



Cambridge Arts Council

57 Inman Street Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 349-4380

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Pallas C. Lombardi, Interim Director

RE: Arts Lottery Appropriation FY94
\$22,
Massachusetts Cultural Council
and
the 2nd Annual Cambridge Irish Festival

DATE: 10/6/93

The 1st Cambridge Irish Festival held in the fall of 1992 was co-sponsored by the Cambridge Arts Council and the Irish Immigration Society located in Boston. CAC did not fund the event. CAC helped produce the event by providing the Society with a stage, promotion and publicity, and facilitating the use of Canal Park through the City's permit process. The Society selected their performers and it is my understanding that the performers worked gratis to help support the Center, which is a non-profit organization.

CAC often provides similar "in-kind" contributions to non-profit organizations producing community events. (e.g. the Caribbean Festival, the Little Orchestra, Cambridge Artists Open Studios, etc.)

Last January, Patrick Riordan and David Mooney from the Irish Immigration Center, met with Roy-Alan Hansen. At the meeting they stated they wanted to work with CAC to produce the second Irish Festival in Cambridge at Canal Park. At that meeting they told the director that they wanted to hire 9 acts and would like to pay them \$200 each. The director stated that he could probably come up with \$1,000 from the Cambridge River Festival budget.

According to Mr. Riordan, the flyer you saw was produced right after the January meeting and sent to their membership. It does not reference the Cambridge Arts Council as a sponsor.

After the director's suspension, I spoke with Mr. Riordan (Mr. Mooney had left the Society) and explained to him that 1) we did not have funds for the International Fair and would be unable to produce that event, and 2) that although we were committed to producing the 16th Cambridge River Festival, fundraising for that event had begun very late

in the year (June) and I was not optimistic that we would break even on the event. I offered to provide the same "in-kind" services as previously provided to the Society, and I told him that I could not make a funding commitment to the Society's festival.

Mr. Reardon informed me in August that he and the Society had canceled the event and had informed their membership through their newsletter. (Mr. Reardon can be reached at the Irish Immigration Center in Boston 367-1126 or 367-1420.)

At that time, I explained to Mr. Riordan that we receive numerous requests from artists and non-profit organizations for financial assistance with events, and that CAC re-grants Arts Lottery funds to other non-profits and artists through a competitive application/jury process. The Society, will for the first time, be submitting an application on October 15th requesting funds for next year's Irish Festival.

ARTS LOTTERY

The \$22,386 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council that we asked to have appropriated is CAC's annual State allocation of arts lottery funds for 1994.

Last year's allocation was \$21,290 and a total of 24 grant applications were funded out of the more than 75 applications received. Last year's requests for funds totaled \$67,000+ and the Committee only had the \$21,000+ to regrant. Five percent of the allocation is spent on the administration of the program. Most grants are between \$300 and \$1000 and the demand far exceeds our resources.

A public meeting to discuss the Arts Lottery program and application/jury process was held at the main branch of the Cambridge Library on September 27, 1993. Two members of the Massachusetts Cultural Council joined our staff to explain Arts Lottery program funded by the State.

The Council (CAC) appoints members to the Arts Lottery Committee, a 13-member committee of professionals representing different art disciplines (music, dance, theatre, visual arts, humanities and the interpretive sciences) who live or work in Cambridge. The chair of the Committee is also a member of the Council and the City Manager appoints the members to the Committee. Members of this volunteer committee serve for three-year terms up to two terms.

Prior to the committee's application review and decision-making meeting, they are provided with the 75 or more applications received by the CAC on the October 15th deadline set by the State Arts Council. After the committee

members have had time to review the applications they meet as a group in November and review grant applications and support materials (video tapes, audio tapes, slides, etc.) and award artists and organizations funds based on quality, accessibility, community impact, and funding available. All projects must occur in Cambridge and benefit the Cambridge community.

In the past the Massachusetts Cultural Council has awarded "reduced admission" grants to art, science, and historic institutions to make those institutions' programs and exhibits financially accessible to students. This past year, the State Arts Council abolished the reduced admission grants to those institutions and are now encouraging teachers and other educators to acquire blocks of tickets at reduced admission from local arts councils out of their arts lottery monies (referred to as the PASS program).

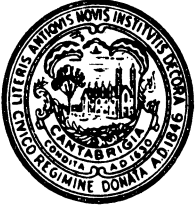
Unfortunately, the State has not increased the Arts Council's appropriation to meet this new demand. Consequently, CAC expects that many applicants competing for limited arts lottery funds will be disappointed and disgruntled because of the increase competition for the same small pool of money.

The Committee's selection of grant recipients is forwarded to the State Arts Council for final approval (December) prior to the CAC being allowed to distribute funds (March). The State Arts Council reviews grant recipients' applications to ensure that they meet funding guidelines.

NOTE: In the past, the CAC received much higher funding from the State Arts Council. Their budget reduction from \$27 million dollars to approximately \$6 million has profoundly effected local non-profits, many no longer exist.

Recently you signed a grant to the MCC requesting funds for a two-month intensive dance workshop by Adrienne Hawkins to be held at Rindge and Latin High School. The MCC did not fund the program and many people including the artist and the CRLS faculty and students are very disappointed.

Like all non-profits, CAC continues to develop programs and fundraise to implement those programs. In difficult financial times we all have fiscal constraints to deal with. Patrick Reardon and the Irish Immigration Society do not hold CAC responsible for the cancellation of their festival. However, the public's disappointment is not alleviated when more and more wonderful cultural events fail to happen because of a lack of resources.



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

October 18, 1993

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached additional information requested regarding the appropriation of
\$22,386 in Art Lottery Funds.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

Cal #9

F-201

Consent Agenda #8

Comm. from R.W. Healy relative to
additional information on the appropriation
of \$22,386 in Art Lottery Funds.

for original see 1993

Finance # 198.

In City Council October 18, 1993

Charter right exercised
by Councillor Walsh.
10/15/93 placed on file