

Amherst Cultural Council  
**APPROVED** Minutes  
Wednesday, November 28, 2012  
Crafts Room, Jones Library

**The meeting was called to order by:** Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair at 3pm.

**Attendance**

**Present:** Ellen Kosmer, Co-Chair, Honoré David, Co-chair, Ruth Rootberg, Secretary, Jim Scott, Treasurer, Gretchen Fox,, Arnold Friedmann, Sandra Mullin, (left at 4:05) , & Sondra Radosh, liaison.

**Absent:** Rachel Mustin, Joan Temkin

**Minutes:** The Minutes of November 19-20 were accepted with minor spelling corrections.

**Voting decisions:**

**Re-consideration**

**FY2013 65X** Friends of Amherst Recreation, requesting \$1,350 for ACTSMART Improv company, which we were planning to deny on the basis of not responding to our request for 10 additional copies. Sondra Radosh spoke to someone from that group, by chance. She learned the contact person, listed as Barbara Bitz, never received the e-mail request, as she is usually out of town. Sondra presented us each with a copy of the application. We reconsidered the application. Sondra will advise them further so they write their grant applications appropriately next cycle.

Decision: \$200.

We also reconsidered the three groups that we were going to cancel on the grounds they never submitted for reimbursement in FY2011. We learned from Boston that is not a valid reason for denial, unless we stipulate that in our guidelines. **We're going** to reinstate what we had decided in recent weeks.

**FY2013-#20** Hampshire Shakespeare

Decision: \$600.

**FY2013-32** Old Deerfield Productions

Decision: 100.

**FY2013-42** Jubilat Jones

Decision: \$150.

**Other reconsiderations:**

We discussed first the basis on which to re-consider decisions, and then re-considered some grants. The following are ones in which we increased the amount:

**FY2013-43** Eshu Bumpus Sondra Radosh advocated for this program to ensure the Jones can present this program.

Increase to a total of \$500.

**FY2013- 51** Music in Deerfield. Gretchen reminded us they are world-class

musicians, and we don't have anything like this in the Valley.  
Increase to total of \$375.

**FY2013-55 Amherst Public Arts Commission.** We think it's a terrific project.  
Increase to a total \$1,000.

**FY2013- 28 Piti Theater - bees.** Ellen asked us to reconsider. We don't have many science projects, and this is important- bee sustainability.  
Increase to total of \$300.

At this point, should our decisions remain final, we need to draw \$900 from the "interest bearing account" to cover grants, over and above the \$20,600 we are mandated to give through this year's granting, \$18,500 from the state and the FY2011 unencumbered funds (\$2,350). We feel comfortable drawing out more, as this account represents past unencumbered funds and should be reduced on a yearly basis. Ellen advised us to look at applications once more. We can re-consider increasing other grant awards at the next meeting.

#### **Review Denial Letters:**

Honoré read us the boiler plate of the denial letter she intends to use, and circulated copies of the specific reasons for denial. See attached (pages 4,5,6 of these minutes) for the updated list of denials and the reasons. Note: strikethrough text represents further editing of letter. Honoré will get denial letters out immediately. If anyone wishes to re-submit, we can review the requests at the next meeting.

#### **Other business:**

We instructed Treasurer Jim to ask Holly Bowser at Town Hall to make the transfer of \$2,350 which represents FY2011 unencumbered funds.

#### **Calendar of Meetings:**

Dec. 11 will be in Crafts Room (not in the Woodbury Room as formerly indicated) so we don't have to set up tables or chairs.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

##### **File cabinets**

Tevis Kimball, head of special collections at the Jones Library feels the various files of programs and such from prior grant years belong in special collections, although she doesn't have space for it presently. Sondra pointed out there are also boxes in the Crafts Room belonging to the Arts Council, in addition to the filing cabinet.

#### **Notes:**

##### **Revising Guidelines**

Ellen recommends we look at other towns to read their guidelines, in order to gather ideas for changing ours. Issues we may wish to consider:

Travel reimbursement for standard grants;  
Funding groups that have not applied for reimbursement two years prior (i.e., whose funds have recently become "unencumbered");  
Retrospective grants - we could have just a 12-month cycle, the project having to take place between Jan - December of the fiscal grant year.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Rootberg, Secretary, Amherst Cultural Council

## Reasons for Denial (prepared by Honoré David)

Date

Dear (applicant name)

Thank you for submitting a grant application to the Amherst Cultural Council. We regret to inform you that your proposal was not approved for this funding cycle. Our funds are limited, and often we are not able to support the many worthwhile projects we receive. Your application was carefully considered on its own merits and in comparison with others.

Your application was denied because:

2013 -1 Crocker Farm School: Field Trip

Did not follow field trip guidelines: f) ACC gives precedence to field trip requests that clearly relate to classroom curriculum; g) Please describe how you will integrate this field trip into classroom activities.

2013-1 E The Common School: Field Trip]

Did not follow field trip guidelines: f) ACC gives precedence to field trip requests that clearly relate to classroom curriculum; g) Please describe how you will integrate this field trip into classroom activities.

2013-4 Crocker Farm School: Field Trip

Did not follow field trip guidelines: f) ACC gives precedence to field trip requests that clearly relate to classroom curriculum; g) Please describe how you will integrate this field trip into classroom activities.

2013-12 Paris Press: Writing and Reading Through Illness

Project did not show sufficient planning: The dates, times for your venues were not listed for presentation nor were contact names and letters of support provided. However, the Council was impressed with your proposal and we encourage you to apply again.

2013-19 TEDx

Project did not show sufficient planning: The dates, times for your venues were not listed for presentation, nor were contact names and letters of support provided. Projects which benefit the greater Amherst community are given preference.

2013-33 Blue Hill Adventures

Project did not show sufficient planning: The dates, times and venues were not listed for presentation, nor were contact names and letters of support provided. Projects which benefit the greater Amherst community are given preference. Also, there was no specific mention of a qualified geologist who would furnish the basic educational material for the program to be developed, as required by our guidelines.

We did however, read the application with great interest for its unusual and imaginative content. The retention and use of core borings, along with related educational interpretive materials, would be a very interesting and unusual means of offering a program for both adults and children. Geology is seldom considered in depth outside the college classroom and we saw this program could well attract a general audience as an introduction **to, as you write, Massachusetts communities "under lining."**

We hope you will consider these points in light of our specific guidelines and find a way to design a project that we would be able to consider more fully in the future.

2013-62 John Porcino

Project did not show sufficient planning: The dates, times and venues were not listed for presentation, nor were contact names and letters of support provided.

2013-73x Mojue Kaika Global Renewable Energy

Project did not show sufficient planning: The dates, times and venues were not listed for presentation, nor were contact names and letters of support provided. Priority is given to those whose projects which benefit the greater Amherst community

2013-74x Joel Jean Claude

Project did not show sufficient planning: The dates, times and venues were not listed for presentation of material learned at the conference, nor were contact names and letters of support provided. Priority is given to those whose projects which benefit the greater Amherst community

2013-75x Clifford White

Project did not show sufficient planning: The dates, times and venues were not listed for presentation, nor were contact names and letters of support provided.

2013-72x Alpha Phi Fraternity

Project does not contribute to the well-being of the Amherst community as a whole. University project.

2013-71x Peter McNeaney

Project did not show sufficient planning: The dates, times and venues were not listed for presentation, nor were contact names and letters of support provided.

2013-69x Stefanie Weber

Project did not show sufficient planning: The dates, times and venues were not listed for presentation, nor were contact names and letters of support provided.

2013-68x Mike Spencer

Project did not show sufficient planning: The dates, times were not listed for presentation, nor were contact names and letters of support provided.

2013-67x Edward M. Wirt

Project did not show sufficient planning: The dates and times were not listed for presentation, nor were contact names and letters of support provided.

2013-66x Paul Bouchard

Project did not show sufficient planning: The dates, times and venues were not listed for presentation, nor were contact names and letters of support provided.

**Denied applicants have the right to request reconsideration of an LLC's decision if they can demonstrate the LLC failed to follow state and local guidelines and regulations. If you feel you have grounds for reconsideration, please see the enclosed Instructions for Reconsideration for more information. If you do plan to request reconsideration, Please contact us immediately so we can plan accordingly.**

If you would like to apply next year, please consider discussing your project idea with a council member ~~or attending an applicant assistant workshop that is held on (insert grant-writing workshop info if applicable).~~

Thank you again for your application.

Sincerely,

Amherst Cultural Council

Ellen Kosmer, Co-chair and Honoré David, Co-chair