



# CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

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## OCTOBER 2008 MINUTES OF MEETING DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

Present: B. DaSilva, H. Center, M. Burke, H. Bechard, J. Cherry, M. Schwartz, B. Feinson, G. Smith  
X C. Rotello

Minutes of last meeting were accepted as received.

1. **First Night Danbury:** Andrea Gartner, Ted Cutsumpus, Co-Chairs, requested \$7,500 for the Dec. 30 program. The 4-8 pm hours were chosen as popular times for entire families and people of all ages to attend. Programs will take place within a one to two block area downtown at the Danbury Library, the Danbury Music Centre, Palace Theater, and other venues. There will be a "Heads and Tales" parade and procession, street performers, balloons, window displays, and other events both outdoors and indoors. The event will climax with a fireworks display. They are seeking additional funding from other groups..

2. **Housatonic Valley Cultural Alliance,** Lisa Scales, requested \$5,000 for a professional parade using area artists to make masks and "tales" to precede the First Night Danbury celebration. Costumes, art and masks will be judged at the end of the parade and prizes awarded. There will be live vignettes in four downtown storefronts during the evening and prizes and honorariums for performing artists. They will send flip cards to schools, articles will appear in the News-Times and other publicity. They will approach area banks and other organization if needed. The Alliance includes ten area towns in their membership.

3. **Dave Wonsey , drummer,** requested a \$3,550. grant to conduct a *drum circle* for health and wellness at I CAN, Ann's Place in Danbury. It would be a monthly drum circle for cancer survivors. He would provide each person with percussion instruments and guide them through the rhythmic programs benefiting them therapeutically with stress relief, increased energy and motor skills. He has conducted numerous drum circles and is a music teacher and professional musician. If he does not receive the requested amount he will downsize the number of classes which could include from 20 to 25 people.

4. **Prime Timers, Inc.** request for funding for the Senior Center program has been postponed until the November meeting.

**Report on DCC sponsored programs:**M. Burke reported that the *Concert Association* program at WCSU was excellent. H. Center and B. DaSilva reported the Howard Tuvelle's piano concert and musical anecdotes at *Richter Arts Center* were very professional as well as entertaining.

**Coordinator** M. Siegel reported receiving thank you notes and follow up reports from past grantees .

**Action Taken: First Night Danbury.** H. Bechard moved we grant \$5,000. Following a discussion, it was amended to \$7,500. The motion was seconded by M. Burke and passed.

**"Heads and Tales" procession/parade** with First Night: M. Schwartz moved we grant \$1,000 - H. Center seconded the motion which was passed.

**Dave Wonsey drumming program:** G. Smith moved we grant \$2,000. After discussion, the amount was amended to \$1,250. H. Center seconded the motion which was passed.

The Cultural Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Mildred Siegel, Coordinator

BY: