

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT OR REJECT WENDY SPITZER'S REQUEST FOR IN KIND
USE OF THE CENTURY CENTER ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2009
Resolution No. 123/2008-09

WHEREAS, Wendy Spitzer requested the Arts Committee to assist with grant funding for the Liminal Festival; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Committee was not able to provide grant funding support and recommended in-kind use of the Century Center for an amount up to \$125; and

WHEREAS, the nature of this request would warrant Board of Aldermen approval; and

WHEREAS, the Board reviewed this request.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CARRBORO BOARD OF ALDERMEN:

Section 1. The Board of Aldermen accepts or rejects the request for in-kind use of the Century Center and co-sponsors the Liminal Festival scheduled for September 25, 2009 from 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

From: Kim Andrews

Sent: Wed 5/13/2009 3:30 PM

To: Bob Saunders; Chris Beacham; Erin Hurst; Jackie Helvey; Jacquelyn Gist; Maggi Grace; Neal McTighe; Phaedra Kelly

Subject: Liminal Festival Arts Committee Recommendation

Arts Committee:

I wanted to follow-up on the rental fee waiver request for Wendy Spitzer's Liminal Festival. Your recommendation to the Board is as follows:

The Arts Committee is requesting the Board of Aldermen waive the Century Center Hall facility fees for September 25, 2009 based on availability for the Liminal Festival from 3:00p to 6:00p. Cost for the reservation only is \$102 for the facility only. The background information given out in the meeting will be attached.

Based on the nature of this request, staff cannot waive the reservation fee because it is not a town sponsored event. This recommendation will be sent to the Board of Aldermen for consideration. Also facility reservations are based on a first come first serve policy. I will contact Ms. Spitzer to let her know that if she would like to secure that date and time she has to come in and reserve the space and pay at least 10% of the total cost which should be a nominal fee. We will certainly guide her through the process. If the Board approves the request she would receive a refund. This is the process we've used in the past to secure space while awaiting board approval.

Where do we go from here? I've contacted Sarah Williamson, the Town Clerk and she indicated that if the Arts Committee recommendation is sent to her that she would add it to the Board packet. This request will be added to the June 2nd packet. The Board will decide to approve or deny the fee waiver request.

I just wanted to make sure that you are aware of the next steps. Please call if you have any questions.

Thanks and have a great day.

Kim Andrews

Recreation Supervisor

Carrboro Recreation and Parks Dept.

918-7367

The Liminal Festival
Septéber 24-26, 2009
Carrboro & Chapel Hill, North Carolina

My name is Wendy Spitzer, and I am curating a three-day music festival to be held September 24, 25 & 26, 2009 at various venues throughout the greater Chapel Hill/Carrboro area. The Liminal Festival's goals are twofold: 1) to bring together musicians who are bridging genres, working to integrate genres or otherwise bend the rules of traditional musical genre, for performances to highlight the possibilities of this cross-genre experimentation and 2) to expose listeners, especially underserved or otherwise nontraditional audiences, to these performances. The festival is conceived over three days, with free outreach performances on the Thursday and Friday to specific audiences, and a ticketed performance on Saturday night.

Outreach performances planned (to feature 1-2 musicians per outreach event), in chronological order:

- 1) Thursday evening Ronald McDonald House/SECU Family House performance – a free, co-sponsored event to residents of both houses (which are geographically located next to one another) for people whose family members are being treated at UNC Hospitals. *(Confirmed)*
- 2) Friday morning performance at the Carolina Friends School of Chapel Hill – a performance for 3rd and 4th graders. Also planned is a one-hour songwriting workshop with Bill McCormick, for these children, who would work with Mr. McCormick to write a song together and perform it. *(Tentative)*
- 3) Friday morning performance at The Cedars at Chapel Hill – a performance for independent living retirees of that retirement community. *(Confirmed)*
- 4) Friday afternoon Chapel Hill Homeschoolers Association performance – a performance for homeschooled children in the greater Chapel Hill area affiliated with this organization. This would be an opportunity to bring this music to children who are not integrated in a school setting and who don't have traditional music programs. Bill McCormick will again lead a songwriting workshop for 3rd and 4th graders, similar to that of the Carolina Friends School event. *(Tentative)*
- 5) Friday evening performance at the Carrboro Century Center – an after-work/after-school, free performance that would be open to the public. This performance would be family-friendly and anyone can attend, including low-income Chapel Hill/Carrboro residents. *(Tentative)*

Full Festival performance (to feature all of the festival's musicians):

- 6) Saturday evening performance at the ArtsCenter – all artists to play, with rental of both theatres of the ArtsCenter, from 7:30pm-midnight. This would be a subsidized ticket event (\$7 per ticket), in a smoke-free, family-friendly, centrally located venue, open to the public. *(Confirmed)*

Community Impact

There is great potential for community impact through the arts with this festival. The majority of the festival's performances are designed as outreach events – the goal of which is to bring the world of genre-crossing and forward-thinking music to audiences who might not otherwise get to hear it. These nontraditional audiences include retirees, homeschooled and Friends School children, and people temporarily living in Chapel Hill to care for ill family members at UNC Hospitals. The purpose of the Carrboro Century Center performance is to have a performance that is free and *not* targeted to a specific audience – so that low-income people in the greater community can attend. I am planning to advertise the festival to the sizeable immigrant community in Carrboro/Chapel Hill, with Spanish-language flyers. Potentially 200 people of all age groups and ethnicities will hear these performances for free at these outreach venues; many will be of low income. I am hoping for an attendance of at least 150 more people at the ArtsCenter event at the subsidized ticket rate.

Artistically, these musicians are striving to bridge genres, to make connections in their creative work where connections are not usually made. Likewise, I am striving to bridge audiences to this music, to make connections of nontraditional music to nontraditional audiences.

Artist Experience

The artists who are participating include several Orange county resident musicians, other North Carolinians, and some out-of-state performers. Confirmed are:

- 1) Bill McCormick, performing under the moniker Billy Sugarfix (pop/performance art), of Carrboro, NC.
- 2) Lost in the Trees (classical/pop), of Chapel Hill, NC.
- 3) Wes Phillips (pop/experimental), of Carrboro, NC.
- 4) Felix Obelix (classical/experimental/pop) of Chapel Hill, NC.
- 5) Megafaun (folk/experimental), of Durham, NC.
- 6) Invisible (electronic/experimental), of Greensboro, NC.
- 7) Make a Rising (pop/progressive/performance art) of Philadelphia, PA
- 8) Sonicbids Artist To Be Determined. In order to expand the range of performers and to generate revenue to off-set the festival's costs, I am using sonicbids.com's promoter functionality to find an 8th artist/musician to feature at the festival. Sonicbids is a website that works both to provide musicians with electronic press kits, and also to advertise performing opportunities. Artists can submit their electronic press kits to specific promoter opportunities, such as festivals like mine. I will create a promoter event for the Liminal Festival, which will be listed on the Sonicbids website, and will invite genre-crossing artists to submit to the festival for a \$10 submission fee. Sonicbids will keep the first \$100 (the application fees of the first ten applicants), and then all submission revenue will go to off-setting the festival's costs.

In terms of projects like this that I have put together in the past, I produced a large-scale performance and community-building event in January 2009, based around a time capsule to be opened in 2059. This involved community partnerships with nonprofits, local businesses, rental of space, booking supporting acts and the community project component of having a time capsule and videobooth for the evening. I went on four different radio stations and was featured in three different newspapers to promote that event, which attracted almost 200 people. The videobooth component of that project yielded over two hours of documentary self-interviews by immigrants, Hurricane Katrina refugees, graduate students, undergraduates, families, young couples, gay and transgendered people, toddlers and senior citizens – a whole swath of people in the community, all speaking to their personal experience on camera. Participation in this event, in other words, was high, and I have similarly high hopes that the Liminal Festival, especially with its outreach component, will match that project's success in terms of audience diversity and community engagement.