



Metro Arts Commission

Minutes of the Grants and Funding Committee

Thursday, March 12, 2021

This meeting took place via teleconference.

You can find a recording of this meeting here:

<https://youtu.be/TeWbDLEj9MM>

If you have any questions, please e-mail grace.wright@nashville.gov.

Committee Members Present: Sheri Nichols Bucy (Chair), Marianne Byrd, Bonnie Dow, Matia Powell, Jim Schmidt (Ex-Officio)

Committee Members Absent: Clay Haynes, Marielena Ramos

Staff: Janine Christiano, Grace Wright, Marysa LaRowe

A. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

Chair Bucy did a verbal roll call of all members present.

B. Vote on Executive Order No. 78

A motion that the meeting agenda constitutes essential business of this body and meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans considering the COVID-19 outbreak and is permitted under the Governor's Executive Order number 78 was offered by Commissioner Byrd and Commissioner Dow seconded.

Roll call vote was taken, all members present voted, and all votes were affirmative.

C.

D. Action & Discussion Items

1. FY21 Thrive Cycle 2 Funding Awards

Janine Christiano gave an overview of the Thrive program and updates on this fiscal year's second cycle.

Marysa LaRowe presented to the Committee the projects recommended for the proposed funding:

- Andrew, A Boy Called Hair, and the Edgehill Polar Bears Use Their Superpowers to Solve Their Community's Problems: Creating a Viable and Equitable Community; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500
- SEVEN: A Contemporary Exploration of Fatness and Blackness; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500
- Madison Seed Library; Recommended Allocation: \$9,500
- Notes for Notes: The Podcast; Recommended Allocation: \$8,550
- Cameron Mitchell; Recommended Allocation: \$7,890
- Jaefriz Online Music Program at Bellevue Community Center and Metro Parks Music; Recommended Allocation: \$4,110

The Committee asked staff if they thought that with two different community review panels that each group had utilized the same level of critique and application of the guidelines. Staff let the Committee know that staff oversaw the training of panelists as well as the panels themselves, and it was their subjective view that each panel was equally discerning. Additionally, the staff reviewed the final scores and applied a standardization formula when calculating the overall ranking.

The Committee was also interested in how many applications there were and how many projects were not funded. Of the nineteen applications for this cycle only six were able to be funded. The staff proposed funding fewer projects at a higher percentage to make sure that the projects would be successful given current funds.

The Committee also asked about the number of expected participants for these projects. Staff answered that they could compile that information for the Arts Commission and noted that number of participants was a consideration for the community review panel.

The Committee asked if there would be a full list of applicants for review. Staff will send to all Commissioners before the Arts Commission meeting.

A motion to approve the FY21 THRIVE Cycle 2 allocations was offered by Commissioner Powell and Commissioner Dow seconded.

Roll call vote was taken, all members present voted, and all votes were affirmative.

2. Grant Panel Planning

Janine gave an update on the grants application process. Currently, there are 56 (22 Core, 34 Basic) though staff decided to give six applicants extensions considering new process and challenges related to covid-19. The currently requested amount is \$5,115,316.

Janine also updated the Committee on current staff and applicant feedback on the new grants application system.

Staff requested Commissioner volunteers from the Grants & Funding Committee to preside over the FY22 Grant Panels in May. Assignments were made.

The Committee asked for an update on the application process including if all Basic category grantees has applied. Staff replied for the most part yes, and the only one not submitted was due to technical difficulties currently being working out with staff. A few Core category organizations are not applying for various reasons, but staff is hoping to stay in touch with other opportunities.

3. Eligibility for Leadership Music

Janine updated Committee on Leadership Music's request for an eligibility review. Though the organization did not apply, they did request consideration from the Committee. The staff opinion was that primary mission and practices of the organization did not support the direct performance, instruction, or exhibition of art, and therefore the organization was ineligible.

The Committee clarified that this organization was more focused on developing leadership skills in the music industry than direct artistic practice. Staff agreed with this assessment.

The Committee agreed by consensus with staff's determination that Leadership Music would not be eligible for Metro Arts Grant funds give their current structure.

E. Other Grants and Funding Program Updates

Janine gave the Committee an update on the NEA grant for the expansion of REAL. Staff have been working with the CURB center regarding the relaunch including survey REAL alumni and how best to implement the additional funding.

The Committee wanted to know if there would be an update by the Arts Commission. Staff did not think so but would include in Arts Commission materials if there were any changes.

F. Next Meeting

The Committee discussed dates and times for their next meeting in April. It was decided that the meeting would be confirmed after absent members could weigh in.

G. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.
