The Board of Directors met at 4:30 PM on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 in the Grant Room of the Koppers Building in Pittsburgh. Present were Board members: Chair, Ms. Dusty Kirk, Mr. Daniel Griffin, Ms. Jackie Dixon, Ms. Sylvia Fields, Mr. Paul Gitnik, Mr. Don Linzer, and Dr. Daniel Rosen. Chief Counsel Mr. James Norris, Executive Director and Assistant Secretary Mr. David Donahoe who kept the minutes, staff and members of the public were also present. Notice of the meeting was published in accordance with the Act and By-laws and the agenda was posted on the District website the week prior to the meeting.

The Chair announced that no one registered to speak at the meeting.

Report of the Project Review Committee

The Chair asked Ms. Fields to present the report:

Board Members:

The Committee met to review special project applications received during the last quarter. Based on that review, the Committee is recommending award of three grants as follows:

1. Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh $35,000 (total project cost)
   The Children’s Museum used professional assistance to determine its accessibility needs. This grant would fund website changes, development of tactile maps, guides and signage and purchase of assistive listening devices and installation of special sinks in a craft area.

2. Mattress Factory $12,710 (total cost $25,460)
   Also based on a consultant review, the project would involve web site upgrade, translation of material into Braille, iPad purchase for viewing inaccessible exhibits and minor changes to restroom and elevator.

3. Attack Theatre $26,250 (total project cost $84,700)
   Attack Theatre is working with the School for Deaf Children on a project to better serve deaf and disabled, particularly children. Much of the cost is for programming; this grant would pay for equipment including projectors and sound equipment and a portable ramp that would be useful in all of the Theatre’s programming and some of which could be loaned to other assets.

The Committee found that these grants meet the criteria established for the program and was impressed that these applicants worked with professionals specializing in accessibility issues to develop solutions to their unique issues. The recommended awards total $73,960. When added to the 2014 grants previously approved, the District
will have committed $237,833 toward enhancing accessibility among the assets this year.

Submitted by
Project Review Committee
Sylvia Fields, Paul Gitnik, Dan Griffin

Dr. Rosen asked if the Attack Theatre had the balance of the funds committed for the project. Mr. Gitnik and Mr. Donahoe indicated that much of the grant was for programming which is not fully funded. However, this grant would be for equipment purchase only.

Mr. Linzer asked if the Union Project was being recommended. Mr. Donahoe said that the request exceeded the program resources and some of the costs were outside the scope of the grant program.

Dr. Rosen said that the guidelines for the program should be clear that it is not only for ADA compliance but for inclusiveness in general.

The Board then discussed the fact that there had been no applications this quarter for connection grants. The chair noted that while there seemed to be opportunities for cooperation, formalizing it in a grant request remained a challenge.

Ms. Fields said that non profits tend to operate in silos so they often do not see the opportunities for cooperation. She said that fostering such opportunities was a worthy goal.

Dr. Rosen said that combining the two project grant programs into one category might be an issue. Ms. Kirk said that the management of the program should be reviewed by the Project Review Committee.

Ms. Dixon said that RAD’s guidelines on ADA compliance and diversity might not be clear. Ms. Kirk noted that the Board did appoint an ad hoc committee on diversity a number of years ago and that diversity was now an evaluative criterion. Ms. Fields said that diversity was important to the region and that the lack of diversity among some of the major assets was of concern.

The Chair said she would discuss a new look at diversity policy with the staff.

Mr. Linzer then moved approval of the adoption of the recommendation of the Project Review Committee, seconded by Ms. Fields and it was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.