

Arts Group Minutes
April 9, 2008 @ 4pm
103 Rich Hall, SUNY Oswego

Present: Michele Southgate, Bill Symons, Allen Bjorkman, Kelly Jordal, Wayne Moshier, Lisa Shaw, Jeff Grimshaw

1. Introductions/Announcements –

- a. Kelly Jordal provided information to the group about a program next week “Envisioning a Reconnected Canalway through Public Art and Art Trails” on Thursday, April 17, 2008, 9:30am-4pm in the Arkell Museum Canajoharie. The cost is \$15 and Kelly is interested in anyone who might want to attend, contact her at County Promotion and Tourism.
- b. Murray Gould provided information he received at a Main Street seminar in attended. Murray heard from representative from Cumberland, Maryland and how they used arts to be an economic development tool in their community (about the same size as Oswego). Murray suggested that we take an overnight road trip to meet with the people there to see haw they did it. Murray provided the website - www.alleganyartscouncil.org so we can investigate, he is also in contact with the people in Cumberland to develop what a trip might entail. If you are interested let Jeff know.

2. Review of minutes from 3/12 meeting, Minutes were reviewed and approved.

3. Mission Statement; “*The Oswego Arts Collaborative is a catalyst for the economic development and sustainability of Oswego County visual and performing arts.*” – Discussion was had concerning the mission statement and the development of goals. Allen noted that the term “Oswego County” was redundant and limited our scope, it was suggested that the mission would be modified to “*The Oswego Arts Collaborative is a catalyst for the economic development and sustainability of visual and performing arts.*” Those in attendance agreed. Jeff discussed the need to start focusing the activities of the group into goals the following themes were discussed and Jeff will develop them to be presented at the next meeting;

- Needs Survey
- Communication
- Arts Education
- Coordination, Collaboration
- Liaison with government, businesses and community organizations to discuss the impact of the arts
- Facility and space needs

4. Survey Committee – List of Contacts –

- The need to commence the survey was discussed and the need for Collaborative members to make contacts with their boards, civic organizations, politicians and artists. We need to seek community input to determine the community wants from the arts.

- The question was raised about a presence on the internet, a blog was discussed and a website where interested individuals and groups could get a copy of the survey to complete it. Jeff will look into this.
- Jeff indicated he would send the survey out to the e-mail list that has been developed and Wayne Moshier suggested that there be a 60 day turn around to allow boards to meet to discuss the information. A survey will be attached to the e-mail with these minutes.

5. Building Committee – Murray Gould, Allen Bjorkman – A discussion was had concerning the preliminary survey of the three spaces available in Oswego that could become a place for the Collaborative – St John’s, The Tea Company and Knights of Columbus. Murray discussed their general attributes and potential for grant funding. In the ideal world a large space with a lot of performance and work spaces is preferred. The ability to have the ideal and the reality of financially being able to operate and sustain the ideal was discussed. The Committee will continue to maintain awareness of what is available in the community and keep the collaborative informed as we move ahead.

6. Organization Structure/Business Plan – Jeff Grimshaw discussed the need to focus the group and put structure to the collaborative. It was suggested that a method of doing this is to enter into the Operation Oswego County Business Plan competition “The Next Great Idea”. By doing this the group could accomplish two things;

- It would force the development of a complete business plan within the guidelines of the dates set by the competition.
- It allow the plan to be reviewed and critiqued by community business people, which would be beneficial to publicize the idea to those we want to know about it , and prepare us to go to Funders with a sound plan.

Jeff requested that all members of the collaborative develop a business concept statement and provide it to him, so he can develop a concept statement to be submitted by the May 1 deadline. The application and guidelines can be found at <http://www.oswegocounty.org/bizcomp.htm>

7. Next Meeting April 30. 2008 @ 4:00pm in 103 Rich Hall, SUNY Oswego