

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 10, 2005 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 350 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: Sen. Jon Tester, Vice Chairman (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, 2/10/2005
Executive Action:

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 opened the hearing for HB 9 projects.

Grandstreet Theater, #1154

Proponents' Testimony:

Tom Cordingley, Manager, Grandstreet Theater, went over some of the community and youth theater programs offered by the Grandstreet.

EXHIBIT(jlh33a01)

Bob Fusie, Gateway Economic Development Corporation, discussed the positive impact the theater has on the local economy. He claimed that the quality of arts available in a community are often taken into account when an individual or family chooses to relocate.

SEN. COONEY stated his support of the project.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 7.1}

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Hamilton Players, #1156

Proponents' Testimony:

April Johnson, Hamilton Players, said the Hamilton Players produce main stage productions as well as children's and educational programs. The organization is active in the local economy, partnering with businesses to increase area tourism. The theater offers community outreach performances and a student intern program. Local theater youth have been accepted into prestigious theater companies nationwide.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. LENHART asked what was done for fundraising.

Ms. Johnson responded that much of the fundraising is performance-oriented. Actors and singers will perform for a fee or a dinner theater will be offered.

SEN. COONEY asked if the organization partnered with businesses often.

Ms. Johnson replied that area businesses like to contribute to the theater because of the impact it has on the local economy.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 7.1 - 16.7}

Helena Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, #1157

Proponents' Testimony:

Patty White, Executive Director, Helena Symphony and Chorale, stated that this grant would enable the symphony to bring higher quality performers to Helena. The symphony already offers free concert tickets to Helena area students and would like to increase their amount of educational outreach. Project funding will allow access to top-level performances within the state.

SEN. COONEY gave his support for the project.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Hockaday Museum of Art, #1158

Proponents' Testimony:

Fred Leistiko, Board of Directors, Hockaday Museum of Art, explained that the museum has become a driving force for art in Northwestern Montana. The museum offers some programs for area students and senior citizens, but outreach is limited due to lack of staff and equipment. Funding will be used to hire part-time staff and purchase supplies in an effort to increase outreach programs.

EXHIBIT (j1h33a02)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 16.7 - 28.5}

Holter Museum of Art, #1159

Proponents' Testimony:

Liz Gans, Co-Director, Holter Museum of Art, stated that the museum offers the largest and most diverse art program in the state. The museum brings national exhibits to serve Montana and the surrounding states, as well as educational programs for children and adults. The museum is funded by the Montana Cultural Trust, grants and private donations.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Rowan Staley, Custer Elementary Student, pledged her support for the project. Her family attends every art show at the museum.

Don Fredrikson, Helena Chamber of Commerce, stated that the museum is an asset to downtown Helena and a national center for art. The museum is an essential part of art education for area students.

EXHIBIT(jlh33a03)

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 8.7}

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Intermountain Opera, #1160

Proponents' Testimony:

Mike Nash, Board of Directors, Intermountain Opera, explained that this grant request will fund operational support for the program. The organization was able to fund a part-time secretarial position with previous grant money. This allows them to have a year-round presence in the community. The opera is an integral part of the community and continues an ongoing relationship with businesses and the Chamber of Commerce.

Martha Biel, Intermountain Opera, added that the opera chorus and orchestra are traditionally comprised of local talent.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 8.7 - 22.3}

Missoula Children's Theater, #1162

Proponents' Testimony:

Terri Elander, Public Relations Director, Missoula Children's Theater, stated that the program reaches thousands of school-aged children in Montana every year. The organization visits schools throughout the nation and allows children to actively participate in the performing arts. A full-scale production is created in each community, using local children. Local schools and businesses sponsor the program in each community. Ms. Elander shared written testimony regarding the program.

EXHIBIT(jlh33a04)

REP. LENHART stated that he supports this program, as it makes theater available to children in every community.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 22.3 - 31}

Montana Art Gallery Director's Association, #1164

Proponents' Testimony:

Mark Browning, Montana Art Gallery Director's Association (MAGDA), explained that the association operates as a co-op to serve common demand for the arts within Montana and the Northwest. The association assists smaller communities to secure exhibits on loan from larger museums. The association is able to make exhibit sharing more cost effective. A mentoring program, which educates smaller venues on proper exhibit handling procedures, is also available through the association.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 6.8}

Montana Artists' Refuge, #1165

Proponents' Testimony:

Claudia Montagne, Executive Director, Montana Artists' Refuge, explained this grant request for operational support. The Montana Artists' Refuge is a resident facility for traveling artists. The facility accommodates both short and long-term stays. Resident artists participate in local school and community programs. The grant for this project will fund a part-time executive director and office residency coordinator for the program.

EXHIBIT (j1h33a05)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 6.8 - 19.6}

Montana Agricultural Center and Museum, #1163

Proponents' Testimony:

John Lepley, Montana Agricultural Center and Museum, said that the center houses a large research library and center, which are manned by volunteers. They also operate a homestead village and local historic buildings. The center has trouble funding incidental maintenance issues because donated funds tend to be marked for a specific purpose. The requested funding will help to meet rising energy costs and associated maintenance.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Montana Arts, #1166

Proponents' Testimony:

John Barsness, Executive Director, Montana Arts, explained that Montana Arts is a non-profit public benefit corporation, which serves the entire state. Montana Arts provides administrative services to all-volunteer organizations throughout the state. The organization serves as fiscal agent for cultural projects. The funding requested allows Montana Arts to increase their scholarship program. This program is offered to organizations that may not be able to afford total project costs.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. COONEY asked for the number of organizations served by Montana Arts.

Mr. Barsness responded that three major all-volunteer organizations and five emerging organizations are represented.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 4.9}

Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras, #1167

Proponents' Testimony:

Patty White, Volunteer Board Member, Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras (MASO), explained that this organization facilitates the sharing of resources among orchestras statewide. MASO assists communities in the development of orchestra programs and provides various educational opportunities to its members. In the past year, 76 communities within the state were served. MASO administers a lending library of sheet music to help cut orchestral costs.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Montana Dance Arts Association, #1169

Proponents' Testimony:

Charlene White, Board Member, Montana Dance Arts Association, stated that MDAA was a non-profit organization for the advancement of dance arts in Montana. Funding for the project allows the association to bring professional dancers and teachers to Montana for educational workshops. This is much cheaper than the alternative of sending Montana dance students abroad.

Krysta Buska, MDAA Workshop Attendee, testified in support of the MDAA, stating that the association gives opportunities to local dancers that may not otherwise be available.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 4.9 - 19.2}

Montana Performing Arts Consortium, #1170

Proponents' Testimony:

Chas Cantlon, Board Member, Montana Performing Arts Consortium (MPAC), told the committee that MPAC was a non-profit organization for the development and promotion of performing arts in Montana. MPAC organizes and produces a live artist showcase and conference each year. The conference is held in various cities within the state on a rotating basis. This grant request will be matched with federal dollars and will allow continued promotion of art education and artist residency programs.

EXHIBIT(jlh33a06)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 19.2 - 29.2}

Montana Ballet Company, #1168

Proponents' Testimony:

Greg Young, Board Member, Montana Ballet Company, explained that this was a request for operational funding support. The Ballet Company offers a community outreach program for after school dance arts instruction and continues to add new programs for outreach. Qualified dancers can receive scholarships through the company to attend their summer dance program. The company would like to expand the scope of outreach with the help of the funding available.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Montana Repertory Theater, #1171

Proponents' Testimony:

Greg Johnson, Executive Director, Montana Repertory Theater, described the theater and its programs. The grant amount requested will fund statewide cultural heritage tours. The programs will focus on western literature and cultural education. The theater is currently working with Montana authors and poets to create a performance piece reflective of Montana. The theater is also responsible for an additional outreach event celebrating

author Ernest Hemingway. The Hemingway tour is an educational effort, which will be taken to schools statewide.

EXHIBIT(jlh33a07)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked where the theater was located.

Mr. Johnson replied that the theater is based out of Missoula.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 9}

Shakespeare in the Parks, #1177

Proponents' Testimony:

Joel Jahnke, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, read written testimony on behalf of Shakespeare in the Parks. He offered a video presentation, which highlighted the positive response the program has received from a small Montana town.

EXHIBIT(jlh33a08)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

The meeting was ajourned.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 9 - 21}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:45 A.M.

REP. JACK WELLS, Chairman

LAURA DILLON, Secretary

JW/ld

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([j1h33aad0.PDF](#))