



**Regional Arts Commission  
Grants & Programs Committee Minutes  
November 14, 2024 via ZOOM  
9:30 a.m.**

**Call to Order**

Gennaria called the November 14, 2024, meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and asked Lea to conduct the Committee roll call.

**Committee Members in Attendance**

Jerry Gennaria - chair, Robert Arbuthnot, Angela Williams, David Wilson, Roz Johnson – ex officio

**Staff Attendees**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Gennaria then called for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 29, 2024, Grants & Programs Committee meeting.

**Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Williams, and unanimously carried to approve the August 29, 2024 Grants & Programs Committee minutes. Votes were as follows:**

**Yea – Gennaria, Arbuthnot, Williams, Wilson, Johnson**

**Nay – none**

**Abstain - none**

Gennaria called for the following reports:

**FY 2025 Hotel/Motel Grants**

Haubrich reported on the FY 2025 Hotel/Motel Grants as follows: (1) announcement timeline for Artist Support Grants (ASG), Organizational Support Grants (OSG), and Program Support Grants (PSG), respectively; (2) unrestricted funding guidelines for OSGs and RAC staff input based on published sustainability and criteria; (3) stipulations based on reviewer comment toward smart and strategic grantmaking; (4) working with KEB on developing a realistic budget for Grants & Programs; (5) guidelines for non-arts organizations; (6) artist support grant distribution budget; (7) will continue to simplify application process. Haubrich asked Smith to comment.





Smith highlighted (1) best practices in implementing a lottery process; (2) research cohorts; (3) specific categories; and (4) looking at review scores from those already received to help inform the overall process.

Wilson asked for clarity on the lottery process as it relates to categories scoring levels.

Haubrich shared elements of a possible lottery process.

Cooksey noted that commissioner input is welcome, and further clarified elements of a possible lottery process.

Gennaria noted the following: (1) potentially model it out based on the past couple of years of grantmaking; (2) challenges of top group; and (3) question about data on how funded.

Williams noted the following: (1) equity issue in the funding process, lack of resources and use of a lottery system as a solve; and (2) addressing imbalances.

Johnson reminded that during a prior meeting of this committee, it was agreed to model it out.

Discussion held on the following: (1) margin of error and scoring levels; (2) funding percentages; (3) prioritizing increased requests; (4) diversification of revenue; and (5) alternative approaches [a] limit funding eligibility to applicants who have not received funding in the previous year or for two consecutive years; and [b] implement a moratorium on funding for certain categories each year to ensure fair distribution across all areas.

Winter shared data on scoring levels.

Gennaria noted the following: (1) that he will work with the Grants Team to model potential outcomes from the 2024 fall cycle while incorporating simulations based on two concepts, suggested by Wilson, [the 1–2 year pause on funding eligibility] and [a moratorium on certain categories]; (2) he [Gennaria] and the team will assess whether these solutions effectively address the current challenges; and (3) once the simulations are complete, he [Gennaria] will present findings to this committee for further review before presenting recommendations to the full commission.

#### **FY 2024 Hotel/Motel Grants Recap**

Haubrich shared the Grants Comparison Chart 2022-2024 as follows: (1) FY 2024 Hotel/Motel Grants recap; (2) fall grants press release went out on November 13; (3) total Hotel/Motel Grants made in 2024; (4) team will continue office hours with artists; and (5) deeper dive on how to improve further in 2025.

#### **ARPA Funds Update**

Cooksey provided the following ARPA funds update: (1) all tasks have been completed; (2) a monitoring visit with the CDA has been scheduled for November 19; (3) one artist did not obtain insurance for their





mural, marking the only issue among the 28 murals created over the past six months; (4) CDA reported no financial discrepancies with federal, city, or CDA funds; (5) gratitude was expressed for finishing everything in 15 months; (6) the impact of the murals will be presented at the upcoming annual board meeting; and (7) the RAC has successfully passed the review and is now in the process of gathering documentation and reporting, while also continuing to effectively utilize the Foundry location.

### **Program Updates**

Gennaria asked Haubrich to share program updates.

#### CAT Institute

Haubrich gave the following update on the CAT Institute: (1) cohort 27 began in October and will finish in March 2025; (2) she [Haubrich] will lead 2 cohort sessions; (3) a younger cohort than traditional CAT cohort in age, practice and experience – approaching new information and challenges; (4) great partnership with Great Rivers Greenway – providing lab projects infrastructure with ability to expand beyond the institute; and (5) a diverse range of faculty working with the cohort and appreciation of wealth of wisdom in the room.

#### Artist INC

Haubrich gave the following update on Artist INC: (1) professional development program in partnership with Mid-America Arts Alliance; (2) cohort of 25 participants – widely diverse, interesting group of people (3) cohort completed the eight weeks program and shared culminating presentations on November 12; and (4) shared participant email about the positive experience.

#### Public Art

Haubrich asked Smith to report.

Smith shared the following: (1) worked with Governance Committee to get charter approved; (2) working in 2025 to set up the Public Art committee to work on all the public art projects that come across the table; and (3) Public Art committee will meet four (4) times a year quarterly.

Haubrich added that Smith and Sutherlin will work toward a joint meeting of the Grants and Programs Committee and the Public Art Committee.

Cooksey added the following: (1) reminded that RAC's work in this space has been ongoing; (2) noted for the work Smith has put into public art strategy while working with Justice and Joy, and as RAC evolves and continues to move forward in a way that is responsive to grantees and in alignment with the needs of the sector; (3) having a public art committee of the Board sends the signal of importance and provides a way to connect with experts by having non-commissioners be part of this committee; (4) serves as a pipeline for commission appointments; and (5) expressed appreciation for Smith's lift and the work of the Governance Committee to make this a reality.

Smith also thanked Sutherlin for her support toward the new Public Art Committee.





**REGIONAL ARTS  
COMMISSION**  
OF ST. LOUIS

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**Adjournment**

Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Johnson, and unanimously approved to adjourn the November 14, 2024 Grants & Programs Committee meeting at 10:15 a.m.

**Votes were as follows:**

**Yea – Gennaria, Arbuthnot, Williams, Wilson, Johnson**

**Nay – none**

**Abstain - none**

Submitted by

L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator

**Attachments**

- Grants & Programs Committee Minutes, August 22, 2024
- Grants Comparison Chart 2022-2024

