

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

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**TO: Thomas Thomas, City Manager**

**SUBJECT: Metro Arts Proposal**

**DATE: 5/28/13**

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The following proposal comes from Jessi Black, Community Arts Director with Quad City Arts. The letter asks for \$10,000 to support the 2013 Metro Arts Summer Youth Employment Program.

The Metro Arts Summer Youth Program began 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 and averages 50 participants who work with professional artists to gain knowledge about artistic endeavors.

Over the years, Rock Island projects have included the creation of banners and murals, decorative benches, and the mosaic artwork located in Arts Alley. Last year, 42 local artists-in-training worked on a variety of projects that included the creation of the large banners that were recently installed on the west wall of The Stern Center. Others worked with professionals from the Establishment Theatre and received coaching on the art of comedy improvisation. This group went on to perform at various venues across the community.

The program operates primarily at the Quad City Arts office located in the District. The program receives support from a variety of public and private organizations. The projects for this summer will include mural painting, mixed media studio, show choir, and dance. Seven of the 41 participants are residents of Rock Island.

As in past years, funding for Metro Arts Summer Youth Program is included in the approved FY14 budget as part of a Downtown Tax Increment Finance (TIF) allocation of funding for arts projects.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Council accept the proposal from the Quad City Arts Metro Arts program and authorize \$10,000 to support the program.

**SUBMITTED BY: Mary Chappell, Development Program Manger**  
**Jeff Eder, Community and Economic Development Director**

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**APPROVED: Thomas Thomas, City Manager**

## Request for funding for Metro Arts Summer Youth Employment Program

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

Quad City Arts respectfully requests funding from the City of Rock Island in the amount of \$10,000 to support youth apprenticeships through Metro Arts Summer Youth Employment Program.

The program is a five-week apprenticeship, wherein youth ages 15-21 serve as apprentice artists under the supervision of a professional artist. They work in groups of six to twenty create and produce original work. Applicants submit a form, an essay, and a letter of recommendation for consideration, then go through the interview process, which may include an audition or portfolio review, before being hired. For many participants, this is their first experience with a professional application, and it is treated as a learning experience, with efforts to foster rather than scrutinize. During the program, participants learn about the process and technique involved in their art form (which may range from mural-painting to dance), as well as the operations of the program. These include keeping records, preparing presentations and performances, working with clients' parameters, and communicating effectively with their peers, lead artists, and Quad City Arts staff. The participants receive a stipend for their work, to encourage accountability and distinguish the apprenticeship as a job experience. The program concludes with a showcase featuring all the work produced during the five weeks, including performances and a display of the visual artwork, as well as presentations by each group about their experience. This summer's projects include mural painting, mixed media studio, show choir, and dance. Seven of the forty-one apprentices are residents of Rock Island.

The total cost of the program is \$74,120. Secured funding sources for Metro Arts include: Bechtel Trusts & Foundation, City of Davenport, Modern Woodmen of America, Deere & Company, Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce – Downtown Partnership, Davenport Noon Optimists, Quad Cities Morning Optimists, Junior Board of Rock Island. Pending funding sources for Metro Arts include: Bituminous Insurance Companies, Moline Forge, and The National Bank. In-kind supporters include Ballet Quad Cities, Saint Ambrose University, and Quad Cities Wood Turners Club.

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.