

SIOUX EMPIRE ARTS COUNCIL
HORSE BARN ARTS CENTER
February 19, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

ATTENDING:

Board Members: David Merhib, Paul DeZotell, Debra Kroger, Rob Joyce, Bernie Schramm, Mary Teply

Regrets: Teri Ellis-Schmidt, Russ DeCurtins, Ceca Cooper, Sara Crosby

Guest: Brian Bonde

Executive Director: Deb Klebanoff

Meeting called to order by President David Merhib at 1:05 pm. Introductions were made.

SDAC Elimination Update

- Brian Bonde updated the SEAC BOD on the latest strategies to restore the SD Arts Council funding.
- At the last Tuesday night Governor's Awards in Pierre, Gov. Rounds said he would "Direct my staff to plan to try and reinstate the Arts Council." The reference was somewhat vague as to what it's full meaning was, but good to hear.
- Brian and Pat Boyd of South Dakotans for the Arts will be meeting with Rep. Jean Hunhoff, Chair of the Appropriations committee
- Black Hills, Badlands, and Lakes Association have worked in concert with others in the tourism industry to propose HB 1229 which would allow for a ½% additional tourism tax to cover proposed tourism cuts and fund keeping the SD Arts Council at its current level. This bill should be before the house on Monday; then on to the Senate hopefully. Time to contact legislators again to have them support this bill.
- If HB1229 does not pass, it will be back to the original route of working through appropriations.

Financial Recap

Deb said that January financials were fine – very early in the year, but solid fundraising efforts will be needed. Mary motioned; Bernie seconded to approve January financials.

ED Report

- Save the SD Arts Council : Much lobbying has taken place and many letters written. In addition to all the extra work, we are crossing our fingers and putting in our app for Challenge Grant funding as if things will remain as they are.
- Mayor's Awards: Nomination forms are out – please nominate!! This is always the weakest part of the process. Event date is April 17, 2009.
- Student Mentoring: Both the 2008 and 2009 models are being completed for entry into new Children's Art Garden in front of the Horse Barn on May 9.
- Fundraising: 100 x 100 campaign donations have begun to come in; will be approaching retailers for the round-up dollars for the arts council in April. Also, SEAC is the non-profit for the week of February 25-March 3 at Hy-Vee.
- April Poetry Festival and Regional High School Show: Planning for both is well underway – hopefully the high school show will be in the Gourley Building downtown. The poetry festival will be the last weekend of April – Friday the 24th poetry slam; and Saturday the 25th open poetry reading, place to be determined.
- 40th Anniversary: Hopefully have a writer for the material. Need to get to work on further plans.

Fundraising

- \$1 for Arts in April – perhaps place an arts-related item on store wall like other non-profits do with sneakers – need to start listing businesses that might be willing...
 - Need to figure out the logistics of this program
 - Large corporations need more time to make funding decisions, so we want to work with smaller, local businesses
 - Perhaps there should be nothing for customers to sign or retailers to hang in their stores; just ask retailers to keep track
 - Donation boxes don't work because employees won't ask customers to give
 - David will create flyer to take along on any calls
- 100 X 100 Campaign
 - Who do you know that you could ask for \$100?
 - Board members each need to email list of 4 or 5 businesses to Deb that they will contact so we don't double up
 - Deb will start email of large donors that we don't want to ask in this campaign either – those “asks” are being handled by staff.
 - Idea of door stickers for businesses that give was well-received.
- Deb will set up dates with Tom Bennett for a phone-a-thon in the symphony offices

Final Business

Deb mentioned that Artfalls appears to be officially dead again for 2009.

There being no other business, Rob motioned; Mary seconded for adjournment; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Klebanoff

Meeting Adjourned!