

**CULTURAL DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

February 13, 2014

Creativity Center Conference Room

Attendance

Commission present: Roger Elliott, Neeraj Joshi, Sherry Galbreath, Mike Kerber, Judy Markowitz, Carole Ringer, Karen Schmidt, Jim Waldorf

BCPA staff present: John Kennedy, Tina Salamone, Brandy Maloney, Erin Mangian, Bev Spencer, Rodney Stickrod, Eric Veal, Jocelyn Whitehart

Meeting opened at 7:30 a.m. by Chair, Jim Waldorf. Roll Call taken. Previous minutes approved with a motion by Elliott and second by Schmidt

Review of recent activities and events

Commissioners and staff received a BCPA Commission Report highlighting January's activities. Salamone thanked Veal for his compiling the report. Salamone noted that there have been some challenges - predominately the weather. Salamone thanked Veal for checking and ensuring area parking lots were cleared of snow and thanks to Bobby Moews and his crew for their extra work in clearing lots. She also reported that in addition to great BCPA performances, terrific events were held in January. An Arts Partners reception was held after Hello Dolly!, where cast, crew and the band also attended. Hubbard Street 2 hosted dance masterclasses at Metcalf and Illinois State University and held a lighting and technical design Masterclass on the BCPA stage. ISU's tv-10 was present for the Blues Brothers show, where they filmed in the lobby and backstage.

First Friday - Tour de Chocolate: Salamone reported the event, with 328 in attendance, went very well. It was a true team effort by BCPA staff and a lot was learned. The DBA was very happy with the chocolate competition held in the Ballroom; we will be hosting again next year.

Salamone is working on booking the 2014-15 season. This should be wrapped up by end of February.

501c-3 Update

Waldorf has received Salamone's adjustments. He will get the necessary paperwork to the attorney. Kerber inquired as to how long the process will take. Waldorf responded he was not completely certain, and that it may be up to six months.

SchoolSculptures

Salamone reminded Commissioners actor/artist Kevin Reese will be here April 14-17 for the SchoolSculptures Program. Veal reported we are seeking a variety of classes to come to the Creativity Center to participate; any ideas from Commissioners of possible classes are welcome. Although the project can work well with any age group, the optimal age range are those in 4th to 6th grade. He added there is no fee to participate and stressed it is very important to include a diverse group of students - this is an opportunity not only for those already on an artistic path. There are also intern opportunities

available. Veal asked Commissioners to visit schoolsculptures.com for additional information. He will send more information as he receives it.

Salamone noted Kevin Reese will perform at the BCPA on Thursday, April 17 at 7:30 pm. The plan is for ticket prices to be \$5-\$7, with those who participated in the workshops allowed to see the show for free. The mobiles will be hung in the BCPA lobby and sold as a fundraiser. She added that this will be a good tool to promote the Creativity Center.

New Business

Salamone reported there was a very positive meeting with staff and Farnsworth regarding the Creativity Center; the architects were very excited about Stickrod's design concept for the façade. Stickrod noted their reaction was wonderful and added they are also wanting us to help with the design; it will be a collaborative effort. He added the architects agreed that the way to proceed with the interior is to work in phases, and that it will not increase costs to move forward with this plan. Additionally, areas will still be usable as we move through the renovation stages, and we will not lose as much financially in the duct work as was previously reported to the Commission. Salamone added that we should be able to start the renovation now. Commission was very excited about the façade and renovation plan.

Other

Stickrod reported Jim Martin wrote a grant to upgrade stage lighting, which resulted in a \$2,000 award.

Waldorf reported Wells Fargo will sponsor a performance for the 2014-15 season.

Meeting adjourned, 8:15 am.

Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts

Commission Report – January 2014 events



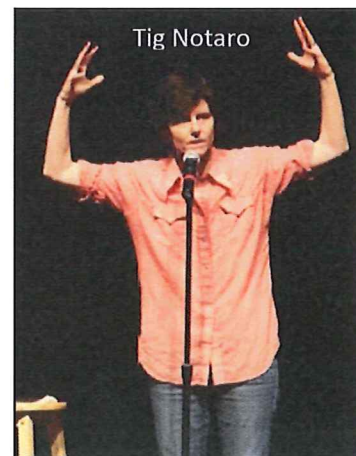
1st

Friday

The BCPA started the year on a cold snowy night January 3rd by participating in the Downtown Bloomington Association's - Wine & Dine 1st Friday Event. Not only could you tempt your taste buds and sense of smell but live music was emanating from our lobby from 5-8 pm. Special thanks to three local musicians who answered the call to offer their talent, Graham Cowger, the Brite Black band and Marcos Mendez. Once again, Café BCPA came alive and there are now plans for the BCPA to participate in more 1st Friday events in 2014.

In addition, the BCPA started 2014 with a 30% increase in attendance at in-house functions as compared to January of last year. These 37 functions included: BCPA shows, pre-shows, Arts Partner reception, BCPA tour, McLean County Dance Association recital, India Cultural event, a wedding, historical tour, piano lessons, improvisation classes, commission meeting, lighting and design class, and Theatrescool classes.

January BCPA presentations included *Tig Notaro* standup comedienne on January 10th preceded by 4 local openers Ramsey Hendricks, Zack Moravec, Mel Campbell and David Yates. Ramsey, Zac and Mel were all Bloomington/Normal high school speech team members who performed their original comedies and David Yates from Laugh Comedy Club warmed up the audience with a stand-up routine. January 11th the BCPA hosted *Rave On: The Buddy Holly Experience* with a pre-show hosted by Billy McGuigan who portrays Buddy Holly. On January 21st, the BCPA hosted the national Broadway tour of *Hello Dolly! Starring Sally Struthers* and then the New Orleans infused *Dirty Dozen Brass Band* on January 24th.



Here are three great quotes from our post-show *Hello Dolly! Starring Sally Struthers* survey. 1) "I would love to see more "Broadway" performances. This was amazing. Live shows like this are so grueling. I don't know how they all keep up their intense energy level. Sally has quite a voice and hasn't lost her comedic timing. Fabulous show." 2) "We enjoyed it immensely. It is nice to see a well known actor\actress come to town. Please keep trying to get shows like this." 3) "Enjoyed the Arts Partners reception following the event. Thanks for arranging that."



Arts Partner Reception – Hello Dolly!

The BCPA finished January with *Hubbard Street 2* from Chicago hosting residency dance masterclasses in our community on January 30th. Dance educational programs were held at Thomas Metcalf Laboratory School and Illinois State University School of Fine Arts - Dance Studio. These masterclasses taught sixty-eight dancers and non-dancers alike, hands-on skills in movement, personal confidence, balance, and form. Hubbard Street 2 also hosted a lighting and technical design masterclass for twenty Illinois State University undergraduate and graduate students on the BCPA stage to discuss and demonstrate real world applications.



Hubbard Street 2 - Masterclass at Thomas Metcalf Laboratory School



Hubbard Street 2 - Masterclass Illinois State University School of Dance Studio

