerson will send a reminder email to applicants

b. Two grant changes

- i. 1 year extension for Jean McCrosky
 1. Periodical check-ins with Rebecca Wright
 2. Rebecca Wright: McCrosky recently got services of personal assistant through the Council on Aging, which will help her stay on schedule.
- ii. Friends of the Arts (subcommittee of Friends of the Harvard Public Library) request a grant change
 1. Friends of the Arts has already sent a letter to the HCC concerning the matter.
 2. Cause for change request:

- a. Friends of the Arts booked Shakespeare group based in Martha's Vineyard using HCC funding.
 - b. The theater group canceled at the last minute.
- 3. Requesting a substitution/relocation of funds to new project
 - a. Documentary: "Following the Ninth: In the Footsteps of Beethoven's Final Symphony"
 - b. To take place December 6 and 7 of 2014
 - c. Only venue in MA for the film
- 4. Responses to the request:
 - a. Fran Nickerson: Relocation of funds should not become a precedent.
 - i. Alice Bartram: HCC will make it clear that the relocation is a one time thing.
 - b. Rebecca Wright: The project should be included in the 13/14 cycle even though the event may take place in the 14/15 cycle.
- 5. Motion to vote to approve grant change
 - a. Bearing in mind that it is an exception, not a precedent
 - b. Grant change approved.

V. Side discussion

- a. Recap of standard HCC procedure:
 - i. Applications due October 15th each year
 - ii. HCC meets in November to review applications
 - iii. State usually gives about \$4000 per year, which HCC divides into \$300-500 sums per applicant
- b. Consolidation versus continuation of current funding strategy
 - i. Alice Bartram: should the HCC fund fewer, larger projects or numerous, smaller projects?
 - 1. Consensus: numerous, smaller projects
 - a. Allows for repeated funding from year to year
 - b. Most groups pool funding from various sources
 - 2. However, collaboration of smaller projects would be looked upon favorably in grant applications.

Project Information

VI. Guests share their projects

- a. Alison Thornton: curriculum enrichment committee at HES
 - i. 4 -5 standard programs complemented by a few new ones each year
 - ii. Brings diversity to learning
 - iii. The committee picks one of these projects for which HCC funding will be used.
 - iv. Examples of programs:
 1. Eyes on Owls for 2nd grade
 - a. 11th year coming to HES
 2. Artists in Residence
 - a. Curriculum enrichment committee has shared artists with the Council on Aging as well as the Festival of Cultures.
- b. Representative from Fruitlands Museum
 - i. Planning for Centennial Saturday to take place on 6/21/14
 1. Free admittance
 2. Tours, crafts, games, food, animals, puppet performance, music
 - ii. Upcoming
 1. 6/21/14 opening ceremony for Centennial year
 2. 6/21/15 closing ceremony for Centennial year
- c. Laura Vilain: Fresh InkK
 - i. Used HCC funding for events on 2/1/14 and 5/17/14
 1. 2 local writers per event
 2. Well-received, good turnout
 - ii. Publicity
 1. Asked for email list of HCC members
 - a. Council unanimously agreed to disclose emails
 2. Bob Eiland suggested using Harvard's community message board called Harvard Next Door.
 - iii. Looking to the future
 1. Next Fresh InkK event will be held on 10/11/14
 2. Hoping to eventually host a literary festival
- d. Bob Eiland

- i. Live performance of original play
 - 1. Age group: preteen to mid-teen
 - 2. The Merrimack group vetted the play
 - 3. Play is already cast
 - 4. Receiving funding from Warner Free Lecture
 - 5. Hired an experienced children's director
 - 6. To take place 5/15/15
- ii. Reasons behind the project
 - 1. Practically no non-musical theater opportunities for young kids
 - 2. Great learning opportunity
 - a. Peter Pan Center is interested in writing an acting workbook to accompany the play.

Open Discussion

VII. Discussion regarding funding strategy (continued from “side discussion,” part V.b)

- a. Robin Carlaw: Numerous smaller funds better than fewer larger funds?
 - i. Bob Eiland: Numerous smaller funds preferred
 - 1. Most event planners piece funds together from multiple different groups
 - 2. This helps to involve various different groups and to facilitate cooperation.
 - 3. The involvement of multiple different benefactors widens the scope of projects.
 - ii. Laura Vilain: Numerous smaller funds preferred
 - 1. She wants to keep Fresh InkK free.
 - 2. Needs consistent funding from year to year, and fewer larger funds would likely be awarded to different groups each year.
- b. Consensus: Numerous smaller funds is the better funding strategy.

VIII. HCC could potentially do its own fundraising.

- a. HCC could favor projects that provide material for Harvard cable TV, thereby giving back to the community
 - i. Some projects/events are not conducive to this
 - ii. There is already a question on the application form in which applicants could discuss benefits to the community.
- b. Bob Eiland suggested the following for HCC advertising:
 - i. Harvard Next Door
 - ii. Facebook page
 - 1. Rebecca Wright and Lily Moore-Eissenberg will look into this.

IX. Alice Bartram suggested that the HCC host another forum like this one during the next grant cycle for questions and informal presentations.

X. Motion to adjourn

- a. Motion passed