

## Belmont Cultural Council

November 2, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Members attending: Viva Fisher, Rebecca Richards, Juliet Jenkins, Susan Smart, Sarah Freiberg-Ellison

Absent: Patty Mihelich, Mark Thibeault

The meeting began with a discussion by Viva and Rebecca of a recent Belmont Citizen newspaper letter criticizing the Belmont Gallery. A response to the criticism was in the most recent newspaper submitted by a former cultural council member and founding member of the gallery. Many of the issues about funding and space were addressed by the letter. Juliet mentioned that she had attended the recent daytime gallery talk and that it was well-attended and informative.

Council member Mark Thibeault has moved to Providence, RI and it was discussed that although he does not live in town anymore he could still serve on the council. He has not been present at a meeting since his move.

Viva moved to approve the previous meeting's minutes from September 19, Susan seconded the motion and all voted in favor of accepting the minutes.

The group began looking at the FY2007 applications. The applications will be distributed for review for the next meeting. Newer council members were directed to look at the MCC website for pointers for assessing grants. Viva presented a mini-synopsis of each grant. The group expressed pleasure that two new local organizations submitted grants that had never done so previously, Habitat and Powers Music School. The Burbank School submission for Ben Franklin sparked a lot of interest and one member mentioned that she had seen the performance previously. Some concern was expressed at the size of the amount request considering that it was a solo performance.

Members were reminded to look closely at the financial pages and make sure that the budget numbers were complete. No refreshments can be included in a budget. It was suggested that each member make follow-up calls with questions to any of the grants they were reviewing. Each member was asked to take home 2 or 3 grant submissions and return to the next meeting with a more in-depth review of the grant and a funding recommendation.

A source of concern was the lack of submissions by any Belmont Gallery artists. It was noted that last year we were concerned that there may be too many individual artists seeking funding and to have none this year was a surprise. It was also noted that there were no submissions from the World Film Festival. It was discussed that perhaps we could come up with a way to make the grant process easier to new applicants and hold a daytime question and answer session in September in the Gallery next year.

Partial funding was explored for all grant recipients. Members were instructed to find out if the grant activity will occur if they receive only partial funding. Members were reminded that each application needs a local sponsor and several repeats from previous years did not have a local sponsor again. It was also noted that each application must have a public component.

The Council on Aging again came in with many grant applications but for the first time one of the grants was not for a performance but rather for a series of pastel art workshops. One grant application was submitted for a time period that Viva researched to be ineligible - too early, October 2005. The Mass Cultural Council guidelines state that we may fund any application for an event in the current fiscal year, July 2006, which begins before the application due date of October 15th. Members discussed how if we fund an event after it has happened we have no role in publicizing the event, receiving any recognition for funding the event or any possibility of

attending the event to assess its impact on the community. The council will consider for next year being more stringent in our time deadlines for project dates.

The next meeting is set for Thursday, November 16 at 7:30. All members left the meeting with their grant application packets for review. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted by Juliet Jenkins