



Public Amenities Committee
Meeting Summary

Wed. Feb. 27, 2008 10:30 a.m. Conference Room 391

Members Present: Lehmann, Johnson, Madison, Robb
Members Absent: None
Other Council Present: None

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- Digital Media Festival during DNC
 - Creative Enterprises Revolving Loan Fund

1. Dialog:City - A Digital Media Festival

Erin Tripp, Director, Denver Office of Cultural Affairs, and Seth Goldenberg, a consultant specializing in facilitation of public engagement through interactive multi-media, told the Committee about the "Dialog:City" project. In conjunction with the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in August, this project is designed to give Denver's citizens an opportunity to voice their opinions. Mr. Goldenberg is working with the Local Host Committee, the sponsor of this project, which consists of installations or performances by six to eight artists in various public venues. These artists committed to participating in the Denver events within much shorter time-frames than usual.

Some of the works will be in parks outside of the Affected Area designated for the DNC. There was concern about using parks inside the Area and taking space from the assemblies and rallies. Sample works include:

- Luke Dubois: State of the Union addresses of the presidents on backlit screens; possibly at the DPAC Galleria.
- DJ Spooky: a rock opera performance based his recordings of Antarctic ice thawing and breaking; 1 performance at Ellie Caulkins Opera House; looking for another venue.
- Ann Hamilton: the lullaby - very private moments -transformed into a public call to action; several choirs in neighborhoods, singing verses in round. Hopefully Denver will break into song just as the DNC is gavelled into session.
- Lynn Hershman: Interactive robot with projected human face, Internet as brain, voice recognition software
- Krzysztof Woliczko: Working with Denver's Road Home on a project in which veterans tell their stories at some of the housing sites.

The discussion included the following comments:

- Sites will be finalized after the Parks lottery for permits; all should be known by end of April.
- Possibly use the large screens planned in the Theatre District for some display.

- Red Rocks would be a good venue for DJ Spooky.
- The project is partnering with the Lab at Belmar and other arts agencies.
- Utilize Channel 8 to document all of the works.
- DNC should add to its 'greenest convention' tagline something about having the most creative energy associated with it.
- Perhaps a salon with all the artists could be organized.
- This will be an international event.

2. Creative Enterprises Revolving Loan Fund Update

Erin Tripp, Director, Denver Office of Cultural Affairs, reported on the pilot year of this program, which, she said, was highly successful. The program began in 2007 after access to capital was identified as an impediment to creative enterprises. The program is administered for the City by Micro Business Development (MBD). A business plan is a requirement, and MBD provides training and technical assistance on developing a plan and in other areas of financing a creative business.

During the 2007 pilot year:

- \$100,000 = amount the Office of Economic Development made available for loans of between \$500 and \$20,000.
- 15 applications totaling \$216,000 were submitted.
- 9 applicants received loans totaling \$97,500.
- Applications processing averaged 4 weeks (longest = 8 weeks; shortest = 1 week).
- Repayment rate = 100%.
- 22 jobs either sustained or created.
- 44 creative businesses in 5 categories participated in the available training.

For 2008:

- Loan fund = increased to \$200,000.
- Maximum loan = increased to \$40,000.
- Marketing of the program is on-going at such venues as Santa Fe Arts Festival.

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