

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE PLANNING

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN JACK WELLS**, on February 9, 2005 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 350 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Jack Wells, Chairman (R)
Sen. John Brueggeman (R)
Rep. Ralph L. Lenhart (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: Sen. Jon Tester, Vice Chairman (D)
Sen. Mike Cooney (D)
Rep. Carol C. Juneau (D)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
Rep. John E. Witt (R)

Staff Present: Laura Dillon, Committee Secretary
Catherine Duncan, Legislative Branch
Mike Burke, OBPP

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 9, 2/9/2005
Executive Action: None

Reference book is: Governor's Budget State of Montana, Fiscal Years 2006-2007, Cultural and Aesthetic Grants Program (CAGP), Volume 8.

CHAIRMAN WELLS called the meeting to order and continued the hearing on HB 9 projects.

Prairie County Museum, #1133

Proponents' Testimony:

REP. CAROL LAMBERT, HD 39, stated her support for this project. The museum, which is located in Terry, is requesting the grant to create a catalogue of Evelyn Cameron photos. The photos and diaries of Ms. Cameron contain a detailed account of early frontier life in Montana. **REP. LAMBERT** distributed written testimony and a booklet documenting Ms. Cameron's life and works.

EXHIBIT(jlh32a01)

Delores Morrow, Supervisor of Photo Archives, Prairie County Museum, read and submitted a copy of her written testimony in favor of the project.

EXHIBIT(jlh32a02)

Arnie Olson, Montana Historical Society, and **REP. LENHART** went on record in support of the project.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 10.8}

Pondera Arts Council, #1132

Proponents' Testimony:

Harold Olson, Vice President, Pondera Arts Council, described the recent renovation of the Orpheum Theater in Conrad, which had been completed through the efforts of the council. He distributed letters in support of the theater and pictures of the finished facility. The theater receives a great deal of its support from within the community.

EXHIBIT(jlh32a03)

Helen Elliott, President, Pondera Arts Council, explained that the quality acoustics of the venue enable the theater to support master musicians. They would like to be able to hire a greater number of concert artists and will need additional funding to attract a wider range of artists. The theater draws audiences

from the surrounding areas and is a great economic benefit to the Town of Conrad.

REP. LLEW JONES, HD 27, stated his support of the project for the record.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. LENHART asked for the seating capacity of the venue.

Ms. Elliott responded that the theater seats 242 people. There were 30 extra seats added to this number for a recent popular performance.

CHAIRMAN WELLS commented that the grant request had been for nearly \$20,000 and only \$13,400 was recommended by the Montana Arts Council (MAC). He asked if this would be enough to meet the project goals.

Harold Olson replied that the original grant request included funding for a proposed concert series and additional amenities. The theater will be able to continue to operate with the recommended amount.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 10.8 - 26.3}

Rimrock Opera Company, #1134

Proponents' Testimony:

John Baber, Executive Director, Rimrock Opera Company, discussed the history and vision of the Rimrock Opera Company before submitting written testimony. The company makes opera accessible to the community through outreach programs. Having an opera company has contributed positively to the economy in Billings.

EXHIBIT(jlh32a04)

Gail Hein, Board Member, Rimrock Opera Company, cited some of the benefits of the arts as she stated her support for the project.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 6.5}

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked how many performances the company put on per year.

Mr. Baber replied that they average around two operas per year.

Southwest Montana Arts Council, #1135

Proponents' Testimony:

Laura Horst, Executive Coordinator, Southwest Montana Arts Council, distributed a calendar of arts events in Southwest Montana. The council is requesting special project funds to create an electronic calendar, which will promote arts events in the area. The funding for this project will enable creation and distribution of the calendar.

EXHIBIT(j1h32a05)

SEN. BILL TASH, SD 36 and Kendall Larson, Southwest Montana Arts Council, stated their support for the project.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 6.5 - 18.5}

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked what equipment would be purchased for the project.

Ms. Horst replied that this would cover the costs of a computer and printer.

VIA Incorporated, #1137

Proponents' Testimony:

David Nelson, VIAs, explained the organization. VIAs is a nonprofit organization with multimedia production capacity. The organization produces the website titled, Discovering Lewis and Clark. They are requesting funds to add an interactive educational program to the site, which would focus on the travels of Lewis and Clark between the Missouri and Marias Rivers.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked where the VIAs headquarters were located.

Mr. Nelson answered, "Missoula."

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 18.5 - 32}

World Museum of Mining, #1138

Proponents' Testimony:

Richard Gibson, Education Director, World Museum of Mining, explained that the special project grant will provide educational signs at the World Museum of Mining. The museum contains over 20 acres of land and 50 buildings that are not adequately identified. Mr. Gibson provided a slide show presentation on the museum.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. LENHART asked why the mine was called "The Orphan Girl."

Mr. Gibson responded that this was because the mine was separated from the rest of the mines in Butte.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 12.1}

Custer County Art Center, #1150

Proponents' Testimony:

Mark Browning, Custer County Art Center, stated that this grant would be used for operational support. He handed out museum brochures to the committee members. The art center offers mostly changing exhibits of contemporary artists. The museum is able to perform educational community outreach programs with the assistance of a four-dollar-per-student contribution from the schools. The center is expanding its programs and will use the grant funding for salary support and marketing.

EXHIBIT (j1h32a06)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 12.1 - 20.2}

Miles City Speakers Bureau, #1105

Proponents' Testimony:

Mark Browning, Miles City Speakers Bureau, explained that the program is a consortium of writers, speakers, artists, and authors. Presentations are given during brown-bag lunch sessions or evening programs in the community. The grant will fund travel and marketing expenses associated with the speakers.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 20.2 - 28.2}

Archie Bray Foundation, #1141

Proponents' Testimony:

Josh DeWeese, Director, Archie Bray Foundation, explained this request for operational support. The foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the enrichment of ceramic arts. Mr. DeWeese showed slides of artists' works that have been a part of the program. The foundation offers community ceramics classes and will showcase a spring potted plant exhibit. They would like to expand their influence in the community as well as complete some building improvements to the current venue with funding from this grant.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 10.4}

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. LENHART asked for the amount of expenses paid by the resident artists.

Mr. DeWeese replied that resident artists pay for the costs of materials and firing. The organization offers a scholarship program for studio space.

REP. LENHART asked if the foundation had considered charging a tuition fee to help with their expenses.

Mr. DeWeese answered that this had been considered in the past and it was determined that tuition fees would be too much of a burden in addition to the other fees already administered.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 10.4 - 13}

Art Mobile of Montana, #1142

Proponents' Testimony:

Sara Colburn, Executive Director, Art Mobile of Montana, stated that the Art Mobile of Montana is a traveling educational outreach program. Art lessons, exhibit presentations and teacher education are all offered through the Art Mobile of Montana.

Mr. DeWeese stated his support of the project for the record.

Keeli Schilling, Grade School Student, Helena, described some of the projects she has participated in through the Art Mobile of Montana program.

Jim Poor, Art Educator, explained that the current art exhibit represents artists throughout the state and includes some Native American pieces. He supports the project and interactive education it offers to students.

REP. DEBBY BARRETT, HD 72, stated her support for the project and handed out a letter of support on behalf of **SEN. TASH, SD 36**.

EXHIBIT(jlh32a07)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. LENHART asked how many schools were visited per year.

Ms. Colburn replied that the Art Mobile had visited 73 schools in the past year.

REP. LENHART asked if the school visits were distributed across the state.

Ms. Colburn answered, "Yes."

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 13 - 27.9}

Big Horn Arts and Crafts Association, 1143**Proponents' Testimony:**

Terry Jeffers, Jailhouse Gallery, Hardin, stated that the grant request will cover operational support. The Jailhouse Gallery is sponsored by the Big Horn Arts Association and is the only art center in Big Horn County. The gallery is able to host area artist shows and a educational school programs. The association receives few outside grants and no funding from the county. Ms. Jeffers submitted a gallery pamphlet for the record.

EXHIBIT(jlh32a08)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 5.5}

{REP. WITT entered the meeting at 10:35 A.M.}

Miles City Preservation Commission, #1161**Proponents' Testimony:**

Mark Browning presented the Miles City Preservation Commission Project. The grant will address basic rent and utilities payments for the facility in which the commissioners are currently housed and provide basic operational support. The commission addresses restoration and preservation projects for historic structures and also contributes a weekly news column. Mr. Browning distributed copies of the Miles City Walking Tour, which originated through the commission.

EXHIBIT(jlh32a09)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Butte Center for the Performing Arts, #1146**Proponents' Testimony:**

Daniel Berube, Board of Directors, Butte Center for the Performing Arts, stated that this grant would be used to fund operational support for the Motherlode and Orphan Girl Theaters in Butte. Over half of the utility and maintenance dollars for

the building are obtained through ticket sales. The remainder of the money must be funded through donations and grants. Mr. Berube explained some of the performance projects that had been carried out by the theaters. The Orphan Girl Theater has been nationally recognized for its contributions to the creativity of children.

EXHIBIT(jlh32a10)

REP. GEORGE GROESBECK, HD 74, stated his support of the project for the record.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 5.5 - 22}

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Butte Symphony Association, #1147

Proponents' Testimony:

Kitty Brilliant, Butte Symphony Association, testified that the economic downturn in Butte has challenged the city in keeping up with symphony funding. The association is asking for grant money to promote a more aggressive ticket sales campaign. This will help the symphony in the long run to address operational costs and continue to afford expenses associated with professional music personnel. For these reasons, the symphony association asks that the funding be reinstated to the original amount requested.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 22 - 31}

REP. GEORGE GROESBECK, HD 74, went on record in support of the project.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Carbon County Arts Guild and Depot, #1148

Proponents' Testimony:

Debra Kline, Executive Director, Carbon County Arts Guild, handed out a project information packet to the committee members. The arts guild is a nonprofit organization and is asking for the funding necessary to retain an executive director position. The arts guild has 800 members and offers a number of community and

student programs. The guild administers art shows and a student art summer camp.

EXHIBIT(jlh32a11)

Margaret Murphy, President, Carbon County Arts Guild, stated that the funding is necessary for program operational support. The organization has had difficulty retaining a director because of the low salary.

Betty Curry, Beartooth Rural Community Development and **REP. JOAN ANDERSON, HD 59**, testified in support of the project.

{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 14}

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Carbon County Historical Society, #1149

Proponents' Testimony:

REP. ANDERSON distributed letters in support of the society's project. The grant will fund museum operational expenses. The society is working with the community to raise money to develop the second and third floors of their current building location.

EXHIBIT(jlh32a12)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Brenda Yirsa, #1139

Proponents' Testimony:

Brenda Yirsa, Artist, explained that this was a special projects grant request to fund the research and painting of scenes from Montana State Parks. The project is aimed at promoting and generating interest in parks located throughout the state. The park paintings could be for educational purposes and as art exhibits in rural communities. Ms. Yirsa submitted news articles, which included additional details about Brenda Yirsa exhibits and video testimony, which included support from the Big Sandy Chamber of Commerce.

EXHIBIT(jlh32a13)

REP. WITT stated his support for the project.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked Ms. Yirsa if she intended to create six oil paintings.

Ms. Yirsa replied that this was the number of paintings that had been commissioned as part of the project.

{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 14 - 32}

District 7 HRDC Growth Through Art, #1151

Proponents' Testimony:

Dee Ann Hartman, District 7 Growth Through Art, explained that the program offers an art enrichment studio to adults with developmental disabilities. The program helps develop the creativity and provides opportunities for disabled adults that may not otherwise be available. The program offers classes in drawing, painting and dance. Artists' work is shown nationally as well as locally. This is a grant request for operational program support.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. LENHART asked if the program was offered to both physically and mentally disabled individuals.

Ms. Hartman replied that is was.

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked how many art students were involved in the program.

Ms. Hartman stated that 54 individuals took part in the program during the past year.

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked how long the students spent in the studio.

Ms. Hartman responded that the studio offers two 2 1/2 hour sessions daily.

REP. LENHART asked how old an individual must be to participate in the program.

Ms. Hartman replied that program participants are 18 years and older.

{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 9.7}

Lewistown Art Center, #1187

Proponents' Testimony:

Karen Kuhlmann, Public Director, Lewistown Art Center, stated that the center is requesting a capital expenditure grant to improve the entryway to their building. The entryway will be improved to make it more heat-efficient. Improvements to the lighting and stairway will make increase safety. Ms. Kuhlmann submitted for the record an outline with additional project details.

EXHIBIT(jlh32a14)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

CHAIRMAN WELLS announced that HB 9 project hearings would resume at 8:00 A.M. the following morning and adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:50 A.M.

REP. JACK WELLS, Chairman

LAURA DILLON, Secretary

JW/ld

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([j1h32aad0.PDF](#))