



Metro Arts Commission
Minutes of the Grants and Funding Committee
Tuesday, June 1, 2021
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Metro Office Building
Nashville Room

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

Committee Members Present: Sheri Nichols Bucy (Chair), Marianne Byrd, Bonnie Dow, Clay Haynes, Matia Powell

Committee Members Absent: Marielena Ramos

Staff: Caroline Vincent, Janine Christiano, Marysa LaRowe, Grace Wright

A. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:09 a.m.

B. Vote on Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes from April 1, 2021 was offered by Commissioner Dow, Commissioner Powell seconded, the motion passed.

C. Action & Discussion Items

1. Restorative Arts FY22 Awards

Janine Christiano presented the Committee with an overview of the applications and the community review panel process:

- The total amount requested was \$136,200.00
- The proposed total award amount: \$113,060.00
- The proposals include the following genres: theatre, dance, writing, visual art, music, performing arts, literary arts
- The proposed hours across the department as follows:
 - Juvenile Detention Center: 408
 - Probation: 42
 - Diversion and Prevention: 334
 - Family and Community Partnership: 10

The Community review panel and staff recommended the following awards:

- **Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC):** Creating Positive Self Identity Through Community
 - **Funding Category:** Instruction and Mentorship: Probation
 - **Hours:** 42 hours
 - **Recommended Award:** \$13,050
- **From the Heart:** Music for LIFE Mobile Studio
 - **Funding Category:** Instruction and Mentorship: Juvenile Detention Center*
 - **Hours:** 100
 - **Recommended Award:** \$14,030
- **Southern Word:** Shaping Identity & Purpose Through Words & Music
 - **Funding Category:** Instruction and Mentorship: Juvenile Detention Center
 - **Hours:** 62
 - **Recommended Award:** \$15,980
- **Global Education Center:** Passport to Prevention and Recovery
 - **Funding Category:** Instruction and Mentorship: Juvenile Detention Center; Instruction & Mentorship: Diversion and Prevention*; Family and Community Partnership*
 - **Hours:** 424
 - **Recommended Award:** \$22,500
- **Nashville Repertory Theatre, Inc.:** Building Community through Theatre
 - **Funding Category:** Instruction and Mentorship: Diversion and Prevention*
 - **Hours:** 70 hours
 - **Recommended Award:** \$22,500
- **Oasis Center**
 - **Funding Category:** Instruction and Mentorship: Diversion and Prevention*
 - **Hours:** 96 hours
 - **Recommended Award:** \$25,000

*Conditional Acceptance

Chair Bucy opened the floor for discussion.

The Committee asked about the number and scope of providers. Staff noted that the dual skillset of arts education and restorative practice is rarer in providers. The possibility of providing arts and restorative training to potential providers would be an initiative to pursue to increase the scope of the program.

The Committee asked about how efficacy is measured over the long term with these programs. Staff responded that they are in the process of developing metrics that can be gathered and tracked. Given that recidivism rates are a controversial benchmark, staff is working on tracking social-emotional benchmarks. Staff is also working on a program-wise survey and will update the Committee when it is complete.

The Committee noted that there would be a strong argument for a substantial increase in funding for this program.

The Committee proposed exploring how Restorative Arts could fit into the wider Metro youth violence initiatives and how Metro Arts could partner with other departments. An example would be the scaling and training conversations with Arts for Incarcerated Youth LA.

The Committee asked staff what would be required to bring in an additional employee to support this program or find additional resources. Staff will report back.

A motion to approve the Restorative Arts FY22 Awards was offered by Commissioner Haynes, Commissioner Powell seconded, the motion passed.

2. FY22 Grant Allocations

Janine Christiano gave an overview of the FY22 Grants applications process and the applicant requests:

- FY22 Grant Budget: \$2.4 M
- 5 Additional arts organizations applied
- 19 organizations with increased requests (35%)
- No organization will have a decrease of more than 10%
- Total Requests: \$5.4 M
- Unfunded Requests: \$3M* (*\$2,990,282.99)

Janine also gave an overview of new applicants and budgetary/funding shifts for previously awarded organizations. For organizations that experience large impacts to their budget, staff is advocating for a budget floor of 10% maximum decrease.

Chair Bucy asked if there were any questions or discussion.

The Committee asked for clarification about how the re-ajudication amount is decided for the Basic grant category. Staff explained that while the scoring and rankings stay the same for the 3-year period, the funding amount is based on that as well as the current operating budget of the organization. For Basic grantees that is decided over a 3-year average and for Core grantees it is a 2-year average.

The Committee opened the discussion on allocation percentages and how the current grant funds could be most equitably divided. It was proposed that perhaps the Arts Commission should look at arts-related income in terms of overall income. The Committee proposed reconsidering this question for FY23 to make sure that the formulas and allocation caps align with the Arts Commission's priorities.

A motion to approve the FY22 Grant allocations for the Basic 1 category was offered by Commissioner Dow, Commissioner Powell seconded, the motion passed. Commissioner Byrd abstained due to conflict of interest.

A motion to approve the FY22 Grant allocations for the Basic 2 category was offered by Commissioner Powell, Commissioner Byrd seconded, the motion passed. Commissioner Dow abstained due to conflict of interest.

A motion to approve the FY22 Grant allocations for the Basic 3 category was offered by Commissioner Dow, Commissioner Haynes seconded, the motion passed. Commissioner Powell and Commissioner Bucy abstained due to conflict of interest.

A motion to approve the FY22 Grant allocations for the Core category was offered by Commissioner Byrd, Commissioner Dow seconded, the motion passed.

3. FY22 Thrive Guidelines

Janine Christiano gave an overview of the Thrive program and the proposed changes to the FY22 Thrive Guidelines:

- The addition of more complete details of the process for applicants
- The switch to 2 focused cycles:
 - Cycle 1 would support projects led by experienced community practice with well-developed partnerships and projects
 - Cycle 2 "Community Practice Artist Incubator" would focus on emerging artists or artist teams and would provide additional supports and the opportunity to exhibit with our Metro Parks partner at the Parthenon West Gallery.

Marysa LaRowe updated the Commission about the public art-specific changes to the FY22 Thrive Guidelines including:

- Defining "Public Art": For the purposes of Thrive, public art is defined as a **temporary artwork that exists in a public space (accessible to the general public)**, including privately owned property such as a local business or organization."
- Providing a clearer overview of process and timeline for Thrive Public Art projects
- Defining Lifespan of Public Art Projects: "**Thrive funds are intended to support the creation and maintenance of public artworks with a lifespan of no more than 18 months.** No additional Metro Arts funding is provided beyond this 18-month lifespan window."

Janine also updated the Committee on the use of a draft Equity Lens proposed by the Committee for Antiracism and Equity. Staff will keep the Committee and Commission updated on its development.

Chair Bucy asked if there was any questions or discussion.

The Committee asked about the earlier deadlines. Staff has been in conversation with various communities to help promote a quick turnaround. The earlier dates will also allow applicants to apply for school-based projects.

The Committee asked about the choice to partner with the Parthenon for this project. Staff shared that the Parthenon reached out a partnership, and staff felt that this would be mutually beneficial for artists and the venue. However, going forward staff is open to discussing the showcase location to travel around the city.

The Committee asked if there was increased funding for this in the FY22 budget. Staff said an increase and allocations for extra staff support have been proposed.

The Committee asked for clarification about how staff will divide allocations for the two cycles. Staff clarified that for Cycle 1 10-12 awards are anticipated and for Cycle 2 5-6 awards are anticipated.

A motion to approve the FY22 Grant allocations for the Core category was offered by Commissioner Powell, Commissioner Byrd seconded, the motion passed.

D. Other Grants and Funding Program Updates

Janine Christiano gave the Committee updates on the following programs:

- REAL
- Opportunity NOW
- 2Sigma/DataClinic Partnership
- Arts Build Communities Grants

E. Next Meeting

Staff asked the Committee if there were any set dates they would be available for this Committee meeting on going. The Committee asked staff to provide a forecast of meetings for the remainder of 2021 and follow-up on scheduling.

F. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.
