

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

Committee Members in Attendance

Roz Johnson, Chair, Robert Arbuthnot, Beverly Isom, David Wilson

Committee Members Absent

Angela Williams, Andréa Purnell, ex-officio

Staff in Attendance:

Vanessa Cooksey, Tony Chance, Ann Haubrich, Angie Peters, Chloe Smith, Leigh Winter, Lea Sutherlin

Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and welcomed RAC's new board member and newest member of the Grants & Programs Committee, Mr. Robert Arbuthnot.

Commissioner Arbuthnot shared his excitement about being a member of the Commission and the Grants & Programs Committee, and extended his assistance wherever needed. *(Note to minutes: Commissioner Arbuthnot not sworn-in at the time of this meeting; will abstain from voting)*

Johnson then called for the approval of the minutes of the August 17, 2023, Grants and Programs Committee meeting.

Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Isom, and unanimously carried to approve the August 17, 2023, minutes. Vote was as follows:

Yea – Johnson, Wilson, Isom

Nay - None

Abstain - Arbuthnot

Johnson asked staff to present the following reports:

Update on Programs (Haubrich)

Haubrich reported on the following programs: (1) Community Arts Training Institute (CAT) – three projects that came through the cohort that will wrap up by year end, cost

savings tools, and planning for new platform; (2) Gyo Obata 2023 - fellowship a success, living wage for student fellows, feedback, professional development sessions, student fellow tracking, and working with Rita Dillard on protocols and guidelines for internships in the workplace (3) St. Louis Artist INC (Mid-America Arts Alliance) – meetings held weekly during September - November, a professional development program for individual artists, and invites will be sent to Commissioners for the November 14 culminating event, and 2024 sessions will begin September 17.

Wilson inquired about, and Haubrich responded to, cost savings for the CAT program.

ARPA for the Arts Update (Cooksey)

Cooksey gave the following update on ARPA for the Arts: (1) Tracey and team closed applications on 10/15; still in grant distribution; completed GOS organization payments; completing distribution to artists and arts organizations; kudos to Tracey Morgan, Ann Haubrich and their teams on working together to ensure distribution of funds across the city; Foundry space has proven helpful for artists and arts organizations to come in and get help with their applications; will process will be completed by November 15; working on second round of money - Tourism Grants for organizations and public art; and GOS grantees worked on interesting projects. Asked Chloe Smith to comment on murals and tourism dollars.

Smith shared the following: (1) working with Morgan and her team on guidelines for applications for murals/tourism; two murals per each of the 14 wards; Nichole Belford working with alderpersons to choose murals for the wards based on apps; applicants open during February with goal to complete murals June or July; working with CDA; plans currently in draft form and will share on website when final.

Cooksey added that all is on track to distribute ARPA funds by the deadline; Tony Chance doing a great job on compliance and reporting; moving forward with the Foundry 360 Immersive Experience, thanks to the approval of the Commission; and tentative open house for Foundry/360 Immersive Experience is December 13. Cooksey then shared data on the Foundry and noted 1.1M visitors at that location, a great exposure for artists and arts organizations.

Wilson noted that projects are exciting. Wilson then asked for, and Smith provided, clarity on murals, artists, and requirements.

Isom inquired about, and Cooksey responded to, alderpersons working with residents to determine location for murals.

2024 Hotel/Motel Grantmaking (Haubrich)

Haubrich reported on 2024 Hotel/Motel Grantmaking and provided context for the timeline included in the packet for this meeting as follows: (1) she [Haubrich] and Cooksey met with nine (9) of the 40 General Operating Support (GOS) cohorts from 2019 to communicate RAC's model of bringing accountability, accessibility, equity and parity to grantmaking, capping the largest grants available and unrestricted funding [she noted that cohorts expressed appreciation to RAC for transparency]; (2) *New in 2024 ...* [a] all arts and cultural organizations will be eligible to apply for unrestricted funding - building equity in the process; [b] will set up a financial review panel in addition to the regular review panel with budgets larger than \$500K – will work with VLAA and other key financial partners to assist; [c] Program Support Grants will be available to non-arts organizations, including university programs,

with a maximum grant amount of \$10K; [d] artists with LLCs will now be eligible to apply; and [e] returning to two (2) artist support distributions per year, and simplifying the process.

Grant Agreement

Haubrich reported the following: (1) Cooksey worked diligently with RAC's attorney Travis Kearbey on condensing the Grant Agreement, included in the packet for this meeting; (2) Grant Agreement can now serve as a template for any grantmaking moving forward; and (3) asked Johnson to call for a vote to approve the Grant Agreement.

Johnson thanked Cooksey for her diligent work on the document and noted (1) that the revisions removed the legalese from the agreement, while remaining legally compliant; (2) protects the grantee and RAC; and (3) as noted by Haubrich, has multiple use.

Johnson then called for any comments or concerns prior to the vote.

Wilson asked if there were any elements of concern that this committee should be made aware of prior to the vote.

Cooksey noted the following: (1) no concerns; (2) current grant agreement was developed 20 years ago; (3) this grant agreement is reflective of RAC keeping with changing times and after researching memberships e.g., Grantmakers in the Arts, to make process easier for grantor and grantee; and (4) RAC is coming up to speed with accountability and rigor.

Johnson then reviewed key points found on the document.

Cooksey then noted it is important to have a standard grant template when attaching other documents for compliance, and this gives a good baseline when diversifying revenue and having good source of documentation.

Haubrich noted that it has been interesting working with Morgan and the ARPA grant, and meshing contract languages.

Johnson touched on accountability and accessibility and that the new agreement works well as a guiding light for grantmaking processes.

Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Isom, and unanimously carried to approve the Grant Agreement. Vote was as follows:

Yea – Johnson, Wilson, Isom

Nay - None

Abstain - Arbuthnot

Feedback/Discussion

Cooksey shared her excitement about CULTURA on October 23, and noted that (1) it was a sold-out conference; (2) there has been a lot of staff support; and (3) it would be a well-organized and well executed experience.

Isom inquired about, and brief discussion held, regarding recent case studies related to local theaters.

Haubrich acknowledged that the ‘heavy lift’ of grantmaking could not get done without the Grants Team, Chloe Smith, and Leigh Winter, and thanked them for their hard work.

Adjourn

Motion made by Isom, seconded by Wilson and unanimous to adjourn the October 19, 2023 Grants & Programs meeting at 8:49 a.m. Vote was as follows:

Yea – Johnson, Wilson, Isom

Nay - None

Abstain - Arbuthnot

Attachments

- Minutes – Grants Committee meeting, August 17, 2023
- 2024 Hotel/Motel Grantmaking Timeline
- Grant Agreement

Submitted by Lea Sutherlin

Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator