



April 14, 2010

OKLAHOMA TOURISM &
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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To Whom It May Concern:

Every Labor Day Weekend for the past 20 years, the Dusk 'til Dawn Blues Festival has not only provided extraordinary entertainment, but also a real connection to Oklahoma's role as a cradle for blues music, legend and heritage.

Selby Minner and the Friends of Rentiesville Blues, Inc. are currently working to plan the 20th annual festival to be held this Sept. 3-5 in Rentiesville, the birthplace of Oklahoma blues legend D.C. Minner.

D.C. was an amazing Oklahoman possessing great talent and vision, playing throughout his career with music and blues greats such as Freddy King, Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley. Together with his wife and bassist, Selby, they led the band Blues on the Move, touring for 12 years before returning to Oklahoma with a wealth of music. They created the Dusk 'til Dawn Blues Festival and the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame, turning D.C.'s 1935 family farm and juke joint in historic Rentiesville into a festival venue and club. Although D.C. is no longer with us, his legacy carries on. The Rentiesville Festival is an important event for our state, bringing national and international respect and acclaim with more than 200 musicians presented each year.

I encourage you to consider D.C. and Selby Minner's festival for any funding or investment opportunities that may be available. Selby and Friends of Rentiesville Blues, Inc. are carrying on D.C. Minner's work, providing an extremely valuable educational, artistic and cultural service not only to blues fans, but to Oklahoma, the region and music lovers across the nation.

Best Regards,

Hardy Watkins

Executive Director

Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

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Creating Unity Through Music.



The Jazz Depot 111 East First Street Tulsa, OK 74103 Phone 918.596.1001 Fax 918.596.1005 Toll-free 800.348.9336 www.okjazz.org

May 28, 2011

Selby Minner
701 D.C. Minner Street
Rentiesville, OK 74459

Dear Mrs. Minner,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, it is an honor and distinct pleasure to congratulate this year's inductees to the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame. As we celebrate your 8th year of induction, we applaud the commitment to the mission set forth by D.C. and you, which has never wavered.

"To preserve and develop African-American traditional music through education and entertainment."

The success of your organization has been shaped by dedicated blues fans from across Oklahoma and the United States. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous support of promoting music education through your "Blues in Schools" program. Our children are extremely fortunate to have your support and mentoring.

The heart of Oklahoma blues lies in your commitment to spreading the blessing of music. By supporting community outreach and contributing to programs that promote diversity, education, and honor our musical heritage, the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame seeks to pass on the spirit within the Blues that drives future musicians to carry on the tradition.

The Class of 2011 is one of the most diverse groups that has ever inducted. From the educators who have inspired future Hall of Fame inductees, to the elders who rose to the top of their profession, they have all had a tremendous impact on the world. We are indeed excited and proud you are able to honor them and forever enshrine them into the Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame. Jesse Ed Davis, Chuck Blackwell, Leon Rollerson, Leon Russell, Jimmy 'Cry Cry' Hawkins, Roland Bowling and Sonny Hill are bluesmen that inspire us and show why Oklahoma's blues tradition springs from our state's position as a true home of the blues.

The Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame inductees, past and present, represent the never ending pursuit of the love of music. Their stories of hard work, sacrifice, perseverance, creativity and accomplishments have inspired fellow musicians and blues fans alike. Thank you once again for recognizing the musical titans that make Oklahoma great.

Sincerely,



Jason McIntosh, CEO
Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame

Mission: To inspire creativity and improve the quality of life for all Oklahomans through preservation, education and performance of jazz, our uniquely American art form.

February 10, 2006
Dr. Hugh Foley
326 So. Stallard Street
Stillwater, OK 74076
(405)372-3636 hfoley@rsu.edu

To: Whom it may concern
Re: Dusk 'til Dawn Blues Festival
OK Blues Hall of Fame, Rentiesville, OK

Dear Blues Music Foundation:

As an educator, scholar, and musician, I have been working with DC and Selby Minner in various capacities for about thirteen years. During that time, I have had the opportunity to witness the impact their festival and educational work has on youth, musicians in general, and education, especially at the higher education level.

Each year, I work with DC and Selby to provide opportunities for our students at Rogers State University to volunteer for "real world" music industry experiences at the annual Dusk 'til Dawn Festival. Additionally, our college radio station student operators benefit from the opportunities to interview artists that will appear at the festival. Students also learn about and are able to further promote Oklahoma artists who participate at the festival. Additionally, I am given permission to video tape certain segments of the festival which I then broadcast on KRSC-TV as part of my televised music appreciation class. Results from all these activities include student growth through professional opportunities, awareness of blues as an art form in the state of Oklahoma, and a wider exposure for Arts Council programming as a result of the accompanying publicity the event generates through our media outlets.

As a scholar, I have benefited many times from the opportunity to interview, document, and record a variety of blues artists who perform at the Dusk 'til Dawn Blues Festival. This translates into scholarship that also helps preserve the aesthetics and practices of contemporary blues artists.

As a musician, the open workshops that are part of the festival each year provide invaluable insight into playing blues, which is not always part of a traditional academic background as a result of many professional blues musicians not having the appropriate credentials to teach at the higher education level. Repeatedly, I have witnessed the positive results of these workshops for musicians of all ages and skill-levels. I always tell my students if they want to learn about the blues in an authentic environment, they need to go to the Dusk 'til Dawn Blues Festival.

I highly recommend DC and Selby Minner's festival for any funding that might be available for them as they provide an extremely valuable educational, artistic, and cultural service not only to blues fans, but to Oklahoma as a whole.

Sincerely,

Hugh Foley, Ph.D.
Rogers State University

Selby,

I apologize for not being in touch for awhile, I know we have both been busy, which is probably a good thing.

It is wonderful to see this year's Festival coming together.

I met Johnny Rawles a few weeks ago in Indianapolis, Indiana where he played for us at the Slippery Noodle.

I told him to go play some good music for my good friends down in Rentiesville and he said he was excited about the upcoming gig.

I have been playing music live about 1-4 nights per week.

I'm realizing how blessed I am with all of the different jams within about a 30 minute drive from my house. I also have some local fusion/rock/jammy bands that are starting to let me sit in on some gigs, which is getting really exciting. Hopefully sometime soonish I'll be able to get a musical project of my own off the ground, but in the mean time I'm practicing, playing, learning, reviewing, and figuring it out. I had to read the DC Minnerisms shirt the other night when I was listening to guitar past 3:00am.

Thank you, DC, and everyone else involved in helping me with my life and music.

Rarely a day goes by when I don't think of you guys and what you are sharing with me all of the time. You are wonderful people for all of the gifts that you are sharing with the universe.

I saw Bootsy Collins last Monday and he told me to tell you to keep the Funk alive(like you need to be told). Just keep fighting the good fight each day to make the world a better place.

Make sure to get some rest and take care of yourself as you prepare for Festival lift off soon.

Thanks again for everything and much love,

-Kit Love Carson

MUSKOGEE DAILY PHOENIX by WREN STRATTON

I've always thought "Blues on the Move" is just a cool idea. It's the name D.C. and Selby gave their band. It could mean the "blues", bad feelings, are on their way out or it could mean the "blues" as a musical genre is on its way up. Maybe it refers to how far reaching DC and Selby's influence on the blues has become, or maybe just because D.C. knew they would travel so much with the music. They've certainly had a huge influence on the Muskogee area and especially Rentiesville. Rentiesville is just down 69 highway from Muskogee, about 15 miles South. It has an interesting history in that it is one of the only 13 towns remaining that were founded by freed black slaves. DC's Grandmother ran a sort of "jukebox club" (known as a juke joint) there for several decades called the Cozy Corner. That's where D.C. first got exposed to the sound of the Blues. It is this original site in Rentiesville that has become the home for Oklahoma blues.

D.C. met Selby in California, he was her teacher and mentor for learning to play electric blues. Selby comes from Rhode Island and became a blues convert after a concert by Janis Joplin. In 1979 she married D.C. and they began to make the transition to Oklahoma.

I first met the Minners in, of all places, West Middle School. They were listed through the Oklahoma Arts Council and we hired them to celebrate with the students at West. It was so obvious that they loved working with the students. They participated in several arts camps for kids and performed for many area schools. To this day, if you are a student and just want to learn, you are always welcome to jam with them (Selby and friends) at the Blues Club early on Sunday nights. Selby also teaches guitar and bass, free, at libraries from time to time.

We lost D.C. a couple of years ago but Selby continues to promote and provide an opportunity for the "Blues on the Move" to continue with the annual Dusk 'til Dawn Blues Festival. This year is special because it is the twentieth year for the festival. It is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend, Sept 3, 4, and 5. The cost is \$15 each day with kids under 12 and volunteers free. The web site is www.dcminnerblues.com. Advance tickets are \$10 and available at local music stores only.

Selby can do this so inexpensively because of the community sponsors who have helped with the event. Be sure and say thank you to the OK Arts Council, VSA Arts, Yaffe, Love Bottling, Republic Guitars, Bud, James Hodge Ford, Griffin Foods and Citizens' Bank.

I volunteered one year and took tickets. It was so fun. If you enjoy people watching, it was the best. They need volunteers so you might check the web site for contact info. Everyone is so friendly and glad to be there. They provide a kids village with all kinds of arts activities. You will want to bring your lawn chair but plan on eating the awesome BBQ.

The promotional flyer says, "There will be 30 bands on three stages, indoors and outside. 200 musicians will celebrate the OK - TX contribution to the blues along with 5 international headliners." Artists like Johnny Rawls - BMA winner for best R&B Soul album, Zora Young, Bernard Allison, Cowboy, Buck Young, Harry and Debbie Blackwell from California and Harry Williams will be performing.

It's not just about art. This music festival has a huge economic impact on Muskogee. The advertisement for it suggests staying in Muskogee motels. Because it is a three day event, folks need to buy gasoline, eat in our restaurants, etc. What D.C. and Selby have accomplished is twenty years of gifting our region with the Dusk 'til Dawn Blues festival. We owe them our gratitude and support. Besides it really is a great time, dusk till dawn.