

City of Bangor, Commission on Cultural Development
March 12, 2015
8:30 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
3. Final Report
 - a. Bangor Ballet
4. Committee Updates
5. Review Proposed Grant Eligibility, Review, and Scoring Changes
6. Discuss Arts and Monument Policy
7. Vote on FY2016 Budget Request to the City of Bangor

Future Commission Meetings (8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers):

2015
April 9
May 14
June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10
October 8
November 12
December 10

City of Bangor, Commission on Cultural Development
Minutes
February 12, 2015
8:30 AM
City Council Chambers

Commissioners Present: Jamie Ballinger (Chair), Kierie Piccininni (Vice Chair), Tom Avila, Judy Boothby, Mary Budd, Emily Burnham, Ulrike Guthrie, Josh Plourde, Elissa Young, and Caitlin Brooke (staff)

Excused Absence: Kat Johnson

Unexcused Absence: Chris Roberts

Guests: Gerry Palmer, Normand Martin, Paul Nichols

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Emily and seconded by Tom to approve the previous meeting minutes. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

3. Commission Governance

Assistant City Solicitor Paul Nichols spoke to the Commissioners about the City Ordinance which directs their actions, meeting processes, grant requirements, and best practices.

4. Babe the Blue Ox

Gerry Palmer and Normand Martin presented a cardboard mock-up of a statue representing Babe the Blue Ox. Mr. Martin is the artist who designed the Paul Bunyan statue which is placed in front of the Cross Insurance Center. Mr. Palmer noted it would be an asset to the community to have Mr. Martin create Paul Bunyan's companion, Babe the Blue Ox, for display. The first step in this project would be developing a scaled down model out of clay. Mr. Martin did create a cardboard version for the Commission to view. Mr. Palmer noted that the application for an Individual Artist Grant is in the works but he wanted to present the idea to the Commission prior to the application.

5. Arts and Culture Month

The Commission's Arts and Culture Policy directs the group to create an Arts and Culture Month in Bangor to promote the arts in the City. Jamie presented the idea of "ARTober," full-fledged effort to showcase the arts in all of Bangor's neighborhoods. The Commission would act as an umbrella organizer via Committees. Mary made a motion for the Commission to lead a marketing effort to highlight the year round resources available in Bangor; the breadth and depth of cultural activities that happen all the time; and to serve as a umbrella organization to identify ongoing activities, but also to spearhead the coordinator of special events that excite and engage residents and in the month of October--ARTober. Judy seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Marketing Committee will focus on developing goals and strategies to execute ARTober.

6. Funding Committee (Item was switched with #7 on the agenda)

Jamie asked if the Commission would find it appropriate for the Funding Committee to identify grants and to pursue support endeavors for the Commission's activities. Emily made a motion to grant approval

to the Funding Committee to apply for grants without seeking approval from full Commission for each individual grant it applies for. Uli seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Jamie noted that the Committee had applied for a Maine Community Foundation grant that was in the review process. It had been brought to the Business and Economic Development Committee for presentation and then the action of the Commission applying for the grant was going to be ratified by the full Council since the deadline was looming.

7. Review Proposed Grant Eligibility, Review, and Scoring Changes

In 2013 the Commission drafted a document that outlined proposed changes to the grant review and scoring process. It was designed to mimic Maine Arts Commission's process. The document, which was provided prior to the meeting in the public documents packet, was reviewed by Commissioners and Jamie asked if it was something the Commissioners felt was worth pursuing or if the Commission should start fresh. Tom noted that some sort of scoring system takes emotional reactions out of the process and allows for further deliberation in a constructive format.

It was decided that the Funding Committee should review the nitty gritty and devise a full review and scoring system.

8. Education Workshop Update

Kierie and Uli gave a summary of the Grant Writing and Application workshop that happened on February 4. Upcoming workshops will be about publishing (March) and businesses partnering in the community (April.)

9. Continuity of Community Signage Update

Caitlin updated the group that the signage for the Continuity of Community was not passed by the Business and Economic Development Committee in the form the Commission originally presented. The BED Committee requested that the sign contain language about the history of the sculpture in Bangor. Caitlin has requested confirmation of historical language from the Bangor Historical Society and is still waiting for their response.

10. Cultural Forum Updates

Section 4, goal 4 of the Commission's Arts and Culture Policy directs the group to host two cultural forums annually for the public and organizations to voice questions, comments, and ideas. To this end, the Commission will host such a forum on March 11, at 6 p.m. in the John Bapst High School Auditorium. There will also be a more focused forum with Bangor Arts affiliates during their March meeting. (Note: This has been moved to their April meeting.)

11. Other Business/Upcoming Events

Commissioners updated the group of events occurring in March.

Being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

A full version of this meeting can be found on the City's website:

<http://bangormaine.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=569dae41de04cc69a652bdce998555ed>

FINAL REPORT from Bangor Ballet
Bangor Production of Nutcracker Ballet Including
Outreach Performances to Downeast School
February 11, 2015

Bangor Ballet
14 State Street
Email: bangorballet@gmail.com Telephone: 945-5911
Established in 1994 as Bangor Youth Ballet
Operating Expenses last fiscal year (July 2013-June 2014): \$36,948
Number employees: Artistic Director is an independent contractor
All other staff are volunteers

Project: Bangor production of Nutcracker Ballet including outreach performances to Downeast School
Amount Funded: \$1927
Date Funded: 11/10/14
Fundraising Goal: \$5702 (includes ticket sales, grant and donation)
Actual Fundraising: \$7203 (ticket sales and donations were higher than expected)
Estimated Number Served: 625 audience members at Bangor public performances, 300 at Downeast in-School performances, 40 young dancers in the cast

NARRATIVE

Background

The mission of Bangor Ballet is to create performance opportunities for talented dancers and choreographers and to provide high quality live dance performances for audiences near and far.

Bangor Ballet was founded in November of 1994 and each subsequent year has presented between one and five major productions, most performed in two or more locations. The company seeks to develop well-trained young dancers who, through stage experience, gain confidence and expertise while providing public entertainment of the highest possible quality.

In the past two years (2012-2013 and 2013-2014 seasons) the company created a new version of the holiday favorite *Nutcracker*, created a new *Snow White* story ballet, reprised its original *Alice in Wonderland* and *Hansel and Gretel* ballets, staged the 19th century classic ballet *Paquita*, reprised the classical *Swan Lake* and *Titania's Dream* from *Midsummer Night's Dream* which it also performed as part of a Shakespeare workshop in collaboration with Penobscot Theatre, hosted a 20th anniversary gala with performances by current and former company members, and presented a program called *Salute to the Troops* to which veterans were offered complimentary tickets. In-school performances of *Nutcracker* were held in Brewer and Bucksport. The current season includes, in addition to *Nutcracker in a Nutshell*

partially funded by the Commission for Cultural Development, *Cabin Fever Reliever* with choreographic contributions from 9 different area choreographers, *The Little Mermaid* to be performed in March and the 19th century classics *Les Sylphides* and an excerpt from *Coppelia* to be performed in June.

The company does not have formal relationships with other organizations. However, the company has worked with Penobscot Theatre as noted above, has worked with area schools such as Downeast for the recent Nutcracker in a Nutshell, collaborated with Portland Ballet and the Bangor Symphony orchestra in the spring of 2012 in a production of the Legend of Sleepy Hollow and partnered with Maine State Ballet in 2011 to present an evening of dance inspired by George Balanchine.

Purpose of Funding Request

The specific funding request to the Commission on Cultural Development was intended to help cover expenses associated with the two public performances of *Nutcracker in a Nutshell* at the Gracie Theatre and in-school performances at Downeast School. The second act of Nutcracker in a Nutshell was performed twice at Downeast East, once for pre-kindergarten through grade 1 students and once for students in grades 2 and 3 so that all students of the school could attend. The grant also allowed us to offer vouchers to the Downeast School community, which permitted one adult with up to four children to attend one of the public performances.

We feel that everyone in our community should have the opportunity to experience live performances and, by going into the school, we were able to expose these students to one of these arts, in this instance live dance. As part of the in-school programs, one of the Bangor Ballet dancers read a synopsis of the first act to set the story for the performance of the second act and, following the performance, demonstrated some of the exercises and steps that are practiced in a ballet class and facilitated a question and answer period.

Although not technically a collaboration with the Gracie Theatre since it was a rental arrangement, the staff at the Gracie Theatre always works with us in a collaborative manner and we are very pleased to be able to perform at their facility. We worked with the Downeast Principal Al Mooers and the parent teacher organization at Downeast School to make all arrangements for the in-school presentations there.

We hope to continue a partnership with Downeast School but do not know at this time what direction it will take.

Evaluation Results

We projected a total of 30 attendees through the vouchers distributed at Downeast School: 10 adults and 20 students. A total of 38 vouchers were redeemed allowing 55 community adults and students to attend a full production at the Gracie Theatre, exceeding our goal by 25 attendees.

Total attendance for performances was over 900 with combined attendance at the two public performances at the Gracie Theatre of 625 plus the 300 students who attended the in-school presentations.

One of our criteria for evaluation was the reaction of students and feedback from staff and/or administration. Following the in-school presentations one of the little girls wanted to start dance lessons that very day and one older boy was heard to comment: "That looks really hard!" Another boy found the music intriguing and said: "I can't get that coffee music out of my head." Downeast School Principal Al Mooers wrote: "This was a huge success and the students had great things to say about the experience. Several girls were overheard saying they needed to practice their ballet moves. Bringing the ballet to the Downeast School was greatly appreciated. A live performance is something new to many of our children. I cannot thank you enough for the opportunity."

We are very pleased with the results of this project and thank the City of Bangor and the Commission on Cultural Development for support.

March 4, 2015

Proposed CCD Grant Review Process and Scoring Rubric

1. Grant proposals will be sent out via email prior to the CCD regular monthly meeting. Commissioners will read the grant application prior to the meeting and give preliminary scores to each grant using the grants scoring rubric. Commissioners will come to the regular meeting prepared with questions.
2. Grant applicants will be invited to the CCD regular meeting to give a brief presentation (5 minutes) of their grant and to answer questions. Commissioners may change their scoring based on this Q&A session.
3. After all applicants have presented, the commission chair will ask for discussion of the grants individually and overall. Commissioners may change their scoring based on this discussion.
4. At the conclusion of the discussion, the rubrics will be collected and scores will be tallied and read by the staff liaison or designee. Any score above a 3.5 average will be considered eligible for continued discussion and possible funding. (Ineligible grants will be returned to the grant applicant with copies of the scoring rubrics.) In the event of multiple qualified grants, higher scoring grants will take funding precedent.
5. The chair will request a funding motion for each eligible grant. Each motion will be discussed and voted upon.