

GRANT AWARD FORM

Grant Award Form: Please complete the Project Questions below and include this page in your Final Report materials submitted to the address below.

The information provided in question #1 - 5 should be the same as the information on your Urbana Arts Grant Agreement with the City.

1. GRANTEE: Name of Applicant or Primary Contact:

Central Illinois Puppetry Guild

Address:

c/o Anne Newman, CIPG President
336 W Orleans Paxton, IL 60957

Project Title:

Puppet Palooza

2. TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT FUNDS AWARDED: \$1,000.00

3. TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED TO DATE: \$500.00

4. GRANT PERIOD: May 30, 2015 through April 1, 2016.

5. EXPENDITURE DEADLINE: March 2, 2016.

6. DATE OF PROJECT COMPLETION: June 27, 2015.

POST-PROJECT EVALUATION

1. The Central Illinois Puppetry Guild presented a Puppet Palooza May 30, 2015 through June 27, 2015 at Lincoln Square Mall in Urbana. This special event featured 5 family-friendly and entertaining puppet shows presented free for the general public every Saturday at 11 am. All of the performances were literature-based and of multi-generational interest. All the audiences expressed great appreciation for the puppet shows. The series was hugely successful!
2. The grant funds allowed the artists to present free shows to large crowds at a hospitable venue. We weren't sure what to expect, never having tried this particular project before; but all the shows were well-attended and well-received. Each artist was free to present any appropriate show with families in mind, and the shows didn't disappoint. Each was unique and entertaining; and the audiences were thrilled. Families visiting the Farmers' Market wandered in; there were babies in strollers, young adults, grandparents... it was truly an intergenerational event, and everyone seemed to enjoy the shows. People asked questions and visited with the puppeteers backstage. Several made it a point to come to more than one show, some even came every week. As artists, we were gratified to know our audiences were happy with our work, and it gave us great pleasure to bring free entertainment to so many different people at the mall. The applause was lovely too, of course.
3. Hours spent completing this project totalled 50 plus. There were numerous meetings with vendors and guild members to plan the events, guild committee meetings for detailed discussions, creation, duplication, and distribution of flyers and advertisements, and time spent building the puppet shows themselves. Each guild member dedicated countless hours to putting fine quality shows together; some created and rehearsed brand new material just for this event. Every puppet show required many hours for setup, performance, audience engagement, and set strike. In addition, guild members returned on subsequent event days to provide encouragement and support to all the other artists performing in the series.
4. With 6 puppeteers, 2 onstage helpers, 3 vendors, and an audiences of 50 to 70 each week, our project involved a total of at least 400 people altogether.
5. We had a good experience working with guild members and helpers, and with the Dr. G's staff at the mall. Dr. Gingold met with our guild many times and helped us determine what the mall vendors and visitors would most appreciate. He secured our performance location, helped our guild formulate a plan for making the project a success, and provided in-kind contributions for advertising and promotion of the shows. He and his staff assisted with the grant application and stayed in contact with both the guild and the various mall vendors. They worked at each show, setting up all the chairs, making sure the puppeteers had everything they needed, and cleaning up the area afterward. We were all grateful for their contributions throughout the series.
6. We were happy to be a catalyst for higher traffic in the mall stores during our series. This was a truly intergenerational project: From tiny babies to college students to parents and grandparents, they all came to watch our puppet shows. It was a challenge to even get a head count because people kept starting to walk behind the audience, and then they would see the puppets, and they would decide to find a seat or just stand right there to the show's end. Every person who stopped (and most did,) seemed to be drawn in, captivated by the unique experience of watching a puppet show. It was fascinating and heartwarming to watch.

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