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REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION OF ST. LOUIS



**Regional Arts Commission
Grants Committee Minutes
September 17, 2021 @ 11 a.m. via ZOOM**

Attendees

➡ Andréa Purnell, Chair, Rhonda Carter Adams, Heather Corcoran, Roz Johnson

Absent

Mont Levy, Mary Walsh

Staff: Vanessa Cooksey, Rita Dillard, Chloe Smith, Lea Sutherlin

Welcome & Call to Order

Purnell called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and noted that she would need to leave this meeting early for an unexpected work meeting; noted that she met earlier with staff and fully endorses today's presentations; offered 1:1 meeting(s) with other committee members if needed.

Purnell asked Cooksey to present the 2021 grants update and the financial update.

2021 Grants Update

➡ Cooksey presented the 2021 update on arts organizations and general operating support grantees and grants for artists; reminded of lack of resources to provide new grant support for artists in 2021.

Financial Update

Cooksey then shared that she met with Rick Gratz, CFO/KEB to develop a 2022 budget forecast with only Hotel/Motel Sales Tax revenue. She noted that the national forecast indicates Hotel/Motel RevPAR should be on track for full recovery in 2024. She then presented the 2022 proposed grants and program budget including GOS, PS, Artist Support, and Strategic Plan/Initiative Investments.

Adams noted that she appreciated this forecast and asked thoughts of seasoned committee members about focus on awarding grants and dollars allotted based on history of grantmaking at RAC.

Purnell shared the precedents for the Grants Committee and Finance Committee, respectively, and how funds should be spent; the role of timing and structure of meetings; she reminded that much of this is to be determined by unknown numbers and today's proposals still require validation.

Cooksey shared RAC's revenue and expense analysis which reflected RAC grantmaking 2007 – 2020.

Johnson asked about funds allocated to the strategic plan/initiatives which is the third largest amount.

Cooksey noted she is scheduled to have conversations with Wilson and Soluadé to discuss allocations and line items for strategic plan/initiatives funds; will ultimately present to the full commission.

2022 Grantmaking Proposal

Cooksey then presented the 2022 grantmaking proposal; reminded it was sent to this Committee as a pre-read for this meeting; proposal included process improvements for Program Support Grants and Artist Support Grants; Chloe leading the efforts for the new GMS.

Cooksey then shared the following for Program Support Grants: historical, current and 2022 recommended processes for the following: application submission; determining eligibility; rating scale; and matching requirement; review process – which has two options (noted that staff prefers option 1).

Johnson noted that she also preferred option 1; gives level of transparency that will work in RAC's favor whether application is approved or not.

Cooksey concurred; new GMS allows for comments and robust feedback that can also be provided to applicants.

Corcoran also concurred.

Cooksey continued with Program Support Grant proposed appeals process which also had two options; Chloe explained staff preference for option 1.

Cooksey continued with Program Support Grant proposal for disbursements; GOS eligibility clause and other improvements including contracts, evaluation, application and funding amounts in progress; engaged Liz Deichmann to develop logic model so questions asked in application and final report will assist with data; overarching application will be on new technology platform; Chloe doing an amazing job.

Cooksey then presented proposed process improvement for Artist Support Grant applications, review and approval schedule, rating scale, review process with two options (noted staff recommends option one); disbursements and other improvements in progress including contracts, evaluation, application, and funding amounts.

All present committee members support recommended changes.

Next Steps

Cooksey noted that the next meeting would be a 30-minute session held the week of Oct 4th for committee members who could not attend to provide feedback and to seek approval to move this proposal forward to the full commission.

Adjourn

Meeting ended at 11:55 a.m.

Submitted by

L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator