

Memorandum

Community & Economic Development Department



To: Thomas E. Thomas, City Manager
Subject: Metro Arts Proposal
Date: August 10, 2015

The following proposal comes from Jessi Black, Community Arts Director with Quad City Arts. The letter asks for \$5,000 to support the 2015 Metro Arts Summer Youth Apprenticeship Program. The 2015 program will be a mural on the first floor north façade of the Quad City Arts at 1715 2nd Avenue.

This program, traditionally a summer program is transitioning to accommodate opportunities for student learning and community impact year-round. Youth ages 15-21 work as apprentice artists under the supervision of a professional artist to create original work that impacts the community.

Over the years, Rock Island projects have included the creation of banners and murals, decorative benches, the mosaic artwork located in Arts Alley, the creation of the large banners hanging on the west wall of The Stern Center, and learning the art of comedy improvisation from professionals at the Establishment Theatre. Last year students designed and painted four street intersections between 20th and 24th Streets on 3rd Avenue and placed mosaic artwork on the leg of the Lloyd's Trek sculpture in Schwiebert Riverfront Park. 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 \$5,000 to support the program.

Vendor: Quad City Arts
Payment Amount: \$5,000
Fund: 207 Community/Economic Dev
Department: 312 Economic Development
Cost Center: 801 General Development
Object Code: 54101 Contributions/Sponsorship
Project: N/A

Requisition Number: P004795

Submitted by: Jeffery A. Eder, CED Director/Asst. City Manager
Kathryn Douglass, Computer Graphics Specialist

Approved by: Thomas Thomas, City Manager



Metro Arts Youth Apprenticeship 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 \$5,000 to support artist and youth apprenticeships and the creation of public art through Metro Arts.

Metro Arts overview

This program, traditionally a summer program, is transitioning to accommodate opportunities for student learning and community impact year-round. Youth ages 15-21 work as apprentice artists under the supervision of a professional artist to create original work that impacts the community. The program has several goals: to provide educational and work opportunities for youth; to provide professional development opportunities for artists; and to create accessible art for the community.

During the program, participants learn arts techniques and job skills through hands-on experience. They conduct 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.

Project

This project will be a mural on the first floor north façade of Quad City Arts at 1715, 2nd Avenue. The location is highly visible to traffic on First Avenue and from Schwiebert Park, and it highlights an entry to downtown businesses as well as Quad City Arts gallery. The goals will be to draw attention and traffic to The District and visually distinguish the area as a center of activity – particularly as the site of festivals put on by The District of Rock Island and concerts promoted by local businesses.

Quad City Arts will hire a professional artist and five apprentice artists to design and complete the mural, using materials and methods appropriate to the surface and climate. The building owners and the Rock Island Arts Advisory committee will be consulted in development and approval of the mural design. The project will be completed in the fall, no later than October 31.

Support

The building is owned by The Loft Group, managed by Gere-Dismer Architects, which occupies the third floor. They are supportive of the project, which will occur as part of a broader effort to improve the building's exterior appearance, including entrance renovation and new signage.

This program has enjoyed long-term support from the city, and it is included as an important element of the city's Arts Plan.

The total cost of the project will be \$6,360. Support from Metro Arts sponsors and grantors will cover costs beyond support from the city.

Views with overlay of mural area



Examples of past Metro Arts work





Kathy Douglass <douglass.kathryn@rigov.org>

Quad City Arts mural

1 message

Perry Gere <pgere@geredismer.com>

Tue, Jul 28, 2015 at 8:58 AM

To: "eder.jeff@rigov.org" <eder.jeff@rigov.org>

Cc: "douglass.kathryn@rigov.org" <douglass.kathryn@rigov.org>, Jeff Dismer <jdismer@geredismer.com>, "Carmen Darland (CDarland@QuadCityArts.com)" <CDarland@quadcitcityarts.com>

Jeff, Jeff Dismer and I met with Carmen Darland last week to discuss their lease renewal as well as the proposed mural on our building. We are pleased they re-upped for an extension. As the mural project proceeds Jeff and I will see its development and have the opportunity to approve or disapprove. We(The Loft Group) fully support the concept and look forward to blessing the design. We appreciate your interest in the Arts. Thanks.

Perry W. Gere, AIA

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