Arts and Creative Economic Development Series
May 7, 2008
Urban Arts Academy
**Meeting Notes**

- Bob Lind, Manager of Business Financing, CPED- provided handouts of various funding examples that the City of Minneapolis have assisted in the past 18 months.
- Provided a listing of various financing products administered by the City of Minneapolis
- Stated that May/June is a very good time to organize a new Business Association.
- Bob stated that some of the benefits of having a business association status is that it provides some minimal funding, it creates a greater sense of community among the members, it provides a platform to explore other organizing structures.

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- Melinda Ludwiczak, Coordinator for Arts and Business Partnerships, Hennepin County Library, stated that there are 3 Business Centers at Hennepin County Libraries in Minneapolis: Central Library, East Lake, and North Regional.
- She stated that each library has:
- -Computer Rooms

-Free Computer Training
-Free Databases
-Provides consultation on Business Development
-SCORE (Retired Business Executives)
-CPED – Has a staff person come to Central Library once a month (Andy Carlson)
- Legal Corps- private attorneys providing free legal services (Central Library)

- Provides resources for grant opportunities
- The Micro-entrepreneur Resource Center

- online, step by step process to develop business plans
- A partnership with Ameriprise
- Has Foundation Center tutorials

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Laura Zwebal, Executive Director of Springboard For the Arts

- The organization is based in St.Paul but serves the entire Upper Midwest
- Any artist can access their resources
- They have five staff people, all working artists (this is one of their core values)
- They provide the following services:

- one on one consultations
- business skills workshops for artist
- referrals to Lawyers for the Arts
- Artist micro-loan program, up to $5000.00
- Artist Emergency Fund

- Advocacy for individual artists
- Health care and dental resources- including a guide
- Job Book with available opportunities( mostly arts administration)
- Resource GUIDE
- Organizational Consulting, fundraising, planning
- Fiscal Sponsorship, for smaller organizations who do not have 501 ( c )3 Status
- Access to national database of grant opportunities for Artists in every discipline www.nyfa.org

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Ouestions and Answers

Q. Financial Planning Resources?

Q. How to reach those with barriers to "access" – create mirco-grant programs ($50.00-$100.00)? A. Maybe the Business Association model could address this issue
Suggestion was made that maybe artist could mentor other artist who are struggling with these issues.
Q. Are there resources for developing fundraising plans? A. Yes, Springboard For the Arts.
Q. Can there be loans of physical assets, i.e. tents for displays, frames, tools, etc. A. This might possibly be addressed by the Business Association. Another suggestion was that maybe neighborhood organizations/ community centers could display artist work, or provide storage space for local artist for reduced fees.
Q. Why organize as a Business Association? A. Small loans, equipment loans, directories, events, websites, small but flexible funds.
Q. "Displaced Artists" – How to get skills training (retraining) A. One option might be the Minneapolis Employment and Training Program or the Department of Economic Security.
Q. How to identify and engage on policy issues, i.e. Copyright Law issue, intellectual property.

**There was a suggestion that group consider a better sounding name for the group. One suggestion was South Minneapolis Art ( SMART) .**

**Participants at the meeting volunteered for the following committees:**

**Business Association Committee: Led by Noel Raymond**
Heather Doyle
Christine Leehey
Louisa Hext

**Events Committee: Led by Jimmy Longoria**
Jane Powers
Tammy Obregon

We are still seeking volunteers for the Fundraising Committee and the Advocacy and Research Committee.