

CONCORD CULTURAL COUNCIL

Elizabeth Harvey-co-chair
 Kathleen Kennedy – co-chair
 Karen Crane
 Diana Clymer
 Deborah Disston
 Diana Lee
 Richard Perkins
 Maria Madison
 Daniel Schragger

The Concord Cultural Council (CCC), whose members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen, supports community cultural projects through its grant program. Funds are received from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) whose mission is “to promote excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and to contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.”

Information about applying for grants was publicized in the *Concord Journal* and *Boston Globe Northwest*; guidelines and applications were distributed at the Town House and both branches of the Concord Free Public Library, and schools/PTGs were notified about the application process. The application deadline for 2009 was October 15. Meetings were held on September 15, October 20, October 26, and November 24, 2009. Elizabeth Harvey and Kathleen Kennedy continued as co-chairs. Jeff Wieand served as the Council’s liaison to the Board of Selectmen.

At the October meeting and at follow-up meetings in November, reimbursements from 2008-2009 were reviewed and 2009-2010 grant applications were considered according to MCC and CCC guidelines, which were then discussed and voted on. The Council chose to fund 13 proposals out of the 25 requests received. Council members were assigned as liaisons for each grant recipient.

Individuals and organizations may apply to the CCC for funding for programs, projects and presentations in music, dance, visual arts, poetry, literature, drama, the humanities and scientific interpretation for all age groups. Preference is given to applicants who live or work in Concord or who offer programs, projects or

presentations that specifically benefit the Concord community.

CONCORD CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS 2008-2009	
Concord Children’s Center “ <i>Music, Arts & Movement Enrichment</i> ”	\$350
Summer Stages Dances at Concord Academy “ <i>Meet the Artist Series</i> ”	\$350
John Root “ <i>Songbirds of the Northeast</i> ”	\$250
The Concord Orchestra “ <i>Family Concert</i> ”	\$200
Concord Art Association “ <i>Wednesday Demo Days</i> ”	\$250
Wild Apples, Inc. “ <i>Spring Issue 2010</i> ”	\$300
Srishti -The Creation “ <i>Rhythm of Life: Indian & Western Dance</i> ”	\$250
METCO Family Friends Council “ <i>Family Friends Lost Unknown Performance</i> ”	\$500
Alcott Elementary School “ <i>Ball in the House</i> ”	\$600
Lauren Hurd “ <i>PASS Grant/Boston Symphony</i> ”	\$250
The Concord Women’s Chorus, Inc “ <i>American Women of Note Concert</i> ”	\$400
Robert Creely Foundation, Inc. “ <i>10th Annual Poetry Award</i> ”	\$150
Thoreau Society “ <i>Lyceum Series</i> ”	\$450
TOTAL	\$4,300

RECREATION COMMISSION

John Inman, Chair
 Lawrence Gordon
 Susanne Jarnryd
 David McKenna
 Elizabeth Seabury

Beede Swim & Fitness Center
 The Center operates as an Enterprise Fund under the direction of the Recreation Department. This means the Center does not receive tax-funding and relies solely on membership and program fees to achieve the status of self-support. The Center is open 100 hours per week, 50 weeks per year and is staffed with 60 full and part time employees.

Membership is comprised of approximately 75% Concord residents and 25% users from surrounding communities. There are 1,800 memberships supporting approximately 5,000 members.

The Center has offerings for all ages, from infant/parent swim lessons to adult water fitness, diving off the high board or relaxing in the therapy pool. The aquatics staff also directs the Department’s youth swim team – The

Concord Otters – which in a short time has grown to be a popular program. The Beede Center hosts the high school swim and dive team. The fitness center also offers both cardio and strength equipment with highly skilled certified fitness staff who offer personal training to the members. Members receive swim and fitness class discounts and early registration privileges. The Center is handicapped accessible.

From a financial perspective, since opening in April 2006, the Beede Center has operated “in the black” each year. The Center has not been immune from the economic climate, as we experienced a 6% decline in total memberships (118) from the previous year.



Minuteman Classic Road Race Team finish. The event is organized and sponsored by the Recreation Department and “runs” each July 4.

Programs

The Recreation Department serves a wide range of ages with its program offerings. Major programs include a variety of summer camps, school age childcare, the Carousel Preschool, youth basketball and skiing as well as the July 4 Minuteman Classic Road Race and the Shamrock Ball Father/Daughter dance.



Emerson Playground structures



The Department partnered with the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest to create the Valentine’s Day Red Heart Raffle – a fundraiser for summer camp scholarships. The event was quite a success and plans call for an every other year offering.

In October, the Recreation Department organized a Halloween Dance for the 6th grade class, also as a fundraiser for summer camp scholarships. The Department collected canned goods for the Concord Open Table at this event which was an overwhelming success.

The Recreation Department provided over \$150,000 in school year and summer program scholarships to the Concord community.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Lamont Family for their generous support in sponsoring the 2009 Concord Open Golf Tournament. This year’s event, held on August 10 at the Nashawtuc Country Club, raised over \$12,000 to provide summer camp scholarships. Special recognition goes to resident Chip Cannon for his extraordinary efforts in support of the tournament.

Capital Improvements

The major capital improvement was the replacement of the Emerson Playground structure. The planning committee did an excellent job in their selection of the various play features and the structure has received overwhelming attendance on a daily basis. Plans for the replacement of the Rideout structure are in the Town Manager's capital budget in 2011.

The second capital improvement was the replacement of the pool pump at the Emerson Playground pool. The new system has provided significant energy savings.

Ripley Playing Field

Friends of Concord Carlisle Playing Fields, specifically youth baseball, undertook the construction of a premier 60' little league field in October. Plans call for the completion of the project in spring 2010.

Maureen Taggart Award

The 2009 award recipient was Shannon Dalton. This award honors young adults who have given exemplary service to their community. The recipient receives a monetary award as well as designating a charity to receive a monetary contribution. Shannon selected the Department's Summer Scholarship program as her charity.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Frank Okurowski, Co-chair
Michael Rudd, Co-chair
Ann Lang, Secretary
Sandy Folk, Treasurer
Robert Abraham
Karen Ahearn
Isabel Bailey
Meg Gaudet
Carol Harney
Dot Higgins
Marion Pohl
Lois Rudd

After a dreary June, the sunny weather lifted everybody's spirits on the Fourth of July and we had a particularly joyous 28th annual Picnic-in-the-Park. Turnout was particularly strong this year. Entertainment was provided by Uncle Sam's Patriotic Jazz Band, Southern Rail, Benjamin the Juggler, and the finale by the Concord Band.

The Concord Public Works and Highway Departments provided valuable assistance in setting up the

event. Without them, this event could never take place. Support was also provided by the Concord Recreation Department, the Concord Light Department for the power, the Concord Fire Department for standby safety services and the exciting opportunity for youngsters to use authentic equipment to "put out a fire," and the Concord Police Department for security services, the radar baseball toss and K9 demonstration. Volunteers organized the Field Games and provided a great Master of Ceremonies.

The following helped sponsor the entertainment: The Cambridge Trust Company, the Middlesex Savings Bank, the Harold F. Nichols Insurance Agency and Gloria and Chuck Clough. The entertainment was also funded by the many private donations from "Picnic Backers" to whom we are extremely thankful.



The United Women's Club is just one of many local non-profit organizations that participate in PIP every year.

This year, for the first time, there was a fund-raising raffle with 27 wonderful prizes donated by businesses and individuals in Town. These prizes created a lot of interest in the raffle and contributed substantially to the excitement of the event. The following businesses provided in-kind support: the Concord Bookshop, the Concord Funeral Home, Concord Hand Design, Crosby's Marketplace, Emerson Umbrella for the Arts, The Grasshopper Shop, RE/MAX Walden Country and Rocky's Ace Hardware.