



GRANTS

METRO ARTS / NASHVILLE

MINUTES

Grants and Funding Committee

Tuesday, December 12, 2022

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Metro Southeast Building

Antioch Room

1417 Murfreesboro Pike

Nashville, TN 37217

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

Committee Members Present: Sheri Nichols Bucy (Chair), Clarence Edwards, Marianne Byrd

Members Absent: Clay Haynes, Matia Powell (Ex-Officio)

Metro Arts Staff: Daniel Singh, Ian Myers, Jonathan Saad, Chuck Beard, Marysa LaRowe & Vivian Foxx

A. Welcome and Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bucy at 12:43 pm.

B. Approval of Minutes: October 10, 2022

Chair Sheri Nichols Bucy offered a motion to approve the October 10, 2022, minutes, committee member Marianne Byrd seconded, and the motion passed.

C. Action Items: FY 24 Grant Changes

1. Operating Grants

- a. The staff proposes endorsing the FY24 Operating Grant Funding Formula, stipulating that qualifying entities should hold 501(c)(3) status or have fiscal sponsorship and demonstrate one year of programming, with no obligatory year-round programming. Additionally, it is suggested that the prerequisite for matching funds be eliminated, and the utilization of grant

funds for Capital or Property Purchase or Improvement or Political Lobbying Activities be prohibited.

Chair Sheri Nichols Bucy offered a motion to approve the FY24 Operating Grant Changes, committee member Marianne Byrd seconded, and the motion passed.

2. THRIVE Grants

- a. The staff proposes endorsing FY24 THRIVE Changes, which entail granting amounts of up to \$20K. Eligibility is extended to organizations receiving Metro Arts funding with budgets under \$100K or those led by historically-underrepresented communities, women, or veterans. The approval of Cultivate Grants for Professional Development, Capacity Building, and Disaster Response is recommended, along with the endorsement of the Arts Journalism Internship Program and the Equity Internship Program.

Chair Sheri Nichols Bucy offered a motion to approve the FY24 THRIVE Changes, committee member Clarence Edwards seconded, and the motion passed.

3. New Programs

- a. Staff recommends the approval of FY24 New Program Changes, which introduce the following initiatives:
 - b. Cultivate Grants (subheading under Thrive)
 - i. The program, encompassing Professional Development, Capacity Building, and Disaster Response, addresses community needs and feedback while bolstering the foundation, growth, and impact of artistic endeavors. It assists independent artists and cultural organizations striving for growth and learning, offering a maximum award of \$5,000. The program's awards are reviewed quarterly to ensure effectiveness and relevance.
 - c. Arts Journalism Internship Program
 - i. This program is designed to establish a pathway for aspiring journalists with culturally rich backgrounds and historically limited access to arts journalism opportunities. It aims to enhance and spotlight the Nashville arts scene while providing diverse journalism students a formalized platform to immerse themselves in and promote the arts community of Davidson County. Through

shadowing experiences, mentorship, and curated guidance, these students will connect their cultural perspectives to the arts and contribute to published works. The program also supports local artists, arts organizations, new projects, and media outlets through the interns' output. The initiative allocates an annual budget of \$225,000 for two semesters, distributing \$75,000 to Journalism or Criticism Interns from HBCUs or aspiring journalists with limited access, \$75,000 for a Contract Editor/Curator for mentoring and curation, and \$75,000 to media outlets to showcase artists' work and narratives.

d. Equity Internship Program

- i. This program is formerly known as DIAL (Diversity in Arts Leadership), collaborates with AFTA (Americans for the Arts) to facilitate year-round professional development partnerships between Davidson County arts organizations and underrepresented undergraduate college students or recent high school graduates, historically excluded from administrative arts roles. The program boosts accessibility by raising awards to \$7,500 for each study block (e.g., Summer, Semester), with direct payment to students and \$2,500 allocated to micro, small, or medium-sized arts organizations involved in the partnership.

Chair Sheri Nichols Bucy offered a motion to approve the FY24 New Program Changes, committee member Marianne Byrd seconded, and the motion passed.

F. **Staff Report**

- a. Daniel provided an update on the Public Editing Process, highlighting positive feedback indicating appreciation and support for the equity and access enhancements made. The community's deep engagement in the process was also well-received. While most feedback was favorable and aligned with the proposals, two recurring suggestions were noted for future attention: 1) The need for more substantial equity-focused steps beyond the current changes, as they were seen as favoring larger organizations; and 2) Addressing the transition between budget categories on a case-by-case basis. These concerns will be proactively addressed in the future, though they do not directly affect the current proposals. Other feedback unrelated to the immediate programs was collected and documented for consideration within the coming year. Additionally, certain

public comments that weren't addressed during the editing process will require subsequent action by Metro Arts.

G. **Old/New Business**

There was no new or old business discussion during this session, and these topics have been deferred to the next meeting for further consideration.

H. **Adjourn Meeting**

Chair **Sheri Nichols Bucy** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Committee Member Clarence Edwards seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at **2:26 PM.**