



**WEST VIRGINIA COMMISSION
ON THE ARTS**

The Culture Center,
1900 Kanawha Blvd E.,
Charleston, WV 25305-0300
304-558-0220
TDD 304-558-3562
www.wvculture.org
EEO/AA Employer

Certified Arts Community Application Packet

Part I
Application
Part II
Review Criteria
Part III
Title 82
Procedural Rule

All publications and
application forms
are available in
alternate formats.
Contact Accessibility
Coordinator at
304/558-0240 Ext.145
(voice)
304/558-3562 (TDD)



FY2012

PART I

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Certified Arts Community Application

Date received: _____
Application #: _____
PRN: _____

MUST BE TYPEWRITTEN

Applicant Legal Name:(Organization) _____

Mailing Address: _____
Street City State County Zip Code

FEIN Number: _____ [attach IRS Determination Letter]

Telephone (daytime) _____ (non-bus. hours) _____

E-mail address/website _____

- agency of municipal or county government
 not-for profit, tax-exempt West Virginia corporation

Civil Jurisdiction to be recognized as "Certified Arts Community":

City Town County

Resolution of Governing Body:

Attach the resolution of municipal or county governing recognizing the importance of the arts to economic development, educational quality, and civic involvement

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PART II: Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed for the depth of arts activities in the jurisdiction according to the following five areas:

- a) List arts organizations or other eligible non-profits or government agencies that make annual applications to the West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) for community arts projects.
- b) List schools in the community that make annual applications to WVCA for Arts in Education (including Mini Grants for teaching artists fee support) projects.
- c) Describe how the community has benefited by involving artists on planning committees for beautification projects and other civic projects.
- d) Explain how the community practices coordinated cultural planning.
- e) Describe steady and/or recent growth of a local arts council.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RULE STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES TITLE 82 SERIES 10

West Virginia Certified Arts Community Designation

This Procedural Rule provides the administrative procedures and requirements for application by a city, town, county or other civil jurisdiction for designation as a "Certified Arts Community" under West Virginia Commission on the Arts' West Virginia Certified Arts Community Program.

The purpose of the designation is to recognize communities that have realized the benefits of cooperation between arts and humanities groups, business leaders and jurisdictional agencies. This designation will be offered to towns, cities, counties that can qualify by application, satisfaction of eligibility and review criteria and documentation that the governing body of the community, city or county, has adopted a resolution indicating recognition of the importance of the arts to economic development, educational quality, and civic involvement.

**TITLE 82
PROCEDURAL RULE
DIVISION OF CULTURE AND HISTORY**

**SERIES 10
WEST VIRGINIA CERTIFIED ARTS COMMUNITY DESIGNATION**

§82-10-1. General

- 1.1. Scope. – This Procedural Rule provides the administrative procedures and requirements for application by a city, town, county or other civil jurisdiction for designation as a "Certified Arts Community" under West Virginia Commission on the Arts' West Virginia Certified Arts Community Program.
- 1.2. Authority. – W. Va. Code §29-1-3
- 1.3. Filing Date. –
- 1.4. Effective Date. -

§82-10-2. Definitions

- 2.1. "Arts community" means that city, town, county or other civil jurisdiction making application to the program.
- 2.2. "Commission" means West Virginia Commission on the Arts established by W. Va. Code §29-1-3.
- 2.3. "Director of Arts and Arts Staff" as established by W. Va. Code §29-1-4.
- 2.4. "Governing body" means the elected officials that administer the municipality or county that seeks the designation.
- 2.5. "Required attachments" means letters of support, resolutions of governing authorities, and other documentation of fulfillment of qualification under Priorities §82.10.3 and Eligibility Requirements §82-10-4 (below).

§82-10-3. Priorities.

- 3.1 The following applications will be given priority in awarding designation as a "certified arts community." They are communities that (a) annually support two or more arts organizations, providing volunteer governance, financial contributions, and audiences for arts programming; (b) that have governing bodies (municipal or county) that have adopted a resolution indicating recognition of the importance of the arts to economic development, educational quality, and civic involvement; and (c) and have demonstrated success in realizing the benefits of cooperation between arts, humanities, and heritage groups, and business leaders and jurisdictional agencies.

§82-10-4. Eligibility Requirements.

Organizations eligible for review must be able to meet the following requirements by the application deadline:4.1. A grant applicant must be one of the following:

- 4.1.1 An agency of municipal or county government, including county school boards.
- 4.1.2 A not-for profit, tax-exempt West Virginia corporation as defined in 501(c)(3) and 501 (c)(4) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and as designated in compliance with §170 of that code at the time of application and prior to the release of funds.
- 4.2. An applicant must submit:
 - 4.2.1. A completed and signed Certified Arts Community Designation Program Application Form, including any required attachments.

§82-10-5. Application Review and Evaluation.

- 5.1. The following criteria shall be used to evaluate each request for West Virginia Certified Arts Community Designation: (a) arts organizations or other eligible non-profits or government agencies made annual applications to the West Virginia Commission on the Arts (WVCA) for community arts projects; (b) schools in the community make annual applications to WVCA for Arts in Education (including Mini Grants for teaching artists fee support) projects; (c) the community has benefited by involving artists on planning committees for beautification projects and other civic projects; (d) the community has begun coordinated cultural planning; and, (e) there has been steady and/or recent growth of a local arts council.
- 5.2. Applications for the West Virginia Certified Arts Community Designation will be reviewed by the Director of Arts and Arts Section Staff at the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. Applications receiving a successful review will be nominated for the designation to the WVCA.
- 5.3. The recommendations of the Director of Arts regarding any application for the designation will be reviewed, approved, amended, or rejected by a majority of the full Commission.

§82-10-6. Appeals.

- 6.1. General. — Any applicant denied the Certified Arts Community Designation under the provisions of this rule may appeal to the Commission by writing to the Director of Arts, requesting that the application be reconsidered. The letter of appeal must be received no later than sixty days after notice of denial.
- 6.2. Limited Consideration. — Appeals will be considered only if the applicant can document specific examples that demonstrate that the application was misrepresented or improperly reviewed.
- 6.3. Appeal Process. — The Director of Arts will review the letter of appeal and submit it with the original application to the Commission for consideration at their next regular meeting. The Commission will review the appeal and act on it during that meeting. The Director of Arts shall notify the applicant within ten days of the decision of the Commission.
- 6.4. New Materials and New Requests. — If an applicant appeals a denial and submits new material to the designation that is the subject of the appeal, the request will be treated as a new application. New applications will be reviewed in the next grant cycle.

§82-10-7. Entitlements of the Designation as a West Virginia Certified Arts Community.

- 7.1. A community approved by the WVCA to receive the designation of Certified Arts Community will be eligible to display banners, signs and other promotional devices to announce the designation.
- 7.2. The design and content of the banners, signs and other promotional devices will be approved by the WV Division of Culture and History and will include the logo of the Division.
- 7.3. The cost of the banners, signs or other promotional devices will be borne by the community receiving the designation and not by the WV Division of Culture and History or funds under the discretion of the WV Commission on the Arts.

§82-10-8. Evaluation and De-certification

- 8.1. A Certified Arts Community may be evaluated by the WV Commission on the Arts at any time, three years after the effective date of certification.
- 8.2. If the evaluation conducted finds that the Certified Arts Community no longer meets the previously stated criteria, or if actions by the community have not supported the criteria, the Commission may choose to de-certify the community, which would remove all entitlements previously received as a Certified Arts Community.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING ARTS MONONGAHELA, INC.,
AS THE ARTS COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF
MORGANTOWN AND AUTHORIZING ARTS
MONONGAHELA TO APPLY FOR DESIGNATION OF THE
CITY OF MORGANTOWN AS A CERTIFIED ARTS
COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the arts play an essential role in the City of Morgantown, West Virginia (the "City"), which includes but is not limited to the following:

- (a) Contributing to the new economy and rebranding of the City by enhancing quality of life, economic development and tourism;
- (b) Contributing to the economy directly through the sale of artworks and paid performances and indirectly through increased traffic for shops, hotels and motels and restaurants before and after arts events;
- (c) Enhancing the ability to attract new and expanded business to the area by providing the quality of life most businesses seek for their employees;
- (d) Assisting with downtown reinvestment and revitalization by encouraging a downtown active with cultural activity after business hours;
- (e) Bringing together diverse people through active participation in culture;
- (f) Providing learning opportunities for students of all ages, important to each individual's critical thinking, aesthetic and emotional development;
- (g) Involving artists on planning committees for beautification projections and other civic projects; and
- (h) Making the City a better place to live and work,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City acknowledges, supports and desires to solidify this essential role of the arts in the community and the cooperation among arts organizations, the business community and governmental entities for integration of the arts into the fabric of the community;

WHEREAS, Arts Monongahela, Inc. ("Arts Mon") is a 501(c)(3) organization that originated from a community arts collaborative and serves as (a) an advocate for the arts, including arts organizations and artists; (b) the sponsor of art exhibits, musical and literary performances and other visual and performing arts exhibits, free and available to the public; (c) a

collaborator with both public and higher education in providing arts educational opportunities; and (d) and an advocate for and leader of collaborative efforts among arts organizations, such as Arts on the River;

WHEREAS, Arts Mon desires to apply for designation of the City as a certified arts community under the West Virginia Commission on the Arts' West Virginia Certified Arts Community Program (the "Program") and to serve as the arts council required by the Program;

WHEREAS, there have been provided to the City Council letters from community arts organizations, business organizations and others, supporting both designation of the City as a certified arts community and of Arts Mon as the arts council; and

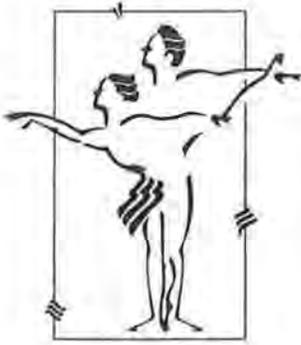
WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the importance of the arts to the economic development, educational quality and civic involvement and desires to have the City designated as a certified arts community under the Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MORGANTOWN:

1. Findings. The Preambles to this Resolution are adopted as official findings of the City Council.
2. Designation of Arts Council. Arts Mon is hereby designated as the arts council for the City.
3. Application for Designation as Certified Arts Community. Arts Mon is hereby authorized to file an application for designation of the City as a certified arts community under the Program. The City Manager and City Clerk are authorized and directed to take such further actions and execute such documents as Arts Mon considers necessary or desirable for the application.
4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Mayor

City Clerk



Morgantown Dance

A not-for-profit community organization

5000 Greenbag Road, Morgantown, WV 26501

www.morgantowndance.org

304-292-3266

Mayor Jenny Selin and members of Morgantown City Council
1224 Fairlawns Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505

RE: Support for designating Arts Monongahela as Arts Council and seeking Certified Arts Community status for Morgantown.

Dear Mayor Selin and City Council Members,

Morgantown Dance founded in 1991 as the Northern West Virginia Dance Council is a 501-C(3) non-profit organization. Our organization was founded by community volunteers to support dance, especially classical ballet, in Morgantown. In 2005, in order to more accurately reflect the scope of its work, the Council was renamed and does business as Morgantown Dance. Our school core group of volunteers has continued to grow over the years, yet we lack a strong and constant connection to other arts organizations in Morgantown.

Morgantown Dance supports designating Arts Monongahela as the city's Art Council and empowering it to seek Certified Arts Community status with the state of West Virginia. We believe this proposal will strengthen Morgantown by uniting the arts within one organization. In the past years fiscal support for the arts in Morgantown has decreased sharply. If the arts, especially non-profits, want to advocate for more support we need to work together to support each other. This is where an Arts Council can play a crucial role. Currently Morgantown has a vibrant arts community but there is not center connecting them all together and therefore we don't seem to talk to each other enough. That needs to change and an Arts Council can make a huge difference in ensuring that we the arts communicate with each other and speak with one loud and confidence voice in Morgantown.

Creating an arts council and enabling it to seek Certified Arts Community status supports our mission to promote quality dance education and performance opportunities for dancers of all levels in the Morgantown area and surrounding region. Morgantown Dance supports a non-profit school and Ballet Company as well as an array of community productions. We are very engaged in community activities that include Morgantown's Kid Days, Arts Alive on the River Festival, the Arts Walk, and we have performed at the Morgantown Fair in August, the Magical Night of Giving in December, and the Martin Luther King Day Celebration in January as well as local retirement homes. Our goal is to provide our community with a growing awareness of and appreciation for the art of dance. Cooperating with other local arts organizations and working with an Arts Council can help us engage with the community in new and innovative ways that we cannot do alone. We can learn from others and expand our visibility as an arts organization.

For these reason, we strongly support designating Arts Monongahela the Morgantown Arts Council and encourage them to seek Certified Arts Community status.

Sincerely,

Shannon Walker
Morgantown Board, President

~ Morgantown Dance is the working name for the Northern West Virginia Dance Council, Inc. ~

Board of Directors: Shannon Walker-President, Teddi Cox-Vice President,

Liz Finklea-Vice President, Sonja Kelley-Treasurer, Jane Frist-Secretary,

Cathy Allen, Katherine Lambertson, Nancy Maunz, Gretchen Moore (ex officio), Cindy Taylor, Debbie West, Isaac Wolford



LETTER OF SUPPORT

TO: Mayor Jenny Selin and members of Morgantown City Council

FROM: Beth Fuller, President of Your Community Foundation, Inc.

Date: February 18, 2014

RE: Support for designating Arts Monongahela as Arts Council and seeking Certified Arts Community status for Morgantown.

We support designating Arts Monongahela as the city's Art Council and empowering it to seek Certified Arts Community status with the state of West Virginia. We believe this proposal will strengthen Morgantown by revitalizing the arts collaborative efforts in Morgantown. Creating an arts council and enabling it to seek Certified Arts Community status supports our mission to address the needs of the community to measurably improve the quality of life in our region.

As our area becomes more culturally diverse, there is a strong need to provide many different opportunities for individuals seeking artistic education, entertainment and expression. A strong vibrant arts and cultural community enhances the quality of life for the residents and encourages new business and growth. Bringing our art and cultural organizations together under one leadership through Arts Monongahela will enable our local organizations to work together to access funding opportunities, increase local awareness of arts activities, and to provide a forum to discuss and act on new opportunities both at home and outside our region.

In addition, a Certified Arts Community status for Morgantown will build collaborative planning with community, government, businesses, and the arts, thus keeping the city's cultural and artistic heritage on the civic agenda.

For these reasons, we strongly support designating Arts Monongahela the Morgantown Arts Council and encourage them to seek Certified Arts Community status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Beth Fuller'.

Beth Fuller
President

Offices located at

111 High Street

Mailing address:

PO Box 409

Morgantown, WV

26507

P: 304.296.3433

F: 304.225.0102

W: ycfww.org



downtownmorgantown.com • e-mail: exdirector@downtownmorgantown.com

Main Street Morgantown, Inc. • 201 High Street Suite 2 • Morgantown, WV 26505 • (304) 292-0168

March 10, 2014

LETTER OF SUPPORT

TO: Mayor Jenny Selin and members of Morgantown City Council

FROM: Main Street Morgantown

RE: Support for designating Arts Monongahela and other Arts initiatives in Morgantown as an Arts Council and seeking WV Certified Arts Community status for Morgantown.

We believe this proposal will strengthen Morgantown by ~ drawing visitors to the area, which translates into dollars for local businesses. The arts attract visitors who spend more on overnight lodging, shopping and dining.

Creating an arts council and enabling it to seek Certified Arts Community status supports our mission: Main Street Morgantown is dedicated to:

- An attractive and meaningful physical design of our inner city;
- An active promotion of the offerings of downtown businesses and services;
- An active restructuring of all facets of downtown interests to pursue retention and recruitment of goods, services and culture;
- An effective, well-represented organization to meet our goals.

For these reason, we strongly support Arts Monongahela and encourage them to seek WV Certified Arts Community status.

Sincerely,

Terri R. Cutright, CMSM
Executive Director Main Street Morgantown



TO: Mayor Jenny Selin and members of Morgantown City Council

FROM: Michael Mills, AIA
Managing Principal
Mills Group
206 High Street

RE: Support for designating Arts Monongahela as Arts Council and seeking Certified Arts Community status for Morgantown.

I am writing to you to share our support designating **Arts Monongahela** as the city's Art Council and empowering it to seek *Certified Arts Community* status with the state of West Virginia. We believe this proposal will strengthen Morgantown by continuing **Arts Mons'** mission to engage citizens and local artists in a dialog of the benefits/value of fine arts with an overarching goal of improving economic, cultural, and social realms. The efforts of Arts Mon are multi-generational and multi-disciplinary in reach and provide opportunities for social engagement.

Creating an arts council and enabling it to seek *Certified Arts Community* status supports our business model to educate clients and the public on the value of good design and why would you hire a design professional. As a burgeoning architectural practice based in Morgantown and providing services throughout the state we are challenged by a lack of understanding that we are not just a service industry by can add value to any design problems in the built environment and enhance the end results to allow generations to enjoy.

We have had the opportunity to work closely with the staff of **Arts Mon** on an annual "UpCycle" project that collected architectural product samples from area firms and sourced them to local school art programs. This has brought an awareness of opportunities to repurpose materials and allow for creative works as a result. We have also had the opportunity to attend many events in the **Arts Mon Gallery** which have had a great public draw and in turn have brought people to down town Morgantown to the benefit of many private sector businesses like our own.

For these reasons, we strongly support designating Arts Monongahela the Morgantown Arts Council and encourage them to seek Certified Arts Community status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael J. Mills'.

Michael J. Mills, Architect, AIA
Mills Group, LLC



TO: Mayor Jenny Seline and members of Morgantown City Council

FROM: Morgantown Art Association

RE: Support for Arts Monongahela as the designated representative to seek **Certified Arts Community** status for Morgantown.

The Morgantown Art Association and its 107 members recommend designating Arts Monongahela, "Arts Mon", as spokesperson for Morgantown's Art Council and to represent Morgantown's Arts community and seek **Certified Arts Community** status with the State of West Virginia for all of the participating organizations and their membership and constituencies. We believe this proposal will strengthen Morgantown in many ways:

Highlighting the unique cultural and artistic diversity in our city

Better informing people of our many artistic and civic organizations

Encouraging new groups to become involved in the arts and on the Arts Council

Promoting increased cooperation between our city's art organizations

Providing opportunities for increased funding for the arts organizations

Providing growth opportunities for our city and perhaps increased tax revenues

Drawing visitors to the area and increasing tourism revenue for our local businesses

Growing the arts in Morgantown with increased support funding for both individual artists and art organizations.



Creating an Arts Council and obtaining **Certified Arts Community** status will be a tremendous asset for the city; failure to act on this could put us at a disadvantage to other state communities that are successful in achieving **Certified Arts Community** status. Also, **Certified Arts Community** status supports and is consistent with our mission by reinforcing the mission of the Morgantown Art Association “to bring together all those individuals interested in the creative arts”.

For these reasons, we strongly support designating Arts Monongahela as spokesperson for the Arts Council and to encourage them to seek **Certified Arts Community** status for all the member organizations.

Sincerely,

D. Byron Witt,
President
Morgantown Art Association

TO: Mayor Jenny Seline and members of Morgantown City Council

RE: Support for designating Arts Monongahela as Arts Council and seeking Certified Arts Community status for Morgantown.

I support designating Arts Monongahela as the city's Art Council and empowering it to seek Certified Arts Community status with the state of West Virginia. I believe this proposal will strengthen Morgantown by integrating creative activities and individuals into the life of the community. Certified Arts Community status will also offering broader opportunities for creative expression to all citizens and attracting high quality public art to enhance the areas natural and community assets

Creating an arts council and enabling it to seek Certified Arts Community status supports my harp studio mission by providing community access to local artists. I feel that community involvement is an essential aspect of musical performance. I'd like to see my students involved in local arts projects associated with Morgantown, WV as a Certified Arts Community.

For these reason, I strongly support designating Arts Monongahela the Morgantown Arts Council and encourage them to seek Certified Arts Community status.

Sincerely,

Christine Mazza,
Harp instructor WVU School of Music
Website: [christinemazzaharpist](http://christinemazzaharpist.com)

TO: Mayor Jenny Selin and members of Morgantown City Council

FROM: Alison Helm Director School of Art and Design

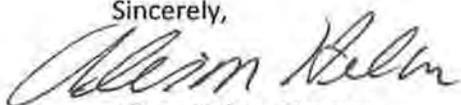
RE: Support for designating Arts Monongahela as Arts Council and seeking Certified Arts Community status for Morgantown.

I support designating Arts Monongahela as the city's Art Council and empowering it to seek Certified Arts Community status with the state of West Virginia. I believe this proposal will strengthen Morgantown by allowing arts entities to apply for state and federal grant funding. This will take some of the burden off of the local government to raise funds for the arts. There are very few art galleries in Morgantown and there is a limited amount of work shown local, regional and national artists. Hopefully this designation will open a few doors to increase the capacity and interplay of the arts with the community. This designation will help Morgantown to become a designation for the arts in our state.

Creating an arts council and enabling it to seek Certified Arts Community status supports our mission of promoting, publicizing, and disseminating information about the arts to the community and region. Increasing the arts presence will help to educate and encourage artists to create and produce works of art. An increased presence will also increase business in Morgantown. Listing Cultural Events either in newspapers, events listings, and various electronic communication vehicles will help to increase activity in the area. Giving artists opportunities and support will advance knowledge, skill and cultural exploration through direct contact with the Arts Monongahela. Increasing opportunities will also deepen awareness of traditional arts practices and an understanding of contemporary art. This organization will be able to premier regional and national artists with greater ease. The arts can reshape the business of social change through arts entrepreneurship and community partnerships. Art can educate and inspire youth and community members of all ages by supporting positive change through visual artistic engagement.

For these reasons, we strongly support designating Arts Monongahela the Morgantown Arts Council and encourage them to seek Certified Arts Community status.

Sincerely,



Alison Helm, Director
School of Art and Design
College of Creative Arts
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV 26506-6111
Alison.Helm@mail.wvu.edu
304-282-1230



Date: February 21, 2014

To: Mayor Jenny Seline and members of Morgantown City Council

From: Joyce Ice, Director, Art Museum of West Virginia University 

Re: Support for designating Arts Monongahela as Arts Council and seeking Certified Arts Community status for Morgantown.

I write in support of designating Arts Monongahela as the city's Arts Council and enabling it to seek Certified Arts Community status with the state of West Virginia. I believe this action will strengthen Morgantown by helping to attract new creative businesses and new businesses looking for an arts-friendly climate for their employees, thus helping us move toward becoming a vibrant, nationally-known Creative City.

Further, the visibility of an Arts Council will improve collaboration and coordination for the arts and will strengthen the sense of civic pride in the city's cultural and artistic heritage. Broader opportunities for artistic expression will benefit our community in both tangible and intangible ways.

With the addition of a new Art Museum on the Evansdale campus and Arts Monongahela anchoring the downtown, all of Morgantown will benefit from increased access to the arts, educational programs, and the enhanced quality of life that active arts organizations bring to their communities.

For these reasons, I strongly support designating Arts Monongahela the Morgantown Arts Council and encourage them to seek Certified Arts Community status.

To Mayor Jenny Seline and Members of Morgantown City Council:

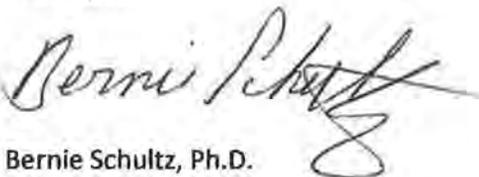
I am writing to support the designation of Arts Monongahela as our Arts Council for Morgantown. This, in turn, will allow us to apply for the designation, from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, as a Certified Arts Community. This is a title which Morgantown so richly deserves.

My support for this action is founded in my thirty seven years of living in Morgantown, the experience of volunteering with a number of community arts organizations, including Arts Mon, serving from 2000 to 2011 as Dean of WVU's College of Creative Arts, and currently serving as a member of the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. In this latter role as a Commission member, I have seen firsthand what the designation as a Certified Arts Community can mean to a city or town in our State. Personally, I feel that Morgantown is long overdue for this honor.

Over these past decades, I have been thrilled to witness the economic and cultural growth of our community (the two go hand in hand). With a variety of performance venues, quality local arts organizations, and the ability to attract international level artistic talent, Morgantown is a great place for the arts! Allowing Arts Monongahela to be the official Arts Council would create a more comprehensive coordination of arts organizations and activities, a greater reach for audience development (which includes enhancing our quality of life), more significant opportunities to gain grant funds, and a more focused way for our arts organizations to contribute to the local economy.

To me, these two designations represent logical steps in the cultural growth of Morgantown. I urge you to support these initiatives.

Thank you.



Bernie Schultz, Ph.D.

Director of Education and External Affairs, Art Museum of WVU

And Professor of Art History, College of Creative Arts

TO: Mayor Jenny Selin and members of Morgantown City Council

FROM: Community Coalition for Social Justice, Morgantown

RE: Designating Arts Monongahela as Morgantown's Arts Council and seeking WV Certified Arts Community status

DATE: February 27, 2014

We support designating Arts Monongahela as the city's Art Council and support empowering it to seek Certified Arts Community status with the state of West Virginia. We believe this proposal will strengthen Morgantown by building collaborative planning with community, government, businesses, and the arts, thus keeping the city's cultural and artistic heritage on the civic agenda.

Creating an arts council and enabling it to seek Certified Arts Community status will support the mission of our organization, Community Coalition for Social Justice. We believe that the arts can be a strong support for social justice. Arts Mon has been a generous venue for CCSJ and other area activists and has been a proven friend time and again.

For these reasons, we strongly support designating Arts Monongahela the Morgantown Arts Council and encourage them to seek Certified Arts Community status.

Sincerely,

Susan Brown and Rosa Becker, Co-Chairs
Community Coalition for Social Justice
Morgantown, WV

DATE: March 12, 2014

TO: Mayor Jenny Selin and Morgantown City Council

FROM: George M. Lies, Morgantown Writers Group (Past Pres., WVW, Inc.) - gm

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT—Designation of Arts Monongahela as Arts Council with Certified Arts Community

Morgantown Writers Group with 85 writers in this region supports the designation of Arts Monongahela as the city's Arts Council empowering the agency to seek Certified Arts Community status within the state of West Virginia. This proposal will strengthen Morgantown for the reasons described below by creating an arts council that can seek Certified Arts Community status within the state and one that supports Morgantown's literary ambitious and mission.

Morgantown Writers Group (MWG), founded in 1994 at the Morgantown Public Library, urges City Council to designate Arts Monongahela West Virginia as an official arts council. Known affectionately as Arts Mon, this community hub for writers, artists, and writers was created by the city's Vision Planning Group back in 2000.

While Arts Mon has survived downturns in poor economic times, the Director Jeannie Kuhn, its Board, and numerous volunteer staff have survived by working long hours. They did so to make the city more of a "resident-friendly" community. Moreover, the designation will be an important step in the process for Arts Mon to pursue Certified Arts "community status" within the state of West Virginia.

I can attest to the quality of support by Arts Mon to meet the goals of writers in the city. While Morgantown Writers Group boasts of 85 writers in north central region of West Virginia, there are three other writer organizations that have benefited from Arts Mon's community outreach: Morgantown Poets, which meets at Monongalia Arts Center, and Morgantown Playwrights, which meets twice monthly at M.T. Pockets Theater.

Morgantown Writers Group (MWG), which celebrates its 21st Anniversary Year in 2014, is part of a third group—the larger statewide 385-member network of writers who elect the Board of Directors of West Virginia Writers, Inc. The WVW, Inc., was founded in 1977 and was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1978.

Given this broad interest in literary activities in the Morgantown area, the region, and the state, the Morgantown Writers Group worked with artists and musicians through the Arts Mon network to develop a Vision 2020 Strategy and Plan. There are three (3) components to the vision:

- A regular emphasis on literary arts programs such as workshops, readings, conferences, and related readings and events, with music and art gallery exhibits;

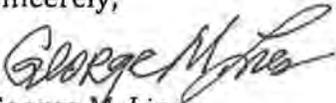
- The production of literary products, such as publications, books, and the applicable use of online blogs and web portals, as well as CDs or DVDs; and,
- A long-term goal of establishing a Literary Center in Morgantown; based on the precedent of Literary House, in Romney, WV, established in 1819, and on operating model of the Writers Center, Bethesda, MD, recognized in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Over the years, Arts Mon has provided shelter as a venue and community vigor for helping West Virginia writers read and promote their works. Founded in 1994, the Morgantown Writers Group sponsors Literary Days in June and Saturday workshops in Fall and Winter. This active group evolved out of the Golden Rod Writers Conference (1983-2001). It has 84 members; and about 14 who meet monthly at the city library (Aug.-June). Its publications are *Janus '95*, *Pokeberry Days*, *Mist on the Mon*.

Also, Arts Mon has demonstrated capacity to host multiple artistic programs where writers, musicians, and art work share a stage. Morgantown Writers has hosted at least eight (8) events in three years at Arts Mon, and several in cooperation with the WVU Press, which publishes and promotes state's writers. Also, the Director of Arts Mon has made the art gallery available for cooperative art and Appalachian music venues for both West Virginia University and Morgantown Sister Cities, such as hosting 20 China Deans and Directors last July 2013.

Given this impetus, writers at the hub of a growing county feel at home in the city thanks to the combined support of Morgantown Writers and Arts Mon. With this in mind, we strongly support designating Arts Monongahela as the Morgantown Arts Council and encourage the Mayor and City Council to seek Certified Arts Community status for the organization.

Sincerely,



George M. Lies
Founder, Moderator
Morgantown Writers Group

Morgantown Dance

Mayor Jenny Selin and members of Morgantown City Council

RE: Support for designating Arts Monongahela as Arts Council and seeking Certified Arts Community status for Morgantown.

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Morgantown Dance founded in 1991 as the Northern West Virginia Dance Council is a 501-C(3) non-profit organization. Our organization was founded by community volunteers to support dance, especially classical ballet, in Morgantown. In 2005, in order to more accurately reflect the scope of its work, the Council was renamed and does business as Morgantown Dance. Our school core group of volunteers has continued to grow over the years, yet we lack a strong and constant connection to other arts organizations in Morgantown.

Morgantown Dance supports designating Arts Monongahela as the city's Art Council and empowering it to seek Certified Arts Community status with the state of West Virginia. We believe this proposal will strengthen Morgantown by uniting the arts within one organization. In the past years fiscal support for the arts in Morgantown has decreased sharply. If the arts, especially non-profits, want to advocate for more support we need to work together to support each other. This is where an Arts Council can play a crucial role. Currently Morgantown has a vibrant arts community but there is not center connecting them all together and therefore we don't seem to talk to each other enough. That needs to change and an Arts Council can make a huge difference in ensuring that we the arts communicate with each other and speak with one loud and confidence voice in Morgantown.

Creating an arts council and enabling it to seek Certified Arts Community status supports our mission to promote quality dance education and performance opportunities for dancers of all levels in the Morgantown area and surrounding region. Morgantown Dance supports a non-profit school and Ballet Company as well as an array of community productions. We are very engaged in community activities that include Morgantown's Kid Days, Arts Alive on the River Festival, the Arts Walk, and we have performed at the Morgantown Fair in August, the Magical Night of Giving in December, and the Martin Luther King Day Celebration in January as well as local retirement homes. Our goal is to provide our community with a growing awareness of and appreciation for the art of dance. Cooperating with other local arts organizations and working with an Arts Council can help us engage with the community in new and innovative ways that we cannot do alone. We can learn from others and expand our visibility as an arts organization.

For these reason, we strongly support designating Arts Monongahela the Morgantown Arts Council and encourage them to seek Certified Arts Community status.

Sincerely,
Shannon Walker
Morgantown Board, President

LETTER OF SUPPORT

TO: Mayor Jenny Selin and members of Morgantown City Council

FROM: Jenny Wilson – free lance musician

RE: Support for designating Arts Monongahela as Arts Council and seeking Certified Arts Community status for Morgantown.

I support designating Arts Monongahela as the city's Art Council and empowering it to seek Certified Arts Community status with the state of West Virginia. We believe this proposal will strengthen Morgantown by attracting new creative businesses as well as new businesses looking for an arts-friendly climate for its employees.

Creating an arts council and enabling it to seek Certified Arts Community status supports my desire for growing the arts with increased funding for individual artists, art organizations, & arts participants and audiences.

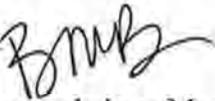
For these reasons, I strongly support designating Arts Monongahela the Morgantown Arts Council and encourage them to seek Certified Arts Community status.

Sincerely,

Jenny Wilson
813 Ridegeway Ave.
Morgantown, WV 26505

TO: Mayor Jenny Selin and members of Morgantown City Council

FROM: Bonnie M. Brown



RE: Designating Arts Monongahela as Morgantown's Arts Council and seeking WV Certified Arts Community status

DATE: March 5, 2014

I support designating Arts Monongahela as the city's Arts Council and empowering it to seek Certified Arts Community status with the state of West Virginia. In both my professional and personal endeavors I have benefitted from the efforts of our existing arts community, but I believe this proposal will further strengthen Morgantown in the following ways:

- ~ attracting creative businesses as well as other new businesses looking for an arts-friendly climate for its employees
- ~ increasing collaborative planning with community, government, businesses, and the arts, thus keeping the city's cultural and artistic heritage on the civic agenda
- ~ focusing our community's creative potential through improved access, cooperation, and coordination among all entities
- ~ expanding our cultural diversity and offering broader opportunities for creative expression to all citizens
- ~ strengthening programing in all the arts by increased branding and coordination
- ~ strengthening the capacity of smaller arts organizations by building creative partnerships between existing organizations, agencies, and businesses and through coordinated funding efforts
- ~ enabling high quality public art to enhance this area's natural and community assets
- ~ drawing visitors to the area, which translates into dollars for local businesses--the arts attract visitors who spend more on ticketing, purchases, food, transportation, overnight lodging, event-related clothing, childcare, and more
- ~ growing the arts with increased funding for individual artists, art organizations, and arts participants and audiences
- ~ integrating creative activities and individuals into the life of the community

For these reasons, I strongly support designating Arts Monongahela the Morgantown Arts Council and encourage Arts Monongahela to seek Certified Arts Community status.

March 18, 2014

The City of Morgantown
300 Spruce Street
Morgantown, WV 26505
Attn: Morgantown City Council

Dear Members of City Council,

The purpose of this letter is to fully recommend that the Morgantown City Council designate Arts Monongahela as the official Arts Council for the City of Morgantown.

Morgantown is a city rich in arts resources. West Virginia University attracts world-class performers and the university's new art museum will quickly become a cultural asset whose focus will not only benefit the city and the state, but the entire Appalachian Region.

Our local cultural groups provide artists the opportunity to perform, write, paint, sculpt, and dance. They provide them an opportunity to create. Multiple theatres, an arts center, galleries and a public amphitheater provide exhibition and performance space. The City of Morgantown should be recognized for the cultural center and arts destination that it has become. An important step is the City of Morgantown being recognized as a Certified Arts Community by the State of West Virginia.

In order to become a Certified Arts Community, the State of West Virginia requires a city to designate an official arts council. Arts Monongahela should be the choice for this designation. Its history of collaboration, mission and work have filled many of the roles of an Arts Council and that work needs to be recognized and continue. Arts Mon is also recognized by the Benedum Foundation, the State of West Virginia, the Chamber of Commerce and others as fulfilling a support role for our the arts in our community.

With all of our regions assets and resources our local arts organizations still struggle. Designating Arts Monongahela as our local Arts Council is the first step in providing these organizations with the resources, administratively and financially they need to flourish and survive. It will be a good thing for our Arts Organizations and benefit our entire community.

Sincerely,
Jack Thompson
437 Van Gilder Street
Morgantown, WV 26505

Zimbra

jmikorski@cityofmorgantown.org

Certified Arts Community Status

From : Ro Brooks <ro.brooks@mac.com>

Tue, Mar 18, 2014 06:17 PM

Subject : Certified Arts Community Status**To :** Mikorski Jeff <jmikorski@cityofmorgantown.org>

March 18, 2014

Member, City Council:

This email is in response to a proposal related to the arts and arts community in Morgantown. Monongalia Arts Center supports a meeting of all relevant arts organizations, collectives and individual artists as the best way for Morgantown to pursue becoming a Certified Arts Community.

Throughout it's thirty-five years of leadership in the Morgantown arts community, the MAC realizes the entire artistic community must have ownership and be involved in this community oriented process from the onset. Toward that goal, we have requested the assistance of the WV Commission of the Arts to facilitate a meeting of representatives of the Morgantown artistic community. In order for Morgantown to become a Certified Arts Community and avoid any conflict of interest, MAC supports the creation of an independent cooperative that is not one of the existing arts organizations.

We ask that you support this artistic community meeting by contacting Deborah Haught (debbie.r.haught@wv.gov) requesting her facilitation of a meeting toward a mutually agreed upon goal. At this time the Monongalia Arts Center feels it would be premature to issue any resolution regarding this matter.

Respectfully,

Monongalia Arts Center

**ARTS MONOGAHELA MISSION:
TO ADVANCE THE ARTS AND ENHANCE THE COMMUNITY**

Charlie Sims, *President*
Commercial Loan Officer, MVB Bank

C.B. Wilson, *Vice President*
Asst. Provost for Academic Person

Taunja Willis-Miller, *Secretary*
Jackson Kelly PLLC

Jeremy Burnworth, *Treasurer*
Owner, Creative Computer

Ron Justice
W.V.U

Paul Kreider
Dean, WVU CAC

Ann Payne
Artist, Art Instructor

Elaine D'Alessandri
WV Commission of Arts/Artist

Patricia Watson
V.P Wealth Mgmt. BB and T

Meredith Kiger
Retired