

**Regional Arts Commission
Grants & Programs Committee Minutes
January 19, 2023 @ 8 a.m. via ZOOM**

Committee Members

Roz Johnson, chair, Beverly Isom, David Wilson, Andréa Purnell (ex-officio)

Absent

Vin Ko

Staff in Attendance:

Vanessa Cooksey, Ann Haubrich, Chloe Smith, Leigh Winter, Lea Sutherlin

Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Johnson shared the following: (1) she is excited to serve as vice chair of full Commission and chair of this Committee; (2) team continues to provide amazing service to RAC grantees that is fair, equitable and user friendly; and (3) “hats off” to Cooksey and team for stewarding strong finances.

Johnson then called for the approval of the minutes from the November 10, 2022, Grants and Programs Committee meeting.

Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Isom, and unanimously carried to approve the November 10, 2022, minutes.

Johnson asked staff to report.

Staff shared the following PPT presentation and reported on the following:

Hotel/Motel Tax Grants Cycle Highlights (Haubrich)

Haubrich shared goal to distribute \$3M in General Operating Support (GOS), Program Support (PS) and Artist Support (AS) grants; shared process in detail; invited application testers; shared AS and PS timeline from pre-application to grant programming timeframe.

ARPA Funds Update (Cooksey)

Cooksey shared the following: (1) goal to distribute \$5M in ARPA grants; (2) contract with CDA has been signed although several steps remain in the process and intentional about working with CDA to ensure intentions align with the policy that govern the funds; (3) will distribute \$5M of the \$9M available in line with current grant infrastructure; (4) intentional about completing Hotel/Motel tax funds grants first, then ARPA as there are different rules and guidelines; (5) also intentional about completing Hotel/Motel grants first for County grantees as they are not eligible for City ARPA grants; and (6) 2023 will be a historic year in grantmaking at RAC.

CAT Institute Update (Haubrich)

Haubrich shared the following CAT Institute update: (1) will complete with 17 participants this year including Vanessa Cooksey who has applied as a CAT candidate; (2) sessions will be held February through June; (3) Pacia Anderson continues to lead a cutting-edge program; (4) the 2023 CAT Fellows will participate in a total of 120 hours of training; and (5) interviews have been completed and there is an impressive pool of candidates.

GYO Obata Fellowship Update (Haubrich)

Hubrich shared the following GYO Obata Fellowship update: (1) will complete year two from last year with 10 participants in summer 2023 [noted first cohort was pre-pandemic and program was on pause until last year]; (2) program lead Shevaré Perry is working hard to implement the 2023 Fellowship; (3) with support from the Gateway Foundation, will increase stipend from 4K to between \$6,800-\$8,000, in alignment with living wage best practices; and (4) extended invitation to members of this Committee to serve as GYO Obata mentors.

Overview - Mid-America Arts Alliance/Artist Inc. (Cooksey/Haubrich)

Haubrich asked Cooksey to share context regarding Mid-America Arts Alliance/Artist Inc. Express and Artist Inc. Live.

Cooksey recalled that at the end of 2021, strategic investments with various initiatives were made with extra Hotel/Motel tax funds, in alignment with the strategic plan. She noted that Mid-America Arts Alliance was among the first service organizations that reach out upon her arrival at RAC, and that with the need to provide capacity building, programs, and resources in the sector, this would be a good pilot program to test artists capacity building. Cooksey added that the program was paid at the end of 2021, and that because 2022 was a busy year for RAC, the program will now be executed in 2023.

Haubrich shared the following: (1) Mid-America Arts Alliance serves Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma; (2) RAC is working on two (2) professional development programs with the organization – Artist Inc. Express during February and April, and Artist Leadership Fellows Programs - participants will receive \$500 stipend through the Mid-America Arts Alliance partnership.

Feedback/Discussion

Johnson called for questions, feedback and open discussion.

Discussions held regarding the following: (1) CAT Institute pool of applicants; (2) example of elevator speech regarding difference between CAT Institute and the Mid-America Arts Alliance programs; (3) great work being done by Scherder and Schipkowski on RAC website and social

media and keeping everyone informed; (4) plans for unrestricted funding for GOS organizations; (5) criteria and due diligence in helping organizations move forward; (6) need for unrestricted dollars to prevent sector level failure; and (7) A&E challenges to be addressed during January 23rd full Commission meeting.

Adjourn

Johnson adjourned the January 19, 2023 Grants & Programs meeting at 8:46 a.m.

Attachments

- Minutes – Grants Committee meeting, November 10, 2022

Submitted by

L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator