



MINUTES

Grants and Funding Committee

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

2:00PM - 3:30PM

Metro Southeast Building

Green Hills Auditorium

1417 Murfreesboro Pike

Nashville, TN 37217

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

Committee Members Present: Sheri Nichols Bucy (Chair), Marianne Byrd, Matia Powell

Committee Members Absent: Bonnie Dow, Clay Haynes, Marielena Ramos

Staff: Janine Christiano, Grace Wright, Marysa LaRowe

A. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes: November 8, 2021

A motion to approve the minutes from November 8, 2021 was offered by Commissioner Byrd, Commissioner Bucy seconded, the motion passed.

C. FY22 Thrive Cycle 2 Allocations

Marysa LaRowe presented an overview of the Thrive Cycle 2 Scoring Criteria. Using the scoring criteria, the Community Review Panel recommended the following projects for funding:

Project Name	Lead Artist/Partner	Award Amount	Description
A Bending of Its Own Kind 2.0	Rebekah Hampton Barger/VUMC	\$5,000	Dance and photography inspired by those with chronic pain
Branches of PoeTREE*	Cameron Mitchell /NPL	\$5,000	Poetry Art Trail
Buchanan Arts(BA) Mural*	Alex Lockwood/BA	\$5,000	Found object mural

Caravanserai: A New Year, A New Home	Reza Filsoofi/Global Education Center	\$5,000	Teaching Middle Eastern music to new Americans
Growing Together in Nashville/Connecting Roots	Ayumi Bennett/Nashville Food Project	\$5,000	Graphic food journey map
PYDANCE Performance	Asia Pyron/Centennial Art Center	\$5,000	Dance performance + civil rights history
The Evolution Art Show	Amanda Downs/NPL, MOB	\$5,000	Multi-genre art show with youth
The Living Legacy of College Heights Elders	Mark "Kwesi" McClendon/Vanderbilt Religion and Arts	\$4,995	"Living Stories" kiosks

Chair Bucy asked if there was any discussion.

A motion to approve 8 Thrive Cycle 2 projects for funding was offered by Commissioner Byrd, Commissioner Powell seconded, the motion passed.

D. FY23 Grant Guidelines

Janine Christiano presented the proposed changes to the FY23 Grant Guidelines including:

- Administrative updates
- Updated language to change “Religious content” to add more clarity with the phrase “Religious Practice & Intent”
- Clarifying fundraising policies
- Added an honorarium for community review panelists

Chair Bucy asked if there was any discussion.

The Committee asked for a clarification about the added honorarium and how Metro Arts chooses community panelists. Metro Arts looks for a range of experience and identity that represents Nashville’s diverse community and arts ecosystem. The honorarium is an attempt to compensate these panelists for their time and experience.

The Committee suggested that looking forward, Metro Arts should look to increase the honorariums.

The Committee asked if there were examples of any local entities that had a similar honorarium structure. Staff offered to bring a more detailed response to the Arts Commission meeting.

The Committee discussed reviewing the honorarium structure this year for effectiveness and working towards the idea of consistent of funding.

A motion to approve the FY23 Grant Guidelines was offered by Commissioner Powell, Commissioner Bucy seconded, the motion passed.

E. FY22 REAL Project Guidelines and budget increase

Janine Christiano gave an overview of the Racial Equity in Arts Leadership (REAL) project guidelines and timeline:

- REAL Application due: February 7, 2022
- REAL Projects Funding Announcements: March 18, 2022
- REAL Project Implementation: March 19, 2022- August 15, 2022
- REAL Participant Project Closeout Report: Friday August 26, 2022
- REAL Project Showcase: September 2022 (date TBD)

It was noted that this finding was through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for this program specifically. The guidelines and eligibility come from Metro Arts Mission Statement, Cultural Equity Statement, and REAL program guidelines. Staff is also recommending that an additional \$15,000 in unused funds is added to the available funds.

Chair Bucy asked if there was any discussion.

The Committee asked for clarification about the history of REAL and the emergence of project component. Staff clarified that the project component came out of survey responses from past REAL participants during last year's program re-evaluation.

The Committee asked for clarification about how the funds would be distributed. Staff clarified that every organization participating could potentially receive a grant but that the projects would still go through review for efficacy and feasibility.

A motion to approve of FY22 REAL Project Guidelines and allocation of \$15,000 in unused Thrive Funds for additional REAL projects was offered by Commissioner Byrd, Commissioner Powell seconded, the motion passed.

F. Equity Lens Discussion

Chair Bucy opened discussion of testing the equity lens on the Grants allocation process.

The Committee asked for clarification about the boundaries of the allocation process and what it entailed.

The Committee reviewed the current draft of the Equity Lens and discussed their answers based on the allocations process.

G. Staff Report

There were no additional updates from staff.

H. Set next Committee Meeting

Staff will e-mail the Committee about the upcoming 2022 Grants & Funding Committee meetings.

I. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.