

CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 22
AL LARSON PRAIRIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS / CONFERENCE ROOM A

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Cain
Jon Cunningham
Michael Kozakis
Bobbi Marchuk
Michael Nejman
Marilyn Pande
Minal Patel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marilyn Karr
Al Larson
Kevin Miller
Bette Solomon
Rob Ward

STAFF PRESENT: Tiana Weiler, Director of Cultural Services
Rob Pileckis, Assistant Director
Alissa Brunet, Production Coordinator

STAFF ABSENT: None

AUDIENCE: None

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Cain called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nejman made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 27, 2023. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Voice vote: all ayes. MOTION CARRIED.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Weiler reported that the new carpet installation in the theatre has been completed and the outer walls of the lecture hall have been repainted.

Ms. Weiler reported that the Prairie Center Arts Foundation Giving Tuesday/year-end giving campaign resulted in donations of approximately \$5,500 in corporate gifts and \$7,100 in individual donations. The foundation's Spirit Wagon fundraiser generated another \$3,900 in raffle ticket sales.

Ms. Weiler reported that the foundation offered a bar at Schaumburg Dance Ensemble's *Nutcracker* performances for the first time during the production's two-week run in December 2023. The bar proved extremely successful, generating almost \$10,000 in revenue.

Ms. Weiler reported that artist applications opened last week for the 35th Annual Prairie Arts Festival, which will take place over Memorial Day weekend. 44 Applications have already been received and approximately 100 artists will be selected to participate in the event.

CONTINUING ITEMS

1. 2024-25 Programming

Mr. Pileckis reported that he and Ms. Brunet attended the Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) conference in New York earlier this month and met with many agents to discuss potential acts for the 2024-25 Season of Arts and Entertainment. Mr. Pileckis showed video selections highlighting a variety of performances from APAP, as well as artist YouTube video content. Discussion took place regarding videos shown and other possible bookings. Commission members expressed interest in the possibility of booking Jumaane Smith, Graham Nash, and Bob Mould. Mr. Pileckis stated that he will share video links for other acts with commission members for continued research purposes.

2. Young Artists Programs

Mr. Pileckis reported that Prelude and Cantabile, the youngest two ensembles of the Schaumburg Choral Program, performed a holiday concert at Friendship Village (now Encore Village) on December 5. Approximately 150 people were in attendance.

Mr. Pileckis reported that the youngest ensemble of the Schaumburg Youth Orchestra, Schaumburg Youth String Ensemble, held its winter concert on December 11 with 47 people in attendance.

Mr. Pileckis reported that Schaumburg Dance Ensemble completed its 28th annual production of *The Nutcracker*, which ran for 12 public performances and two school performances. A total of 4,812 people attend the public performances, and the school shows were attended by 570 people, including students, teachers, and a small group from Friendship Village, making this the most attended production in the ensemble's history.

Mr. Pileckis reported that Schaumburg Youth Symphony Orchestra and Schaumburg Choral Program performed the 23rd Annual *Presto!* Holiday Concert for two shows on the 16th with 734 people attending. A choral work by Schaumburg resident Matthew Hallaron premiered at the show.

Mr. Pileckis reported that the submission deadline for Screen Test Student Fest is February 13. 22 films have been submitted to the festival so far, and approximately twice as many are anticipated to be received in total.

3. 2023-24 Programming

Mr. Pileckis shared ticket reports for recent and upcoming shows: Thursday Night Laughs on December 14 had an audience of 188 people. 116 tickets have been sold for Thursday Night Laughs on January 25. 283 tickets have been sold for Animaniacs: In Concert on February 2. The

Peking Acrobats show on February 9 has 224 tickets sold. History That Doesn't Suck on March 1 has sold 278 tickets. 331 tickets have been sold for Zakir Hussain on March 15.

DEFERRALS: No report.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: No report.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nejman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm. Ms. Marchuk seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING: February 26, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alissa Brunet
Production Coordinator, Cultural Services