



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Arts and Culture Commission  
**FROM:** Maegin Elshaug, Planning Coordinator  
**DATE:** September 12, 2019  
**RE:** Arts and Culture Commission Meeting

The next meeting of the Arts and Culture Commission will be held on September 18 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, City Hall. If you are not able to attend, please contact staff at 701.241.1474 or [planning@FargoND.gov](mailto:planning@FargoND.gov). Thank you.

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### **ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:00 p.m. Commission Chambers AGENDA**

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|--|-------------|
| 1. Approve Order of Agenda                                 | Action Item |
| 2. Approval of Minutes – August 21                         | Action Item |
| 3. Studio Crawl information by Jon Offutt                  |             |
| 4. The Arts Partnership 2018 Grantee Final Report Synopsis | Action Item |
| 5. Call for Artists: Public Art Projects open application  |             |
| 6. Appraisal Report by Mason Riddle                        |             |
| 7. Workplan  |             |
| a. Commissioner reports                                    |             |
| b. Staff reports   |             |
| 8. Other Business or Public Comments                       |             |
| a. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting October 16, 2019       |             |

Arts and Culture Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel TV Fargo 56 and can be seen live by video stream on [www.FargoND.gov/streaming](http://www.FargoND.gov/streaming). They are rebroadcast each Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

People with disabilities who plan to attend the meeting and need special accommodations should contact the Planning Office at 701.241.1474 or TDD at 701.241.8258. Please contact us at least 48 hours before the meeting to give our staff adequate time to make arrangements.

Minutes are available on the City of Fargo Web site at [www.FargoND.gov/artsandculture](http://www.FargoND.gov/artsandculture).

## **ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES**

### **Regular Meeting:**

**Wednesday, August 21, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Arts and Culture Commission of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in the Commission Chambers at City Hall at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 21, 2019.

The Arts and Culture Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Arlette Preston, Deb Williams, Jon Offutt, Tracy Walvatne, Mark Johnson, Denese Odegaard, Joe Williams

Absent: Denise Kolpack, Tracy Jordre

Chair D. Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed Members to the meeting.

#### **Item 1: Order of Agenda**

Member Walvatne moved to approve the Order of Agenda. Second by Member Offutt. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

#### **Item 2: Minutes: Regular Meeting of June 19, 2019**

Member Walvatne moved the Minutes of the June 19, 2019 Arts and Culture Commission meeting be approved. Second by Member Odegaard. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

#### **Item 3: Performance by Gasper's School of Dance**

Lacey Gasper, Director of Design for FMBallet, introduced a solo performance by Dillon Johnson, a member for the FMBallet Company. Ms. Gasper provided a brief update of current happenings and explained auditions for the 2019-2020 FMBallet Company and Second Company will be held on Wednesday, August 28.

#### **Item 4: Restructured Proposal for Fall Grant Round Call to Artists: Public Art Projects**

Chair D. Williams introduced the restructured grant proposal form and requested feedback on the updated document before the upcoming fall grant round. All Members present offered suggestions to improve the document, including the following comments:

- Addition of the mission and vision statements from the Public Arts Master Plan
- Addition of a rubric for measuring success of an installation
- Improved online accessibility and auto-fill capabilities of the document
- A discussion of age restriction/requirements
- Addition of non-discriminatory language
- Revision to encourage all applicants to attend an information session

Member Preston moved to approve the document with the discussed revisions. Second by Member Odegaard. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 5: Public Art Survey Results**

Member Preston summarized the results of the Public Art Survey conducted by Folkways on behalf of the Arts and Culture Commission. The intent of the survey was to increase public input on future public art installations. The survey addresses the type of art, materials, and placement of public art for the future. Members Odegaard and Offutt suggested sharing the results of the survey with the community through the Arts and Culture Commission webpage.

**Item 6: Workplan**

Member Preston introduced the work being done by the evaluation subcommittee and remarked that public art was the #3 priority in the Go2030 Comprehensive Plan. Member Odegaard discussed the possibility of evaluating success of public art through quantitative and qualitative measures. Member Offutt shared the idea of a local arts weekend to boost tourism. Member Johnson reported on efforts to engage public and private developers, including the Fargo Parks District. Member J. Williams discussed a framework for a communications plan. Member Walvatne discussed funding and referred to the Public Arts Master Plan.

**Item 7: 2020 Budget**

Planning and Development Director Nicole Crutchfield reported that the 2020 budget has been proposed, but has not yet been approved by the City Commission. A public hearing on the budget will take place at the September 9 City Commission meeting. Chair D. Williams encouraged Members to attend the meeting to support public art funding.

**Item 8: 2019 ACC Budget Update**

Planning Coordinator Maegin Elshaug gave an update on the 2019 Arts and Culture Commission budget.

**Item 9: Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit**

Chair D. Williams announced the opportunity for Members to attend the Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit in Cincinnati, Ohio in October.

**Item 10: Other Business or Public Comment**

No public comments were made at this meeting.

**10a. Next regularly Scheduled Meeting September 18, 2019**

The time at adjournment was 6:23 p.m.

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Arts and Culture Commission

**FROM:** Maegin Elshaug, Planning Coordinator

**DATE:** September 12, 2019

**RE:** Meeting Report

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### **Item 4. The Arts Partnership 2018 Grantee Final Report Synopsis**

Dayna Del Val with the Arts Partnership will present a brief overview of The Arts Partnership 2018 Grantee Final Report Synopsis. The report is attached and provides a brief overview of the mission-related work accomplished by 30 organizations in the City Arts Partnership or Community Arts Partnership. Earlier this year, the Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) granted the Arts Partnership \$102,000.

Suggested Motion: Receive and File the Arts Partnership 2018 Grantee Final Report Synopsis

### **Item 5. Call for Artists: Public Art Projects open application**

The Fargo Arts and Culture Commission has released a Call for Artists for Public Art Projects. The ACC seeks artist involvement in projects that enhance the community, neighborhood or the site where they are located. Projects are encouraged to build community support, including the community's arts and cultural influences, within the works. Artists of all disciplines and skill levels are encouraged to apply, as well as public and private organizations.

Applicants are encouraged to attend a public art question and answer session prior to submitting a proposal. The information session is scheduled for October 11, with additional information forthcoming. The deadline for applications is November 15, 12:00 Noon Central Standard Time. Visit [www.FargoArtsandCulture.com](http://www.FargoArtsandCulture.com) for additional information, Call for Artists application, as well as resources, such as the Public Art Master Plan and Public Art Survey results.

### **Item 6. Appraisal Report by Mason Riddle update**

Earlier this year, Mason Riddle was contracted to conduct an Appraisal Report of art owned by the City of Fargo. Ms. Riddle inventoried approximately 64 works, and provided an estimated insurance replacement cost of 29 works by 8 artists. Values of the works range from \$375 to \$7,000 (if cleaned and restored), and total \$47,225. Most of the pieces are in very good to excellent condition, and two are in good condition; however, a Cyrus Running piece is in need of restoration immediately. See attached document for more information.

**Item 7.b Workplan: Staff Reports**

Staff will present an update on the Planning Department's workplan for the fall, including the Civic Plaza: Sodbuster Landscape, Renaissance Zone plan update, Land Development Code Diagnostic and Core Neighborhoods Plan kick-off, as well as other City projects occurring this fall, including 2020 Budget discussion and 2020 Capital Improvement Projects beginning design stages.



## 2018 CITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP GRANTEE FINAL REPORT SYNOPSES

The following provides a brief overview of the mission-related work accomplished by the 30 organizations that received \$105,700 in City Arts Partnership or Community Arts Partnership Grants in Spring 2018. The Community Arts Partnership Grants are a subset of the grant program, designated for organizations that make a valuable contribution to and impact on the community. The CAP grant program is funded by the Tri-Cities.

### **ANGELS OF THE MUSE**

\$500 to provide musician stipends for live musical performances presented to underserved populations, including the elderly in nursing homes, all ages who are homeless, and those who are developmentally disabled. This past year, Angels felt it had the most impact in performing for A Child's World, a program of the YWCA. The performances give the children musical experiences that inspire them to create movement and foster listening skills.

### **CELEBRATION OF WOMEN AND THEIR MUSIC**

\$500 toward the annual live music event to support and enrich emerging high-school age female artists with scholarships to continue their education. The main concert (held at The Stage at Island Park) brought together regional musicians, dancers and visual artists who are mentored by nationally recognized artists. The house concerts see audiences representing all age groups. This year, award applications are open to girls at any level of high school rather than only seniors, thus providing for a broader selection of applicants.

### **CONCORDIA COLLEGE – CULTURAL EVENTS OFFICE**

\$1,400 toward the art exhibit *Women's Work*, featuring more than 20 female artists from around the country, part of the 2018 fall symposium *Power Plays: Why Gender Matters*. The most successful aspect of the project was the gallery talk in which the audience engaged in an honest conversation about gender in the arts world with several of the participating artists, moderated by TAP's President & CEO, Dayna Del Val.

### **FARGO PARK DISTRICT – FARGO MONSTER PROJECT**

\$500 toward a project that places friendly "monsters" (created by local artists) in Fargo parks for observant visitors to find and keep. This project engaged families to spend time together outside in an active way – and to visit parks beyond their neighborhood and experience more of what Fargo has to offer.

### **FARGO THEATRE**

\$10,000 to preserve the historic integrity of the Theatre while expanding its ability to meet the artistic and entertainment needs of increasingly diverse audiences, performers and filmmakers. The Theatre increased the number of live arts events and broke attendance records despite facing several unforeseen setbacks, including flooding and vandalization. The diverse slate of arts programming offered attracts different demographics, thus serving a large swath of our community.

### **FARGO-MOORHEAD AREA YOUTH SYMPHONIES**

\$3,500 toward providing a rigorous orchestral experience that challenges dedicated youth to reach their full potential musically. The FMAYS continues to grow in size and in cultural diversity, with many first-generation citizens/ immigrants. This in turn attracts audiences from different countries, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds.

- *Because of her experience with FMAYS, one student started a non-profit called Resonate to reach underserved rural music students. Resonate strives to provide masterclass experiences to students for whom travel or cost is prohibitive.*

**FARGO-MOORHEAD CHORAL ARTISTS**

\$4,500 to support the 2018-2019 season, which provides an outlet for musicians who are passionate about singing at a high performance level and preserving the treasured art form of choral music. The Choral Artists presented three concert weekends to around 2,500 people – the largest audiences numbers in their history.

**FARGO-MOORHEAD COMMUNITY THEATRE**

\$6,500 to provide theatrical and educational opportunities to engage and enrich the community. FMCT had 16 different shows on stage during the past season, including Sensory Friendly versions for children with special needs and their families and caregivers. Additionally, three of the productions touched on relevant topics of understanding and compassion. More than 20,000 people attended performances (a 240% growth in ticket sales and more than 475 children participated in educational programming (a 43% growth).

- *The Sensory Friendly production of Miss Electricity touched many children. One child gave the lead character of the show a hug, astonishing his caregiver, who stated that he never lets anyone touch him—a major win for both the child and the caregiver. One teen who had attended last year’s production excitedly showed his family to their seats: right up front, so he could easily dance. A mother with three children thanked FMCT staff repeatedly after the show, stating how difficult it is to find public activities that are accepting of her children’s needs.*

**FARGO-MOORHEAD GAY MEN’S CHORUS – TYLER’S SUITE**

\$1,000 toward a performance of *Tyler’s Suite*, a 9-song suite composed by several world-renowned composers that honors Tyler Clementi, a brilliant gay college musician who was bullied and ultimately committed suicide.

**FARGO-MOORHEAD OPERA**

\$7,500 to provide high quality opera performances; to develop an appreciation for one of the world’s great art forms; and to establish an educational outreach program. Last year, the Opera celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> season with productions that ranged from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The season attracted a more diverse audience than in the past – with many new faces.

- *The Opera has been producing “new” opera for the past several years that speak to relevant issues. Two seasons ago, they produced Soldier Songs which dealt with PTSD and last season’s Three Decembers, addressed the AIDs crisis and suicide. Many in the audience were visibly moved by the production.*

**FARGO-MOORHEAD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

\$10,000 to serve the community by enriching, educating and engaging people of all ages through inspired performances of orchestral and chamber music. The Symphony focused on breaking down genre and cultural barriers often associated with orchestral music. To that end, they offered a nearly sold-out concert that combined music from popular culture (i.e. the *Game of Thrones* and *Lord of the Rings*) alongside pieces from the classical repertoire.

- *The FMSO commissioned Dr. Rene Clausen to compose a piece for chorus and orchestra. Before the Whirlwind, which deals with Native themes in music and text, was narrated by a Concordia student who is an enrolled Red Lake and White Earth Bands of Chippewa member. Audience response was overwhelmingly positive.*

**FARGO-MOORHEAD VISUAL ARTISTS**

\$3,500 to further their mission to promote and support quality visual art in the Fargo Moorhead area by educating and encouraging visual artists and their communities. FMVA was able to travel more this year to exhibit their members’ work regionally, including to Grand Forks, Jamestown and Wahpeton. Along with exhibitions, the FMVA produced several public education events each year and hosted the Studio Crawl. Studio Crawl is a cultural tourism driver, bringing people from around the state and beyond to experience the weekend-long event.

**FARGO-MOORHEAD YOUTH CHOIR**

\$3,000 toward providing K-12 students the opportunity to rehearse and perform choral music with skill and understanding. The Choir serves youth in Grades K-12 from differing socioeconomic, racial and cultural

backgrounds. Indeed, 10% of the Choir's members are non-Caucasian, matching our community's racial diversity. The Choir performs at a range of venues and events, from sporting events to Valley Fair, which means that audiences are as socioeconomic, racially and culturally diverse as the singers. This year, The Choir added a fourth ensemble to the mix, was invited to sing at Carnegie Hall, and continued to see growth in participation.

- *One mother reflected on the impact FMYC had on her daughter's development: "She has grown in ways I could not have imagined. From a shy awkward kid to a talented young lady.... I believe The Fargo-Moorhead Youth Choir had a big role to play in my daughter's life. This group has taught her confidence and leadership, helped her grow in her talent, given her a place to belong, and provided her with some wonderful friends and role models."*

#### **GOOSEBERRY PARK PLAYERS**

\$5,000 toward providing an exceptional, fee-free unique educational and multi-generational summer theatre experience for youth ages 11-18. Last year's production of *Big Fish* featured 84 middle and high school students from 18 different schools in the region. Beyond the production of *Big Fish*, the group was committed to serving their community through performing in senior facilities, working with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and cleaning up Gooseberry Mound Park, where The Players originally performed.

#### **HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY OF CLAY COUNTY**

\$7,500 toward collecting, preserving, interpreting and sharing the history and culture of Clay County, MN. Much of their programming is designed to engage the community in positive exploration of cultural heritage through the arts. A five-month focus on Indian cultural programming partnered with the Metro's Indo-American community to use art to dispel stereotypes and create broader understanding. The programming brought in many new visitors, including from the Indo-American community.

#### **LEARNING BANK – FINE ARTS SERIES**

\$2,500 toward the *Fine Arts Series*, which provides every child in Grades 1-6 in the three school districts with access to experiences with the history, and the visual and performing arts. The Learning Bank is an intersection between our schools and the performing groups in our communities. Students hear music performed from different cultures and genres and learn about the history of our area. Additionally, the students learn about concert etiquette and can attend programs they may not otherwise be able to access. In the past 30 years, Learning Bank has reached more than half a million students.

#### **MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD – PERFORMING ARTS SERIES**

\$1,000 toward performances and workshops by Nobuntu, an all-female acapella quintet from Zimbabwe that works to spread awareness of African music generally and of music performed by women. Nobuntu held workshops for students for area public schools and performed for the public at the MSUM's Geaede Stage.

- *The performance attracted a more racially diverse audience than other events, including more students of color. A Caucasian mother brought a very young African American girl to the performance. They sat in the front row, and the little girl was fascinated by the performance, trying on their dance moves on every song.*

#### **NDSU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE – THEATRE FOR THE VERY YOUNG**

\$1,400 toward the production of *A Jaguar Tale*, a new play for preschool audiences that was performed at several daycares. *A Jaguar Tale* was instrumental in the creation of "Littles Art Day," an arts festival for children under five years of age produced in collaboration with Plains Art Museum, Gaspers School of Dance, Kindermusik and the Fargo Public Library.

- *Notes Jess Jung of the Department of Theatre: I am most proud of creating Littles Art Day. It was spectacular to see so many young people take part in the arts.*

#### **NDSU MEMORIAL UNION GALLERY AND STORE – SOCIAL JUSTICE REVISITED EXHIBIT**

\$500 toward the exhibit *Social Justice Revisited*, which showcased the work of Betty LaDuke. The exhibition dealt with the themes of workers' rights, equality, immigration and women's rights. The Gallery paired this exhibition with VR experiences curated to reflect the struggles for civil rights and refugees. One of the VR programs looked at



the American Civil Rights movement from the point of view of a black man participating in the Memphis Sanitation Worker Strike.

#### **PLAINS ART MUSEUM**

\$10,000 to connect art, artists, and audiences to foster creative, resilient, and welcoming communities. The Plains engaged almost 50,000 people through exhibitions, classes, workshops, art education, lectures and gallery talks, special events and more. The Plains continues to make a commitment to serving and celebrating our diverse community through the International Potluck, and continues to highlight Native American art through their Creativity Among Native American Artists Initiative.

#### **PRAIRIE PUBLIC BROADCASTING – ARTIST RADIO SERIES**

\$1,500 to launch *FM Arts*, a radio series that puts the spotlight on FM-area artists. This project is a collaborative project, with program elements recorded at the Plains Art Museum, at an F-M Symphony event and the Red Raven Espresso Parlor in addition to Prairie Public's studios. All stories were broadcast on KDSU and are available on Prairie Public's website.

#### **RED RIVER ZOO**

\$500 toward costs associated with incorporating animal paintings by a local artist into the operations of the Red River Zoo. The Zoo successfully partnered with local artist Mark Elton, who produced an assortment of art pieces for sale in our Zoo gift shop. These pieces uniquely reflected the nature of our cold-climate species collection and delighted many guests.

#### **ROURKE ART MUSEUM**

\$3,300 to educate and inspire our community through the collection, presentation and preservation of the region's and the world's artistic heritage. The Rourke is seeing a growth in visitor attendance and diversity, which they attribute to the diversity of their programming. The museum has seen the largest growth with youth and adults under the age of forty.

#### **SPIRIT ROOM**

\$3,400 to uplift people's lives through the development and practice of the contemplative, creative, and healing arts. In addition to hosting arts exhibitions and programs, the Spirit Room functions as a community center for cultural activities. The Spirit Room plans to upgrade their facility and has signed a new lease that will help them expand into the future.

- *General Operating Support helped the Spirit Room afford to hire one of their studio artists – a violin player – as a Gallery Assistant and Facilities Manager. He came to the Spirit Room with a felony background, was having difficulty maintaining employment, and had strained ties with his family. Steady employment in an uplifting, supportive and artistic environment has stabilized his life and helped him grow personally and artistically (the regular paycheck allows him to study violin with a Concordia professor). He has also reconnected in a more meaningful way with his family.*

#### **THE HUMAN FAMILY**

\$1,000 toward the *North Dakota Human Rights Art Exhibition*, a curated display to educate, engage and facilitate discussion around local and world-wide human rights topics through the work of artists. The exhibition grew by 77%, and the diversity of artists who submitted work – both in terms of age and gender – also expanded.

#### **THEATRE B**

\$3,300 to engage regional audiences through innovative productions that are culturally and artistically invigorating. The organization introduced a Pay-What-You-Will model of ticket pricing on opening weekends to accommodate audiences for whom purchasing full-price tickets would be a hardship, and have put increased efforts into marketing to young-adult audiences.

- *One of the productions, Blackbird, contained particularly challenging material that depicts a young woman meeting a middle-aged man fifteen years after being sexually abused by him. One audience member sent an email noting that she was able to “feel anger and compassion and hope without being overwhelmed. I am so*

*grateful for this production... I am still unpacking the experience and rearranging my mental furniture... Some of that is about my own place in the healing journey, but more of it is about the production itself."*

**TROLLWOOD PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL**

\$7,500 toward Trollwood's mission to let young performer and stage technicians orchestrate a theatre production and thrive. The STAR program continues to offer Trollwood's programming to students who would not otherwise be able to participate in the programming due to financial concerns. Trollwood served 1,200 students this past year, enriching their lives through 12 arts educational programs year-round (with the heaviest emphasis in the summer months).

**WEST FARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY – ART EXHIBITS**

\$500 toward the Encore Art Exhibit which brought artistic and cultural experiences to West Fargo to expand their role as a cultural center. Encore Art repurposed art exhibits that had been installed previously at area museums – a great way to bring a high-quality, curated exhibit to a new audience. The Library programmed events to go along with the exhibits, including Meet the Artist events where patrons did hands-on art-making. Importantly, the exhibits sparked spontaneous conversations about the art among patrons and staff.

**WEST FARGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS/SUMMER ARTS INTENSIVE – SUMMER SEASON**

\$3,000 toward its mission to provide focused, individualized training for young artists who want to stretch their personal and creative talents while gaining an understanding of theater production and performance. The Summer 2018 productions were *Newsies* and *Peter Pan Jr.*

ITEM #27: RUNNING, CYRUS, American (1913-1976), *Another Shore*, 1966

Valuation Effective Date: August 10, 2019

Estimated Insurance Replacement Cost: **\$2,500.00** (if restored and cleaned)

Location: Downtown Public Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, South wall near windows.



ARTIST: Cyrus Running  
TITLE: Another Shore  
CATEGORY: Painting  
SUBCATEGORY: N/A

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| DATE:               | 1966  |
| MATERIALS:          | Oil on canvas   |
| MEASUREMENTS:       | In inches, Painting: 24 x 48; Frame: 30 5/8 x 54.5 x 1.5  |
| SIGNATURE:          | Signed and dated. Lower left quadrant, below black shape, Cyrus Running, 1966.  |
| VERSO:              | N/A   |
| LIMITING CONDITION: | Examined on wall  |
| CONDITION:          | Fair. Painting needs restoration, IMMEDIATELY; paint is lifting or missing in several areas, upper left and along lower edge. Canvas exposed in some areas.   |
| DESCRIPTION:        | An Abstract Expressionistic painting which suggests a landscape. Its textured surface is in a palette is of oranges, brown, tans, yellow and mustard, on an orange-peach ground, giving it a visual energy. Its loose abstract brushwork, strong color palette and surface recall Italian and Spanish paintings of the 1940s -1960s.  |
| PROVENANCE:         | By purchase from artist by City of Fargo in 1966. (LB1966.001)  |
| VALUE REASONING:    | This is an exceptionally good abstract painting by Running in its skillful handling of paint, and understanding of spatial qualities of an abstract surface. Running was an acclaimed regional artist whose work was shown frequently in the Twin Cities at Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Art. His graduate studies at Yale University School of Fine Art served him well. His work was widely shown in galleries and museums, and it is found in numerous collections. Jonathan T. Rutter, the Executive Director & Curator, The Rourke Art Gallery + Museum was consulted about primary market values. |