

CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
(203) 797-4508

DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 24, 2008 MINUTES

Present: B. DaSilva, H. Center, M. Schwartz, M. Burke, J. Cherry, H. Bechard,
B. Feinson, G. Smith X C. Rotello

Minutes of last meeting were accepted as mailed.

1. *Literacy Volunteers*, Tom Pinkham, Exec. Dir., requested a \$2,035. grant to intergrate aspects of American history and culture with American civics. They will use a series of vignettes about life in American plus field trips to acquaint the mostly South American and Asian students with the U.S. in addition to learning language skills. They thanked us for our past support.

2. *Richter Assoc. for the Arts*, Betty Bontempi, Pres., requested \$6,000 for 2009 programs and thanked us for our past support. She stated it has been a difficult year for Richter Arts because of financial constraints and the fact that they are now limited to doing programs only four months out of the year. They must now pay for house utilities and heating as well as care of the house. Performers for the programs are paid, publicity, printing and other expenses are ongoing, and costs are increasing for all of the above. The coming season will include their annual juried art show, plus a variety of musical, art, workshops and programs by accomplished groups and individuals.

3. *Obey Foundation*, Kojo Ben Rey, director and Kimberly Wood requested \$2,500 for a program dealing with African history featuring historic material and stories and involving the early African Underground movement. They will present the programs at Harambee and WCSU, while continuing to do drum circles and exhibits at the schools and in the Danbury community.

4. *Prime Timers, Friends of the Senior Center*, Susan Tomanio, Director, requested an \$800 grant for presenting a Big Band concert for a Christmas program and dance at the Danbury Senior Center to feature the Clark Eno orchestra.; They want to help keep the big band music alive for seniors. Money is also being sought from other sources.

Report on DCC Sponsored Programs: The Danbury Concert Assoc. program at Ives was excellent; the Danbury Music Centre Choral program at St. James was beautifully done, and the Danbury Music Centre concert was also excellent, reported H. Center, M. Schwartz, B. DaSilva and M. Burke.

Coordinator's Report: M. Siegel reported on the Ct. Ballet Task Force Committee which discussed plans for the new year with programs at Danbury High School as well as other Danbury schools and a major ballet performance and benefit in Danbury. They reported on their recent dance programs taking place in Danbury schools.

Action Taken: It was unanimously voted to cancel the December 22, DCC meeting.

Literacy Volunteers: H. Bechard moved we grant \$2,035; G. Smith seconded motion which was passed. *Richter Assoc. for the Arts*, B. Feinson moved we grant \$6,000; G. Smith seconded motion which was passed. *Obey Foundation:* M. Burke moved we grant \$2,000. H.Center seconded, J. Cherry abstained, motion was passed. *Prime Timers:* J. Cherry moved we grant \$800, M. Schwartz seconded, motion was passed. 38

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

BY: M. Siegel, Coordinator

Michael Siegel