

MINUTES OF THE PHILIPSTOWN DEPOT THEATRE BOARD
MEETING
January 8, 2022

Present: Steve Ives, Jim Semmelman, Chris Nowak, Charlie Dupree, Caitlin Chadwick, Peter Weed, Claudio Marzollo, Sheila Rauch, Byron Stinson, Jerry Springer, Kathy Plummer

Not Present: Terry Turner

Also Present: Amy Dul, Executive Director, Nancy Swann, Artistic Director

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Steve Ives, at 9:00 AM. This was a Zoom Meeting.

Steve Ives articulated the order of the next steps the board should take in this time period, since the benefit. The theater has many needs. There are things that we want to do and things we must do. We have to prioritize and put price tags on those things and examine how to best use our resources.

Amy Dul reported on two government grants that have recently been awarded to the theater by New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and by the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program (SVO). We are required to spend the entire amount of the NYSCA grant in 2022. The SVO grant money must be used by June 2022. The NYSCA money is to be used as follows: 70% for artists fees; 20 % for programming; 10% for general operating.

We received \$93,000 from SVO in July and then an additional \$46,000 from SVO in August of 2021.

The NYSCA grant was approved for \$49,500 but it has not been received or deposited .

An ARTs Link grant for \$3,500 was approved but we have not received it yet.

The \$93,000 SVO grant can be used to reimburse expenses from March 2020 through Dec. 2021, which Amy Dul is proposing. Then we can use the supplemental \$46,000 for expenses through June 2022.

Amy Dul suggested that the best process to identify the needs is for each committee to meet again and submit firm requests for the needs. Amy will meet with the finance committee to understand what we need to keep in reserve. An example of something we need right away is curtains and lights.

A Profit and Loss Statement was shared on screen. Charlie Dupree asked to see the expense base. He suggested a plan to stabilize the balance sheet and the need to ascertain how much of that could be used.

Claudio Marzollo the possible creation of a fund for future operating expenses using ticket sales money.

Furthermore he suggested that with Covid being hard on us over the winter, we should plan now for spring events when we can have larger crowds outside. Two possible outdoor spaces for this could be The Landing and Boscobel.

Mona Smith will be asked for ideas on best ways to appeal for contributions to an endowment fund.

Steve Ives asked and Charlie Dupree agreed to become a member of the Finance Committee.

Amy Dul spoke of a portion of the money coming in to be used for programming with a priority on bringing in local and diverse artists and performances.

Nancy Swann reported that programs and projects have been moved to later in the year because of the health and safety issues with Covid. The challenge is to address safety and still perform. One nighters and being outside in the spring are two examples being planned. Jim Semmelman has proposed a cabaret series in May along with other one nighters.

A meeting is planned with the artistic director and executive director of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to discuss possible sharing of building space for set designs and building. Chris Nowak said that an educational program that brings in high school students in this area is appealing. Steve Ives asked and Caitlin Chadwick agreed to attend this meeting.

Our relationship with the Putnam Theater Alliance is strong. With them we are planning a play writing contest on the theme of Putnam County in the 1700's from three different perspectives: Native American, African American, and the Philips Family. These are intended to be in person performances. The Putnam County History Museum is interested to coordinate programming in this vein and the Highlands Current is expecting to create a series based on black history in Putnam County.

We are hoping to go forward with Hello Kitty in the fall.

For Summer 2022 ,we are still hoping to offer a full kids program with college student, Rosheen Daley helping with lights and costuming and high school student, Henry O'Neil being an intern.

We have three kids programs scheduled to start in February.

Steve Ives reported on a consultation with Damien Macdonald about acquiring a set of standardized lights that do not have to be moved and changed between shows. Both lighting and sound systems could be upgraded using the porch space. The audio could have 4 basic setting to be adaptable and user-friendly. Used equipment could be both good and affordable.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved by the board.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Plummer, Secretary