



**Connecticut Office on
Culture and Tourism**



DECD
State of Connecticut
Department of Economic and
Community Development

**Advisory Committee Meeting
Connecticut Office on Culture & Tourism
Department of Economic & Community Development
Monday, October 3, 2011
One Constitution Plaza
Hartford, Connecticut
1:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

- Present:** Chairman Michael Price, Nicholas Bellantoni, Charles Bunnell, Carolyn Cicchetti, Arthur Diedrick, Anne Elvgren, Betty Hale, Hans Hartman, Herbert Jay (via phone), Fritz Jellinghaus, Renny Loisel, Larry McHugh (via phone), Stuart Parnes, Paul Pozzi, Will Wilkins, Walter Woodward, and Ted Yudain
- Absent:** Dick Allen, Frank Borres, Philip Eliasoph, Helen Higgins, Guy Ortoleva, Rita Schmidt, and Ann Sheffer
- Staff & Guests:** CCT Staff: Kip Bergstrom, David Bahlman, Randy Fiveash, and Leigh Johnson

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Advisory Commission was held on Monday, October 3, 2011, and was called to order. Acting Chairwomen Cicchetti introduced Hans Hartman a new member to the Advisory Board. House Minority Leader Larry Cafero appointed Hans Hartman for his knowledge and experience in history and humanities, and as the successor to Clem Roy.

Mr. Hartman stated he is from Stonington, and is an independent film producer. During the past seven (7) years he was involved in bringing various films and jobs to the State.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Ted Yudain, second by Fritz Jellinghaus, the Advisory Committee on Culture and Tourism approved the July 11, 2011 meeting minutes as circulated. (Y-12, N-0, A-1 Member Diedrick)

III. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **On a motion made by Ted Yudain, second by Arthur Diedrick, the Advisory Committee on Culture and Tourism approved a non-matching grant to the Young Men's Institute Library in New Haven to support all aspects of the planning and implementation of Connecticut's 2012 Poetry Out Loud program. (Y-13, N-0, A-1, Member Hartman)**

Consent Agenda Items

On a motion made by Ted Yudain, second by Arthur Diedrick, the Advisory Committee on Culture and Tourism unanimously approved the following consent agenda items:

- b. Approval of four (4) Survey and Planning Grants;



- c. Approval of a Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant to the City of New Haven;
- d. Approval of a Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant to the Town of Waterford; and
- e. Approval of a Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant to the City of Danbury.

IV. Report by Michael Price

No report at this time.

V. Report by Deputy Commissioner Kip Bergstrom

Deputy Commissioner Bergstrom reported during the July Advisory Committee meeting, the question placed on the table – “should the Commission/Advisory Committee continue to exist”? Most were entertaining that possible thought, but after much discussion the group came to the joint conclusion there is a meaningful role for the Committee and its members.

Since that meeting, Deputy Commissioner Bergstrom has been meeting with members of the Advisory Committee individually to continue that group conversation and to ask whether each member is still interested in serving on the Committee; discussed the major challenges going forward; and how the Advisory Committee and its members can be helpful in addressing these changes going forward. The opinion of most members viewed the prior Commission’s role and purpose as insignificant and unfulfilling. The Advisory Committee should resolve not to continue to operate in such a way going forward, but to utilize the Committee and its members in a meaningful way to solve the major challenges the agency could face going forward.

Four (4) Major Challenges:

- 1. Moving grants the agency makes in arts, history and tourism from numerous small- dollar amount grants to fewer large-dollar amount grants that will have catalytic impact on place-making in Connecticut, and to develop a transition plan which would have least minimal disruption and hardship to approved grantees during their 2-3 year grant cycle;
- 2. Transition \$12 million dollars of funding in the budget which goes directly to organizations through earmarks to a more competitive basis. Realistically, not all earmarks will be converted; the challenge would be to get half, or more converted. The earmark opportunity would be for the session following this current session and would apply to FY 2013-2014. Conversations should begin now to make those changes in the next legislative session.
- 3. To discuss the possibility of combining with the tourism districts and to think what that could look like. This may be a good opportunity for the districts if they could remain out-stationed with their councils but without the separate budgets as they are now.
- 4. How we might better manage the museums and the welcome centers. With the museums there is a potential to partner with friends-groups and with the welcome centers by potentially partnering with the Chambers in a way that improves how the centers are managed and how staff are utilized so the visitor’s experience is better than it is now.



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Tourism Marketing RFP – Update

The agency has received twenty-one responses for the RFP. The Review Committee will have two weeks to review the proposals and six vendors will be selected to make an oral presentation. Out of the six vendors, two-three vendors will be selected to make a final presentation to the committee. A target date for having a team in place is set for early December.

Office of the Arts - Transition

The Office of the Arts is in transition with staffing with the retirement of Cathy DeMeo and with An-Ming Truxes's position being eliminated. Rhonda Olisky will be joining the Arts Office, as-well-as a staff member from the Henry Whitfield Museum to assist with exhibits, arts collection and the Public Art Program.

General Operating Support Program

For this current year up to June 2012, no changes will be made to the General Operating Support Program for arts organizations. Only those organizations funded last year will receive the same level of funding and no new applications will be accepted.

Conduct four to five Show & Tell public informational workshops around the state to familiarize Connecticut arts organizations on the agency's vision of funding place-making projects that will facilitate economic development within the state's communities.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made and so moved. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2012, 1:30 p.m., 1 Constitution Plaza, Main Conference Room.



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