



Metro Arts Commission

Minutes of the Grants and Funding Committee

Monday, April 20, 2020

This meeting will be held via teleconference.

A recording of the meeting can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmhg16il93c&feature=youtu.be>

Attending Members: Matia Powell (chair), Jackie Daniel, Bonnie Dow, Sheri Nichols Bucy, Marielena Ramos (Ex-Officio)

Staff: Janine Christiano, Lauren Fitzgerald, Grace Wright

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Powell did a verbal roll call of all Committee members present.

2) Vote on Governor's Executive Order No. 16

Commissioner Powell called for 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 16."

A motion to permit the meeting of the Metro Arts Commission under Governor's Executive Order No.16 was offered by Commissioner Bucy and seconded by Commissioner Dow.

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

3) FY20 Update

Janine Christiano updated the Committee on the results of a survey Metro Arts distributed to Nashville/Davidson County artists and arts organizations:

- 63 arts organizations responded; 66 individual artists responded
- 63% of organizations & 53% of individual artists said they needed emergency funds
- In addition to procedural changes, 26% of organizations stated mental health as something that would be helpful for their staff & artists
- Average income loss for individual artists is \$7,091 over eight weeks; \$887 weekly loss
- Projected total losses for Nashville arts organizations is \$22,269,905 for eight weeks

Janine Christiano also updated the Committee on changes to the FY20 grants closeout process. Metro Arts is giving grantees 15% of their final payment and will send the

remaining 5% once closeout procedures have been completed. She made a request to further change grant procedures to help support grantees through the multiple crises.

Chair Powell asked for any public comment. There was none.

Chair Powell opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Bucy asked for clarification about the timeline of these changes. Janine Christiano clarified that if the motion is approved by the Arts Commission, grantees would be able to note changes on their closeout report on June 15th.

Commissioner Ramos and Chair commended staff on quick pivot to meet current challenges.

A motion to approve an amendment to FY20 guidelines and contracts that allow grantees to reallocate unused project funds for operating expenses was offered by Commissioner Ramos and seconded by Commissioner Bucy.

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

4) FY21 Grants Process & Program Updates

The Committee finalized Commissioner assignments for the upcoming community grant review panels.

5) Restorative Arts

Janine Christiano updated the Committee on the JDC's closures due to COVID-19 and the amendments to the closeout procedures. She also presented the proposed summer reverification process depending on budget and JDC accessibility:

- Summer Programming can take place from **June 15-July 24**. Reverification proposals will be accepted from **May 1 through May 15, 2020 at 11:59 PM**
- All award announcements will be made on a rolling basis and announced no later than **Monday May 22, 2020**.
- Teaching Artists and coordinators involved in summer programming will be required to attend a **Summer Training May 29th 10:00 am-12:00pm**.
- A summer program completion report will be due by **September 15th**

Chair Powell asked for any public comment. There was none.

Chair Powell opened the floor for discussion.

A motion to approve the Restorative Arts Summer reverification process was offered by Commissioner Dow and seconded by Commissioner Daniel.

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

Janine Christiano updated the Committee on the FY21 Restorative Arts processes in the previously distributed FY21 Restorative Arts Guidelines and highlighted new changes put

together by Restorative Arts Coordinator Nichole Robinson including increasing training, standardizing artist fees, and building a closer relationship with the JDC.

Chair Powell asked for any public comment. There was none.

Chair Powell opened the floor for discussion.

A motion to approve the FY21 Restorative Arts process and the FY21 Restorative Arts Guidelines was offered by Commissioner Bucy and seconded by Commissioner Ramos.

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

6) Diversity in Arts Leadership (DIAL) Program Updates

Lauren Fitzgerald gave Committee updates on the Diversity in Arts Leadership program in partnership with Americans for the Arts (AFTA). Given the situation with COVID-19, the in-person internship aspect of the program was cancelled and transitioned to an online Fellowship program based on the Metro Arts/Curb REAL program. AFTA will pay the interns directly, and Metro Arts will not have any financial involvement.

7) Thrive

Janine Christiano updated the Committee on the April 2020 Thrive funding. So far, Metro Arts has funded 16 projects and expects the funds to be exhausted within the next week or two.

Lauren Fitzgerald updated the Committee on the FY20 closeout process:

- 6 projects closed out
- 11 projects have shifted their projects to serve the community virtually and will close out by June 15th
- 1 returned Thrive award due to pandemic
 - Rebecca Alexander- Edgehill Community Performing Arts intensive + Public Art installation
 - \$9,500 reallocated to April 2020 Thrive funding pool

Lauren also updated the Committee on FY21 Thrive processes & guidelines. Further information will be presented in June after a strategic pause to reform the program to the current crises, budget, and capacity.

8) Determine June Grants Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the committee was set for Wednesday, June 24th from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

9) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Thursday, May 1, 2020 – Metro Arts Arts Access Grant Panel
Wednesday, May 6, 2020 – Metro Arts Youth Arts Project Support
Thursday, May 7, 2020 – Metro Arts Creation Project Support
Friday, May 8, 2020 – Metro Arts Project Support Grant Panel
Tuesday, May 12, 2020 – Metro Arts Basic Operating Support Grant Panel
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 – Metro Arts Basic Operating Support Grant Panel
Thursday, May 14, 202 – Metro Arts Core Operating Support Grant Panel
Thursday, May 21, 2020 [Tentative] – Metro Nashville Arts Commission Meeting