



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

Michael F. Easley, Governor

Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary

November 1, 2006

Honorable Marc Basnight
President Pro Tempore
North Carolina Senate
2007 Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601

Honorable James B. Black
Speaker
North Carolina House of Representatives
2304 Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601

RE: Cultural Sharing and Caring Program

Gentlemen:

In compliance with Session Law 2006-66, a report on the Cultural Sharing and Caring Program is forwarded to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations for consideration.

If you have questions or need further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisbeth C. Evans".

Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary

Enclosure

cc: Lynn Muchmore

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**REPORT TO
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
CULTURAL SHARING AND CARING PROGRAM**

Session Law 2006-66 (Senate Bill 1741), Part XVII-A, Section 17A.1., ratified July 10, 2006, states:

“The Department of Cultural Resources shall report on the Cultural Sharing and Caring Program to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations by November 1, 2006. The report shall include the following:

- (1) The plans related to offering and scheduling the program components.
- (2) A list of the program components currently available in the local school systems, including the availability and the frequency the components are offered.
- (3) The coordination required between the Department of Cultural Resources, the Department of Public Instruction, and the local school systems to provide any or all of the program components, including the anticipated level of participation in the program.
- (4) The allocation of the funding appropriated in the 2006-2007 fiscal year to support the program components.”

This report is submitted in accordance with the directive of the legislation.

Introduction

The Legislature appropriated \$750,000 to the Department of Cultural Resources for the planning and development of the Cultural Sharing and Caring Program. The program’s purpose is to enhance student learning in arts, culture, and history through several education initiatives and expansion of established programs across the state. When fully funded, the program will ensure that every 3rd, 4th, and 5th grader experiences an opera, theater, and ballet before they leave elementary school. (This component will be designed to complement the NC Symphony’s Education Concerts.) The program will also expand the education and enrichment programs of the Office of Archives and History by making them available statewide through a combination of education training, in-school programs, and downloadable resources.

The planning and development funds for Fiscal Year 2006-07 will be used for planning meetings, a preview tour of four of the state’s finest ballet and opera companies, an expansion of history programs for students offered by Archives and History, and a tour of the state’s original copy of the Bill of Rights.

1. Plans related to offering and scheduling the program components.

Ballet and Opera Component

The Kenan Institute for the Arts is facilitating a series of planning meetings with the four ballet and opera companies to design the program. The Kenan Institute will also help design marketing, education, and evaluation plans for the program. The four companies will conduct a preview tour to 20 mostly rural counties and will also perform in their home counties. The companies will use a portion of the funds to purchase equipment for expanded touring and to create a touring production for this year and next year.

During this pilot year, counties selected have venues with adequate facilities and a track record of presenting concerts for young people. The tour will take place between January 15 and May 31, 2007. Curriculum and education materials will be provided to schools to help teachers prepare students for the performances and to make connections between the performances and the curriculum. Two counties have chosen to present evening performances for the community with their own funds.

The current assignments for the tour are as follows:

Carolina Ballet performing *Swan Lake* and two movements from a new Monet ballet:

Sampson Center Stage, Sampson County Agri-Expo Center, Clinton, Sampson County
Odell Williamson Auditorium, Brunswick Community College, Supply, Brunswick County
Swain Auditorium, Edenton, Chowan County
Kinston/Lenoir Performing Arts Center, Kinston, Lenoir County
We are currently working on a venue in Cumberland County

North Carolina Dance Theatre performing *Cinderella*:

Caswell County Civic Center, Yanceyville, Caswell County
Keihin Auditorium, Edgecombe Community College, Tarboro, Edgecombe County
Broyhill Civic Center, Caldwell Community College, Lenoir, Caldwell County
Wright Auditorium, East Carolina University, Greenville, Pitt County
Givens Performing Arts Center, UNC-Pembroke, Pembroke, Robeson County

Opera Carolina performing *The Pirates of Penzance*:

Ashe County Civic Center, Jefferson, Ashe County
Valleytown Cultural Arts Center, Andrews, Cherokee County
The Foundation, Isothermal Community College, Spindale, Rutherford County
Cole Auditorium, Richmond Community College, Hamlet, Richmond County
City of Morganton Municipal Auditorium, Morganton, Burke County

Piedmont Opera performing *Così fan Tutte*:

Andy Griffith Playhouse, Surry County Arts Council, Mount Airy, Surry County
Swain County Center for the Arts, Bryson City, Swain County
Diana Wortham Theatre, Asheville, Buncombe County
First Flight High School, Kill Devil Hills, Dare County
Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County

All will be 50 minutes in length and appropriate for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Each venue will be given a stipend of \$2,500 and schools will be reimbursed for the busing of students. As the venues work with the school systems to book the performances, they have found the educators eager and appreciative of the program.

History Component

Half of the funding allocated for history initiatives is being used to support or expand existing programs offered by the Office of Archives and History. These initiatives have previously either been funded by support groups at a much lower level or were not funded at all. The other half of the new funds this year has been designated to help fund a tour of North Carolina's original copy of the Bill of Rights. The balance of required funding will have to be raised through other sources.

National History Day in North Carolina:

This is an academically rigorous program that encourages the teaching and learning of history in grades 6 through 12. This program, which the Office of Archives and History has sponsored for 10 years, has never had a designated appropriation. To date the funds have come primarily from money raised by a 501(c)(3) support group. Using state funds for this state-sponsored program will allow support group funds to be used to support other history programs and will demonstrate the state's initial commitment for this program to promote and recognize academic excellence. This funding will allow the department to start the process of digitizing lesson plans, making them more readily available to teachers. If additional funding is secured in the next fiscal year, the department will be able to expand this initiative.

Home School Conferences:

In the past, there has been no available staff or funding resources to initiate outreach to the home school community. In an attempt to involve more home school parents and students in the programs and services that we can provide, a regional mini-conference for home school educators will be organized and held. With additional funding in the future, the objective will be to eventually offer it in all regions of the state.

Bill of Rights Tour:

North Carolina's original copy of the Bill of Rights was recently recovered after being out of the state's possession for 140 years. Most of the state's citizens have never seen this fundamental document of American government. This tour will take it to seven venues around the state. Each venue will include viewing of the document and accompanying exhibit panels as well as a scholarly presentation about a specific amendment.

Museum of History:

Money will be allocated for virtual field trips, touch carts, and the Tar Heel Junior Historian program. In the past, a limited number of virtual field trips have been shown on the North Carolina Information Highway. These included hands-on reproduction objects; resource materials were mailed to schools in advance. Expanded funding will allow development of additional programs. Touch carts contain hands-on objects that relate to current exhibits. This new funding will also enable the Museum of History to develop additional carts. The Tar Heel Junior Historian Program promotes the learning and teaching of North Carolina history in grades 4 through 12. This money will be used toward operation of the state convention.

Historic Sites:

Field trip planners are brochures that give teachers information on what is available at individual Historic Sites and how to plan a visit. These planners have been out of print for several months due to lack of funding. Sharing and Caring funding will enable the department to re-print these brochures for teachers and other visitors. History Bowl is a quiz bowl-type academic competition that encourages learning North Carolina and American history. Money will be appropriated to help fund the state competition.

2. A list of program components currently available in the local school systems, including the availability and the frequency the components are offered.

While each of the four ballet and opera companies take education programs into the schools, none of them has had the resources to offer a fully staged opera or ballet performance specially designed for elementary school students. The NC Department of Public Instruction has confirmed that it knows of

no other similar program currently offered to the state's schools. The history education programs are currently available to all teachers and students throughout North Carolina on an on-going basis. The funds designated for these programs will allow for expansion or will be used to shore up under-funded programs. The home school conference and the Bill of Rights tour are new initiatives. They will be scheduled for designated times and locations in the state.

3. The coordination required between the Department of Cultural Resources, the Department of Public Instruction, and the local school systems to provide any or all of the program components, including the anticipated level of participation in the program.

On August 28, 2006, NC Arts Council staff met with Christie Howell, NCDPI Arts Education Consultant, to discuss the ballet and opera touring program. Ms. Howell agreed to be a standing member of the education committee. This committee will help design the educational materials that will accompany the performances. The first meeting is planned for November. Ms. Howell advised us on how to identify and work with interested teachers and how best to include educators in the planning process. While Ms. Howell's response to the program was very favorable, she advised us that arts educators might be concerned their counties would see this program as a replacement for the current in-class curriculum. A statement reinforcing the importance of classroom art teachers and explaining that this program is designed to enhance the current curriculum and is not an alternative to in-class training is being drafted to address these concerns.

On September 15, 2006, NC Arts Council staff presented the ballet and opera touring program to a meeting of the state's Arts Education Coordinators at Meredith College. The audience of approximately 36 attendees was extremely enthusiastic about the program and expressed hope that it would soon be offered to every county. As a follow-up, we will be contacting all of the state's Arts Education Coordinators to solicit questions and suggestions as we further develop the program.

The venues chosen for the ballet and opera performances are well versed in working with the schools to arrange the scheduling of the performances and have contacted their school systems to be sure the performances will fit into their schedule before agreeing to participate in the program. We anticipate being able to serve approximately 30,000 students in 25-30 counties.

Most of the history programs have long been offered by the Office of Archives and History and are designed with attention to the curriculum standards set by the Department of Public Instruction. To the best of our knowledge, none of these programs are available through any other agency. DPI staff often helps the Department of Cultural Resources publicize programs through their contact lists. All divisions constantly look for ways to recruit more schools to participate in programs. The level of participation will vary according to the individual programs. Thousands of students and teachers make use of the various education programs in any given year. We anticipate several thousand will also attend the Bill of Rights activities.

4. The allocation of the funding appropriated in the 2006-2007 fiscal year to support the program components.

The attached spreadsheet identifies the allocation of funding appropriated in the 2006-07 fiscal year to support the program components.

**Cultural Sharing and Caring
Budget for FY 2006-07**

	Cost	Subtotal
Funds to Ballet and Opera Companies		
Performance fees, 5 days/5 counties at \$20,000 per day x 4 companies	\$400,000	
Program start-up costs, 1-time touring expenses and future development, \$50,000 x 4 companies	\$200,000	
Subtotal		\$600,000
Other Ballet and Opera Costs		
Student transportation reimbursement fund, 20 counties at \$2,000 each	\$40,000	
Facility and technical fees, 20 venues at \$2,500 each	\$50,000	
Marketing and education materials	\$10,000	
Subtotal		\$100,000
National History Day		
Registrations for students who qualify for national competition	\$4,500	
Travel reimbursement fund for qualifying students	\$4,500	
Teacher workshop and program materials	\$2,000	
Subtotal		\$11,000
Home School Conference		
Staff travel, facility rental, program materials	\$2,000	
Subtotal		\$2,000
Bill of Rights Tour		
Display cases, travel, speaker honoraria, security* (as needed)	\$25,000	
* The Highway Patrol has been consulted and has offered to assist with security.		
Subtotal		\$25,000
North Carolina Museum of History		
Virtual field trips	\$2,000	
Touch carts	\$2,500	
Tar Heel Junior Historian Program	\$1,000	
Subtotal		\$5,500
State Historic Sites		
Field trip planners	\$5,500	
History Bowl	\$1,000	
Subtotal		\$6,500
Total		\$750,000