

Museum and Cultural Advisory Board – Revised Meeting Minutes

The Museum and Cultural Advisory Board met in a regular meeting at the i.d.e.a. Museum, 150 W. Pepper Place, second floor conference room on May 18, 2017.

Members Present:

Dilworth Brinton, Jr. Michael Darr
Jocelyn Condon Benjamin Rundall
Gladys Contreras Katrina Wilhelm

Members Absent:

Nancy Aposhian
David Dean
Michele Streeter
Robert Valverde

Staff Present:

Cindy Ornstein Rob Schultz
Tom Wilson Jean Kaminski

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Public Comments: No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes:

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., Chair, asked for any corrections/additions to the minutes of March 23. There being none, Karina Wilhelm made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Gladys Contreras seconded the motion. The Board members present unanimously approved the minutes of March 23, and they will be posted to the City's website.

Information and Discussion – Review Creative Economy Fund Awards – Cindy Ornstein

Cindy Ornstein began by explaining to new Board members what the Creative Economy Fund is. This is a fund that was created seven years ago, because of a desire from the non-profit community to re-instate the Arts & Culture Mini Grants which were cash awards; however, the City has not been in a position to do that. Ms. Ornstein suggested to City management that one way we could assist the non-profit community would be to create a fund that would give an in-kind discount on rental for use of our facilities. Mesa Arts Center (MAC) would need to reduce income projections, but it would not require an outlay of cash and would help with the vibrancy of arts and cultural life in the community, help the non-profits with their bottom line, and would help the MAC offer increased diversity in programming – a win/win for everyone. City Management reduced MAC's earned revenue projections in rentals by \$25,000 to allow MAC to establish the Creative Economy Fund.

Two years ago, the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board made a recommendation to the City Council to increase the amount to \$35,000; however, it was late in the budget year and too late to incorporate it into the plan. In the meantime, the City created the Arts and Culture Fund that created a change in the Department's financial management allowing us to reinvest any overage in earned money over the projected budget. That money is now allocated to the Arts & Culture Fund and allows the Arts & Culture Department to use that money for emergencies, pilot programs, and new opportunities that arise, and has grown over the past several years. In addition, in the Fees & Charges schedule it states the amount that we can charge for rental of a facility, as well as stating that management can waive charges or offer discounts as management feels it is needed and/or appropriate to the business.

This year, there were 18 applications, a record-breaking year for the number of applicants with a lot of exciting and strong programs presented. The total requested amount was \$63,000 with \$25,000 allocated for distribution among the qualified applicants. Ms. Ornstein said that this is an appropriate area for the Arts and Culture Department to invest in, which can be achieved by exceeding the rental revenue goal, or using Arts and Culture fund dollars to cover the cost, if needed.

Applications are reviewed by a panel and are rated on a sliding scale; the higher the score, the higher the percentage of the award. This year, the total awards came to \$40,200. Ms. Ornstein agreed to add the additional \$15,200 to the distribution amount which can be covered by funds accumulated in the Arts & Culture Fund, if needed. She felt that the diversity and quality of the applications made it beneficial to our community to support these non-profit organizations at a higher level, especially since the Board requested increasing the amount two years ago, which was not possible at that time. These are not cash awards, but reduced income, and our rental income is in a healthy state.

One of the major contributors to the Arts and Culture budget, allowing us to be able to put money into the Arts & Culture Fund, has been the incredible performance of rentals at MAC, so that we have the wherewithal to support this increase.

Gladys Contreras, Vice-Chair, was part of the panel the last two years. Ms. Ornstein asked her to speak about the applicants. Ms. Contreras echoed the number of applications this year and commented that they were very competitive. The applications were split up among the panel and they were asked to focus on assigned applications to share those specific proposals with the other panelists, even though the panel did review all the applications. She stated that the panelists, made up of four people including herself from the Board and three other community members, were great, and took their

assignment seriously. There was a wide variety of programs presented with many scoring well and some scoring more toward the bottom depending on how well they met the criteria. There were proposals that would: inspire youth to create original works of theater, showcase Indian dance and choreography, present Shakespeare in a modern context, symphonies serving Title I schools who wouldn't otherwise have access to experience a symphony or play an instrument, and many other diverse proposals.

Dilworth Brinton, Jr. Chair, commented that most applications appear to be Mesa or East Valley based, with one out of state application. Ms. Ornstein replied that the program was never intended to attract out-of-state organizations because it was promoted locally, but because it is posted on the Arizona Commission on the Arts Opportunity site, national organizations may see it there. We may change the guidelines next year to state that the fund is for organizations in the state of Arizona only; the intent is to support regional organizations.

The lowest scored applicant was from the out-of-state application which provided very short and incomplete answers with no community engagement; they received no funding. The rest of the applications, depending on their rating, received 25%, 40%, 55%, or 85% - the highest awards were at 85% of their request. The top ranked applications were from East Valley Children's Theatre, Metropolitan Youth Symphony, Southwest Shakespeare Company, and Youth Symphony of the Southwest – all Founding Resident Companies of Mesa Arts Center. Ms. Ornstein added that some of the other applications included: an Asian-Indian Organization, a Chinese-American organization, several organizations looking to do new work, and a very broad cross section of things appealing to families and seniors.

Mesa Arts Center is asking the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board's endorsement of the recommendations presented. The Board members present unanimously endorsed the panel's recommendations.

Dilworth Brinton, Jr. thanked Gladys Contreras, Vice-Chair, and the committee for the time they took to review, score, and determine the award recommendations for each applicant.

See Exhibit A - summary of Creative Economy Fund 2017-2018 awards.

Staff Reports

i.d.e.a. Museum – Rob Schultz reported for Sunnee O'Rork

- The "Imagine Luncheon – Full Speed Ahead" at Tre Bella was a successful fundraiser. Donors pledged approximately \$180,000 to the Museum over the next five years.
- The Museum partnered with Arizona Museum of Natural History, Mesa Public Library, and Mesa Parks, Recreation and Commercial Services to present "Playful Learning the Park" an early-learning enrichment program.
- Jeffery Morris and Dena Milliron and Museum staff collaborated with Mesa Arts Academy to provide a space for a student art exhibition. Jeffery Morris installed the artwork and hosted a special reception for the students.
- The Museum leadership team completed the self-study assessment with Sharon Flanagan-Hyde, consultant for the Agile Project. The consultant received assessments from Board members, including Rob Schultz and Cindy Ornstein. The Agile Project is a grant funded program that seeks to develop long term strength and institutional flexibility for the Museum so that it might better adapt to changes in the future.

Arizona Museum of Natural History – Tom Wilson

- A recent highlight at the Museum was the 5th Annual Beer "N Bones event. There were 12 local breweries with approximately 11,000 people attending, as well as food and live animals. The Museum raised \$24,000 from the event.
- Mesa Grande is closed for the season and will reopen in October.
- Dr. Wilson received another donation of baskets from North America, not only the southwest but from the northern plains and northeast area, as well as plains beadwork on leather and other Native American materials.
- Quetzalcoatlus was the largest animal to have ever flown with a wingspan of approximately 39 feet – that is about the size of a four seat Cessna. The Museum has a model of a skeleton of the Quetzalcoatlus and they have reinstalled it in the dinosaur hall. Previously it was displayed in a flying position, but was given a new perspective with the new installation.
- The Museum has put out an RFP to paleo artists for the planned dinosaur façade. There will be fundraising involved, but the hope is to have it completed within the next year, hopefully in time for the American Alliance of Museum's Conference that will be held in Phoenix next year.

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., asked if there was anything the Board might be able to do to participate in the convention next year. Cindy Ornstein replied that the convention will be in Phoenix, but Mesa will be the site of the opening night party. The convention generally attracts 4,000 – 5,000 attendees. The party will be throughout the downtown Mesa area and all three

Arts & Culture Department facilities will be hosting the event. There may be volunteer opportunities for the Board to participate in and we will keep the Board posted on any needs.

The Department is planning a large artist installation in downtown in conjunction with the party, but because it will be a special installation, it will be installed for nine days and there will be a separate community opening around the installation before the conference begins. The focus will be on the community enjoying the installation first and it will remain up for the American Alliance of Museum's party. More details to follow later.

Mesa Arts Center (MAC)/Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum (MCA) – Rob Schultz

- Mesa Artpace Lofts Project is a development for artists that will be located at 155 S. Hibbert and will house 50 artists with one, two and three bedroom apartments incorporating studios, creating spaces where artists can live and work. Artspace has completed approximately 35 of these projects around the county; Mesa is very pleased that there will be one in the downtown area. There will be a public groundbreaking event next Wednesday, May 23, at 9 a.m. on the site. Artspace is also hosting a small reception for key stakeholders on May 25 at Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum. Construction is expected to take a year to complete.
- The Arts & Culture Department will again participate in the annual Celebration of Freedom/July 4 event. Typically, the Museums provide activities for the kids located inside the convention center, while outside, the MAC contracts a mural artist who will create a patriotic-themed mural during the celebration throughout the day.
- There is a park bench that was embellished with ceramic tiles created by schoolchildren from Holmes Elementary School located at the west side of the Main Library to memorialize Balbir Singh, a man who was shot and killed at an east Mesa gas station right after 9/11 because his assailant thought he was a Muslim. The bench needs some restoration and Mr. Schultz has visited the site with the MAC's lead ceramic instructor, who will create some replacement tiles. Mr. Schultz has also contacted Homes Elementary to let them know the project is underway and invited the students to participate if they want; however, it is summer and the kids will not be available, but the school appreciated the effort and being contacted.
- Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum held their final opening reception of the season last Friday, May 12, with a great turnout. The exhibitions will be open until August 6. After that, the Museum will close until the Season Kick-off in September for cleaning and maintenance. September is the only time of the year when all five galleries have new installations.

Director's Report – Cindy Ornstein

Cindy reported that Mesa Arts Center (MAC) was the recipient of a Governor's Arts Award this year in the Community Category. MAC did win the same award in 1994 when MAC was in the old facility, but in 2017, MAC is an entirely different facility in many ways. Mesa Arts Center is proud to have received this award twice.

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., stated that Randy Vogel mentioned the award at their weekly Rotary club meeting and because of the award and Mr. Vogel's involvement with MAC, they raised \$800 that will go to the Rotary Club.

MAC just held the annual Season preview event on May 10 announcing the season for Performing Live and shared a short video on Creative Aging, that was well received, and a video that highlighted each of the others areas at MAC reminding people that MAC does a lot more than present fabulous shows, but has many other programs that we present to the community.

For the last six months, MAC has been lucky to have an Interim Development Director, Alisa Chatinsky, who did a fabulous job while we conducted a national search for a permanent Development Director. MAC did hire Renee Lopata who was most currently the Development Director at United Food Bank and before that she was at Scottsdale Arts and spent many years with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce in charge of membership. Ms. Lopata is passionate about MAC and excited to be working here. She began work on Monday, May 15, and Ms. Chatinsky agreed to stay on for two additional weeks to help with a smooth transition. Under Alisa Chatinsky's leadership we worked hard to develop new relationships for corporate support and support through grants. We now have a huge number of grants in the pipeline (awaiting decisions) and that is a good place for a new Development Director to begin a new position. There was a lot of activity in grants, particularly for Project Lit which is the umbrella for our K-12 education-engagement programming and for Creative Aging. We recently applied to Boeing, which previously supported the Jazz from A-Z program, but with their new guidelines, jazz does not fall within their criteria any longer. One of their priorities is veterans programming and MAC has done some programming for veterans in the past, and has been interest in growing that area. MAC did submit a proposal to Boeing to begin developing a Veteran's Services Arts Program.

MAC is involved in a Strategic Planning process. Currently, input has been at the staff level, but later in the summer we will be reaching outside of the staff for feedback and will be contacting the Board to participate.

The Arts & Culture Department has been working on the big-picture/long-term issue on where each facility is going and what they can do to further service their core-patrons and build new audiences. To-date, the Arts & Culture Department has had a successful year, with approximately six weeks remaining, but from a preliminary standpoint it appears the Department will make or exceed the income goal, or come very close to the projection, and will come in under budget on expenses.

Report on Conferences and/or meetings/Performances Attended: Board Members – Information only

Katrina Wilhelm reported that her 10-year-old daughter has artistic talent and was participating in an after-school program. Ms. Wilhelm has been looking for a class for her, but she was disappointed to learn that there are no graphic art classes offered on a Saturday at Mesa Arts Center for kids. She did find a free class on Saturday morning at Chandler Center for the Arts and wondered if there might be grant money that would make it possible for MAC to offer free classes as well. She added that her daughter's class at Chandler Center for the arts was a good experience and there is a waiting list for kids to get into the class. Cindy Ornstein responded that we did explore the possibility of a Saturday morning class for kids, but had trouble finding a time and place for a Saturday class. Ms. Ornstein said that she will have Rob Schultz discuss again with Billy Jones, who oversees the classes.

Dilworth Brinton, Jr., mentioned that he would like to see a summer class at the i.d.e.a. Museum where the Boy Scouts could earn a merit badge. He will contact Sunnee O'Rork to see if that is possible.

Mr. Brinton, commented that he has not seen the arroyo running for a while and asked if there was a problem. Ms. Ornstein told the Board that there was a leak that Facility Maintenance has been trying to identify – first trying some non-invasive testing with little success, but they think they may have identified where the leak is occurring and have to do some digging to fix the problem. It is always nice to see running water in AZ, especially in the summer months, but we were losing too much water each month, especially here in the desert, that it needed to be investigated. We hope to have the arroyo back up and running as soon as possible.

The next scheduled meeting date is July 27, 2017. This will be the annual meeting to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair for the coming fiscal year.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy Ornstein, Director
Arts and Culture Department

Exhibit A

**Creative Economy Fund Awards
2017-2018**

Acappella Syndicate

Acappella Syndicate is a group of accomplished amateur musicians with considerable experience in developing and delivering a cappella shows. As the preeminent barbershop chorus in Arizona, their performances are of the highest quality. They perform at venues throughout the greater Phoenix area and have chosen the Mesa Arts Center as the venue in which to hold their annual fully produced show.

There are no other a cappella ensembles that produce a show of their quality anywhere else in AZ, at least according to their audiences.

Eligible Rental Fee: \$2,145
Recommended Award: \$ 536

Arizona Arts Academy

Arizona Arts Academy is applying for two projects that coincide with two major Chinese holidays.

One is the Moon Festival celebration. For this performance, they will center on Chinese Dance art and the beauty of language art featuring many styles of dance from different regions of China. It will give the audience a refreshing experience of the vibrant colors of the costumes, unique music and the beauty of the dances.

The second is for Chinese New Year. During this performance, they will incorporate all things to do with celebrating the holiday using different art forms to bring these traditions to life on stage. There will be singing, dancing, instruments, choir and much more immersing not only the Chinese audience, but also people of other ethnic backgrounds.

Eligible Rental Fee: \$3,900
Recommended Award: \$2,535

CYT Phoenix – Christian Youth Theatre:

CYT Phoenix will be performing *Honk!* for a two-week run in May 2018. The public will experience a high-quality production directed by talented and experienced artistic personnel. *Honk!* was written by Anthony Drewe and the music was composed by George Stiles. *Honk!* tells the story of an ugly duckling, outcast by friends and even the father, but eventually grows to be a beautiful swan. The performance will be directed by Mark and Rachel Stoddard, an incredibly skilled and capable team who are very experienced in musical theater productions.

Eligible Rental Fee: \$5,000
Recommended Award: \$1,250

East Valley Children’s Theatre:

The winner of this year’s East Valley Children’s Theatre’s Aspiring Playwriting Contest (which received over 52 entries from around the world) is a play by Susan C. Hunter and Tom Shelton of Shittier, CA. *Beauty and the Computer Geek* will become a part of their 2017-2018 season. The creative experience that designers, directors, and young actors have being involved with a show for the very first time is astonishing. In addition to the experience of a live theatrical performance, there will be a workshop with the playwright for the cast and crew. This year, several new components have been added to the program. EVCT will hold a 10- minute play competition for high school students in which the top six submissions will get a staged reading of their work with verbal comments from the playwrights. The playwrights will also hold a special workshop for any kids ages 12-18 who are interested.

Eligible Rental Fee: \$3,000
Recommended Award: \$2,550

Indo American Cultural Connect

Indo is presenting a program titled *Soulmate* in September 2017. Sneha Bharadwaj, an accomplished and creative dancer-choreographer, is organizing a 40 to 50-hour dance workshop in the Phoenix area. *Soulmate* is the final performance by the students at the end of the workshop featuring over 20 artists.

The production promises to be an advanced thematic presentation that will result in amelioration of the dancers participating in the workshop, and the art community will witness a creative amalgamation of different dance forms.

The plan is to have production costs sponsored by individual and corporate donations allowing the program to be offered free of charge. The purpose of this program is to promote appreciation of art and Indo American Cultural Connect sees this as a way of achieving that objective.

Eligible Rental Fee: \$1,430
Recommended Award: \$ 572

Limelight Performing Arts:

The grant award would fund two performances for Limelight Performing Arts.

1) *The Lion King*, Limelight will transform this beloved story into a fresh, new musical theater experience. The production will incorporate full-sized puppets, including giraffes. Few companies attempt to incorporate puppetry, but Limelight is committed to doing it – and doing it right.

2) *Thoroughly Modern Millie* – Limelight has presented this show before, but in their effort to make every show better, they are reimagining the 2018 performance.

In addition to double-casting, they are considering separate senior and junior shows to give as many kids as possible their moment in the spotlight. The production will feature several characters who speak in Chinese. The actors will listen to audio of the Chinese script until their pronunciation, cadence and delivery are authentic giving the audiences a unique experience.

Eligible Rental Fee: \$5,000
Recommended Award: \$3,250

Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens:

Each year the Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens organizes and convenes the annual Mesa Latino Town Hall, a half-day conference, now entering its 15th year, bringing together 300+ Latino community members, elected officials, civic leaders, educators, students and parents to discuss issues affecting the Latino community while celebrating diversity and ways to create positive change.

Workshops and culturally relevant art and/or music are key elements of the event.

This year’s theme is “Rise Above it.” The emphasis for the keynote speaker and workshops will be how can our leaders and public institutions recognize the economic and social challenges our Latino/under-served communities face and how can we create viable strategies and how the Latino community can rise above these challenges.

Eligible Rental Fee: \$2,100
Recommended Award: \$1,365

Mesa Encore Theatre:

The Mesa Encore Theatre project consists of 73 performances of live Broadway musicals and plays performed for the public by all-volunteer local actors, actresses and production crew members for their 2017-2018 season.

The award will help offset costs for use of the Mesa Arts Center for final rehearsals and performances.

Mesa Encore Theatre has been an all-volunteer community theater in Mesa for the past 81 years bringing quality live theater to the community at an affordable price.

Eligible Rental Fee:	\$5,000
Recommended Award:	\$3,250

Metropolitan Youth Symphony:

Metropolitan Youth Symphony is requesting support for their 2017-2018 Formal Concerts and Recital Series that provide quality experiences for over 350 young musicians and their families. The recitals are open to members free of charge for participants and attendees, allowing our young musicians the opportunity to further expand their musical performance expertise. The focus for 2017-2018 is to show the benefits of arts collaboration by engaging some of the fellow Founding Resident Companies of Mesa Arts Center, and others, in their regular performances.

Eligible Rental Fee:	\$5,000
Recommended Award:	\$4,250

Phoenix Children's Chorus:

The Phoenix Children's Chorus produces an annual Spring Concert Series. This year's performance will include a new East Valley Cadet choir. Tickets are marketed to the public with complimentary tickets offered to military veterans. The audience will experience a high-quality performance of classical and contemporary choral literature sung by approximately 380 youngsters in grades 2-12. In addition to the Phoenix Children's Chorus piano accompanist, an instrumental ensemble is contracted to provide accompaniment. Funding will assist in concert expenses to allow Phoenix Children's Chorus to transfer budgeted expenses to the chorister support fund.

Eligible Rental Fee:	\$1,500
Recommended Award:	\$ 975

Rogue Dance Theater, Inc.:

Rogue Dance Theater, Inc. is requesting support for their production of the life of *Cleopatra* told through dance. Songs are chosen carefully so that the lyrics combine visually with the choreography and end up telling the full-length story. *Cleopatra* will have string sounding instruments like the sitar and the harp as well as African drums. Each year, the public experiences well-known written works, many of which are part of the high school required reading curriculum.

Eligible Rental Fee:	\$2,000
Recommended Award:	\$1,300

Salt River Brass:

If awarded, the grant will support six entertaining and educational performances for an estimated 6,000 community residents featuring some of the Valley’s top musicians led by the highly regarded conductor, Patrick Sheridan.

Over 29 years, the band, composed entirely of volunteer musicians, has thrilled audiences across the country, produced numerous recordings and presented outstanding soloists and ensembles.

Salt River Brass presents guest artists of national renown and commissions new musical arrangements to accommodate unique instrumentation. The 2017-2018 season will feature Kevin Clark, trumpeter and leader for DUKES of Dixieland (one of New Orleans preeminent bands and ambassadors) in February, as well as local guest artists, new compositions and special arrangements throughout the year.

Eligible Rental Fee:	\$5,000
Recommended Award:	\$3,250

Southwest Shakespeare Company:

Southwest Shakespeare Co. proposes to bring an award-winning student work to the Winterfest line-up in January 2018. The addition of a “New Work” this year will serve as the pilot program for a New Works Competition. As a pilot program, what we discover will help determine the shape and design of future new work presentations and designs. The inaugural play is “Infinite Canary” by Master’s Degree Candidate Annie Pulsipher. The play explores the difficulties a teacher has inspiring students in a rural and impoverished Appalachian community. As she tries to make a difference in the life of one student, a modern-day Romeo and Juliet style romance threatens to bring down her efforts to procure a scholarship for the student. Her imaginary muse, the “Canary” quotes Shakespeare and encourages her to press forward against the odds.

The team of Student Director Zoe Clayton, Student Playwright Annie Pulsipher, and Student Actor Kennedy McMann will host talk-back sessions following performances. Audiences report that the talk-back sessions deepen their experience of the produced work by offering unique insight, in-depth discussion and the opportunity to ask questions.

Eligible Rental Fee:	\$5,000
Recommended Award:	\$4,250

Tempe Community Chorus:

Tempe Community Chorus hopes to perform twice at MAC. The concerts will be directed by Cary Burns and accompanied by pianist Mary Sievert and drummer Ben Adams. Smaller groups from within the chorus perform in addition to the full group.

Mr. Burns attempts to select music that is increasingly challenging to perform and has added an element of dance to the concerts with several members performing choreographed movement to some of the songs.

Eligible Rental Fee:	\$5,000
Recommended Award:	\$3,250

The Phoenix Symphony:

The Phoenix Symphony is requesting support for three productions: 1) Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony*, that takes the audience on a monumental journey from anguish to joy, ending in life-affirming triumph. The chorus and four guest soloists will perform with a 66-musician orchestra. *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* is also featured in the program; 2) Handel’s *Messiah*, the holiday favorite, for the 13th year, will feature the acclaimed “Hallelujah” chorus joined by The Phoenix Symphony Chorus, as well as world-class soloists; 3) The Music of Harry Potter – audience members will enter the world of Hogwarts as they experience the memorable music from the Harry Potter films. Attracting a younger audience, these shows are a great way to introduce youth to symphonic music.

Eligible Rental Fee: \$5,000
Recommended Award: \$4,250

The Phoenix Youth Symphony:

In their 65 years, The Phoenix Youth Symphony has educated thousands of students throughout the Valley. They plan to perform one of their seven concerts at MAC this year – The Teacher Appreciation Concert in February 2018. The performance features five groups, Symphonette Orchestra, String Orchestra, Symphonic Winds, Chamber Winds and Percussion Ensemble, totaling over 200 musicians performing multiple works in honor of their private teachers, school teachers, parents and family. The concert will be free and open to the public. The Phoenix Symphony hopes to use this performance to enrich the students and the community by demonstrating how impactful talented young musicians can be in our society when given the opportunity, support and professional training.

Eligible Rental Fee: \$2,547
Recommended Award: \$ 637

The Tamburitzans of Pittsburgh PA:

The project is a presentation of the Tamburitzans’ 81st season performance entitled “Passages.” The public will experience a vivid and energetic display of international dance and music. Notably, The Tamburitzans will develop a story line that speaks to the legal immigration of people from other countries to the US and how they brought strength and diversity to their adopted homeland.

Eligible Rental Fee: \$1,400
Recommended Award: \$ 0

Youth Symphony of the Southwest:

Youth Symphony of the Southwest has held a solo competition for the past five years. The contest is open only to the members of the youth symphony and was created for the sole purpose of allowing the winner(s) to perform solo in front of a live orchestra. In the past, soloists have performed with the Symphony of the Southwest, but this season, three students will be performing solos with the Youth Symphony. This not only gives the soloists a rare opportunity, but allows the orchestra students a chance to learn to follow during a concerto performance which is substantially different from performing symphonic repertoire.

Eligible Rental Fee: \$3,000
Recommended Award: \$2,550