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**MEMORANDUM**  
**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**TO: Thomas Thomas, City Manager**

**SUBJECT: Metro Arts Proposal**

**DATE: June 7, 2012**

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Attached is a proposal from Quad City Arts regarding the 2012 Metro Arts Summer Youth Employment Program.

Metro Arts was started in 2000 and provides area teenagers an opportunity to gain employment experience in the arts and enhance the community through their work. The program runs for five weeks with about seventy participants who work with professional artists to gain knowledge about artistic endeavors. Over the years, Metro Arts has produced several banners and murals, decorative benches and the mosaic artwork in Arts Alley for the city. Last year, the artists-in-training created a series of sculptures in Arts Alley. The program operates primarily at the Quad City Arts office located in the District and the presence of the youthful participants adds activity to the downtown when the program is in session. The program receives support from a variety of public and private organizations.

The proposed project for this year is the creation of mural on the west wall of The Stern Center (former McCabe's Department Store and Hyman's Furniture) at 1721 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Metro Arts will work with the participating students and the Arts Advisory Committee to create the designs. Council will have the opportunity to review the final design prior to installation. Total cost of the project is \$7,000. Funding for Metro Arts is included in the approved FY13 budget as part of a Downtown Tax Increment Finance (TIF) allocation of funding for arts projects.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Council approve the proposal from the Quad City Arts Metro Arts program and authorize \$7,000 to support the program.

**Submitted by: Alan M. Carmen, Planning and Redevelopment Administrator**  
**Jeffery A. Eder, Community and Economic Development Director**

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**APPROVED: Thomas Thomas, City Manager**

## Proposal for Metro Arts Banners in Downtown Rock Island

Contact: Jessi Black, Community Arts Director, Quad City Arts  
309-793-1213 x103, jblack@quadcityarts.com

Quad City Arts proposes art banners in downtown Rock Island as part of the Metro Arts Summer Youth Employment Program in summer 2012. The banners will be printed on durable exterior vinyl and professionally installed on the wall at the proposed site, the west side of the former McCabe's Department Store / Hyman's Furniture, owned by Matt Stern, at 1721 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The property is now called The Stern Center. The building owner has been contacted and an agreement is pending.

The design will be produced by Quad City Arts Metro Arts apprentices under the guidance and supervision of a professional artist. Several designs will be presented to the City of Rock Island's designated Arts Advisory Committee for selection and critique, and a final draft will be approved for printing. From a pool of applicants, the artist will select fifteen apprentice artists aged 15-21, who will work as a group to produce this project and other graphic design projects. The apprentices receive a stipend for participating in the program, the goal of which is to develop young artistic talents as well as teach job skills, promote professionalism, and provide meaningful employment. The finished piece will be celebrated as part of the Metro Arts Showcase and Art Market, a public event which will take place July 12. The banners will be the property of the City of Rock Island.

### Quad City Arts will be responsible for:

- Creation of designs
- Presentation of designs to selection committee designated by the City of Rock Island
- Printing and installation of banners

### The City of Rock Island will be responsible for:

- Selection of designs for production
- Ownership of the banners upon completion

Other projects taking place this summer will be a mural painting project in Davenport, and Comedy Improvisation and Dance in downtown Rock Island. Apprentice demographics vary from year to year, but in the past, Rock Island residents have comprised anywhere from twelve to twenty-four percent of participating apprentices, and most apprentices come from households with low or extremely low incomes. Apprentices are recruited through contact with high school teachers and educators at large in the areas of interest for the projects selected each year. Past apprentices and applicants are also contacted when applications are available for the program. Applications are provided through mailings, at Quad City Arts, and online. The program is open to any student aged 15-21 residing in the Quad City Area.

Quad City Arts requests funding from the City of Rock Island in the amount of \$7,000 to support youth apprenticeships. The City of Rock Island will be recognized as a sponsor in all signage and printed materials.

The total cost of the program is \$69,182. Secured funding sources for Metro Arts include: Bechtel Trusts & Foundation, Modern Woodmen of America, Deere & Company, Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce – Downtown Partnership, Moline Forge, Davenport Morning Optimists. Pending funding sources for Metro Arts include: Bituminous Insurance Companies, Junior Board of Rock Island, and The National Bank. In-kind supporters include Ballet Quad Cities, The Establishment Theatre, Trissel Graham & Toole, and Saint Ambrose University.

All Quad City Arts programs are supported in part by Quad City Arts Festival of Trees, Quad City Arts Partners, The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, The Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.