

August 8, 1974

To: The Members of The Cambridge City Council
The Commissioner of The Metropolitan District Commission
Copy To the Cambridge City Clerk
From: Mary Beth Nason

Re: The Polyarts, Inc. Summer Program

As a member of the summer staff of Polyarts, Inc. for the summer program in the City of Cambridge, I would like to inform you of ~~the~~ resignation of the entire staff as of July 23, 1974.

I would also like to bring to your attention the reason behind our resignations, and urge you to discontinue any cooperative efforts you may be undertaking now or in the future with Polyarts, Inc.

The summer staff's agreement with Polyarts, Inc. was that each person would be paid \$500.00 for developing and carrying out the summer program. This money was to be given to us in payments of \$125.00 on July 12, July 26, August 9 and August 23. The Director of the summer program was to receive \$1,000 for his efforts as was one staff member who was filling two positions.

However, our first checks issued on July 15 were non-negotiable due to insufficient funds in the Polyarts, Inc. bank account at the Cambridge Trust Company.

As this continued to be the case, the summer staff questioned Bob Gordon, the Executive Director of Polyarts, Inc., about this at a meeting on July 23. At this meeting, Bob Gordon acknowledged that he did not then have any money, and invited any of us who wished to - to continue to work with him on a volunteer basis. He hoped that money could be raised by soliciting donations from the public at the Yankee Street Fair held at the corner of Bow & Arrow Streets in Cambridge and at the Hatch

Shell movies. He assured us that our checks would eventually be negotiable and honored, and that he would pay us for our work up to Friday, July 19. The staff quit immediately after this meeting.

Since then some of us have been able to clear our original checks of \$125.00 through the Cambridge Trust Company while others have not. This process has been a matter of countless trips and phone calls to the Polyarts, Inc. office and the Cambridge Trust Company trying to cash the checks immediately after sporadic deposits have been made to the Polyarts, Inc. account.

None of us have been issued our second checks covering the period up to July 19. Bob Gordon's administrative assistant has informed me that he does not intend to issue them until the first set of checks have all been cleared.

We have engaged legal help to represent our case.

We are very angry over finding ourselves unemployed in the middle of the summer without our anticipated earnings. We are also angry over the inconvenience involved in trying to get the money owed us.

We have all been told by people associated in the past with Polyarts or knowledgeable about Polyarts (Cambridge librarians and school officials, for instance, who have cooperated with Polyarts) that our situation is not atypical of former Polyarts employees.

I personally was in the office closing down my part of the summer program when a Commissioner from Boston phoned and cancelled future Polyarts sponsored events at the Hatch Shell. His reason for doing so was because the checks issued to the policeman on duty bounced. This was on July 24. I have subsequently

3.
learned that the Hatch Shell movies are being continued, and another method of paying the police has been designed.

From all of this I cannot help but feel that I and the other members of the Summer Staff are victims of a pattern of unsound business practises perpetrated by Polyarts, Inc..

I recognize that I am not known personally to any of you, and because of this may sound like a dissatisfied former employee trying only to cause trouble without justification. I am dissatisfied but I think with reason. On a separate page, I am enclosing the names and addresses of the other members of the Summer Staff. Should you wish to check my creditability.

I have also enclosed a copy of our last schedule for the summer program. This program was a series of workshops and events held at various locations around Cambridge. Our job was to locate the volunteers willing to put on these events or to put them on ourselves as well as to locate the people wanting the programs. This took us to the community schools, libraries, housing projects, etc., and it is from the people working in these various places that we came to know of Bob Gordon's and Polyarts' reputation. We did not have any organizational responsibilities toward the Uppes Street Fair, Hatch Shell movies, public concerts etc. These were organized apart from us.

I still endorse the goals of Polyarts, Inc. of bringing recreation and the arts to the people of Cambridge and the Boston metropolitan area. I think the popularity of many Polyarts, Inc. sponsored events speaks well of certain of Bob Gordon's activities and of the need for this kind of thing. However, my experiences with Polyarts have been so unsatisfactory that I question the methods and ethics ~~now~~ employed and ask you to do the same. Thank you.

Mary Beth Nason

Mary Beth Nason

25 Stearns Rd. Apt 1

Brookline, Mass 02146

former Neighborhood Coordinator
Polyarts Summer Program '74

Copies sent to: The Polyarts Summer Staff '74

- 1) The Neighborhood Coordinators
Polyarts Summer Program '74

A) Irene Whalen
121 Saint Steven Street
Boston, Mass. 02115

B) Janice Melton
2033 Columbus Ave
Boston, Mass. 02119
524-4473

- 2) The Cultural Coordinators
Polyarts Summer Program '74

A) Karen Saint-Rossy
380 Washington St. Apt 2
Somerville, Mass.
666-4567

B) Donna Saviet
18 Myrtle Street
Watertown, Mass 02172
926-4715

C) Nancy Small
563 Franklin Street
Cambridge, Mass 02139
868-3228

D) Louis Fantasia
46 Westminster Ave
Watertown, Mass.
926-3044

- 3) The Co-Director
Polyarts Summer Program

Michelle Satter
55 Alpine Street
Cambridge, Mass 02138
868-8124

August 8, 1974

To: Mr. Paul Healey, City Clerk

From: Mary Beth Nason

Re: The enclosed message.

Please regard my enclosed message to the members of the City Council as an official communication to the City Council and record it as such.

Thank you very much.

345

Comm. from Mary Beth Mason transmitting
the resignation of the ~~entire~~ staff of
Polyarts, Inc.

Referred to City
Manager

In City Council,

Sept. 9, 1974

Copy sent to City Ingr
9/12/74 dl