

Memorandum

Community & Economic Development Department



To: Thomas E. Thomas, City Manager
Subject: Metro Arts Proposal
Date: May 28, 2014

The following proposal comes from Jessi Black, Community Arts Director with Quad City Arts. The letter asks for \$10,000 to support the 2014 Metro Arts Summer Youth Employment Program. The 2014 program will include pavement painting, mosaic work, and dance – with all projects taking place in Rock Island.

The Metro Arts Summer Youth Program began in 2000 and provides area teenagers an opportunity to gain experience in the arts and enhance the community through their work. The program runs for five weeks and averages 30 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, the mosaic artwork located in Arts Alley, and the creation of the large banners now hanging on the west wall of The Stern Center. Program participants have also worked with professionals from the Establishment Theatre where they received coaching on the art of comedy improvisation. The program operates primarily at the Quad City Arts office located in the District.

The provided information from Ms. Black will outline the request and provide greater detail on this year's projects. All of the proposed projects have been reviewed by members of the Arts Advisory Committee and members of city staff. It is also worth noting that this summer program receives funding support from variety of public and private organizations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Community & Economic Development Department recommends that City Council accept the proposal from the Quad City Arts Metro Arts program and authorize the \$10,000 to support the program.

Vendor: Quad City Arts
Payment Amount: \$10,000
Fund: 207 Community/Economic Dev
Department: 312 Economic Development
Cost Center: 801 General Development
Object Code: 54101 Contributions/Sponsorship
Project: N/A

Requisition Number: P004152

Submitted by: Jeffery A. Eder, CED Director/Asst. City Manager
Mary Chappell, Development Programs Manager

Approved by: Thomas Thomas, City Manager

Quad City Arts: Metro Arts Summer Youth Employment Program

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

Request for funding

Quad City Arts respectfully requests funding from the City of Rock Island in the amount of \$10,000 to support youth apprenticeships and the creation of public art through Metro Arts.

Metro Arts overview

The program is a five-week apprenticeship, wherein youth ages 15-21 work in groups as apprentice artists under the supervision of a professional artist. Applicants submit a form, an essay, and a letter of recommendation for consideration, and participate in interviews. For many participants, this is their first experience with a professional application, and it is treated as a learning experience.

During the program, participants learn arts techniques and job skills through hands-on experience. They do research, develop ideas, prepare and deliver presentations, and create original art work. 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 performances, artwork, and presentations. 35 youth and 4 professional artists (10 of whom are Rock Island residents) will work on the projects.

Arts projects

This summer's programs include pavement painting, mosaic, and dance, all of which will occur in Rock Island.

Pavement painting is a new project based on successful programs in other communities. We will focus on visually distinguishing the growing arts neighborhood between 20th and 24th Streets on 3rd Avenue. The area has fairly low street traffic, moderate pedestrian traffic, and is visible from elevated traffic on 24th Street. Materials and methods appropriate to the context will be utilized to maximize durability - traffic-marking paint with anti-skid additive will be used, based on recommendation of an arts organization in Minnesota. In other communities, designs are re-painted every 2 – 3 years as part of a social, neighborhood event – a model which could be adopted following this initial project. (See attachment for details)

The mosaic will be applied to the concrete leg of *Lloyd's Trek*, a public sculpture in Schwiebert Park. The sculpture is a memorial to Lloyd Schoeneman, an artist, advocate, and Quad City Arts staff, and it was designed to include this addition, specifically as part of the Metro Arts program. The artist who created the piece and the family of Lloyd Schoeneman approve of the project and are being included in its development. An experienced mosaic artist will serve as a consultant during the process. Materials and methods appropriate to the context will be utilized to maximize durability - ceramic, glass, adhesive, mortar, and sealant designed for exterior use will be used. (See attachment for details)

Dance apprentices will work with Ballet Quad Cities at their studios in downtown Rock Island. This group will create performances and a workshop for youth, which they will tour to various community sites, such as the Martin Luther King Junior Center.

Support

The Park Board and Parks and Recreation staff have been consulted and approve of the mosaic project. Public Works has been consulted and approves of the painting project.

The Rock Island Arts Advisory committee helped develop and supports these projects. Over the last year, the committee has conducted community meetings to identify arts priorities, and the proposed painting site was identified as a neighborhood on which to focus arts activities and development. The community also expressed interest in participatory arts activities, which could be facilitated through future re-painting of the pavement mural.

The total cost of the program is \$59,000. Secured funding sources for Metro Arts include: Bechtel Trusts & Foundation, Modern Woodmen of America, and Deere & Company. Pending funding sources for Metro Arts include: Bituminous Insurance Companies, Moline Forge, Junior Board of Rock Island. In-kind supporters include Ballet Quad Cities and Circa '21 Dinner Playhouse.

Pavement Painting



Example images of pavement painting projects in St. Paul, MN and Portland, OR



Map of area to be addressed in Rock Island; circles denote areas where artists/artisans currently create and/or present work; designs are for visualization only and do NOT represent the design that will be applied – the design will be selected by the Arts Advisory Committee from several the students will create

Mosaic



Lloyd's Trek (left: current detail of sculpture's leg; right: mock-up with mosaic overlay [design is for visualization only and does NOT represent the design that will be applied – the design will be selected by the Arts Advisory Committee from several the students will create])