



**Regional Arts Commission
Grants & Programs Committee Minutes
February 8, 2024 via ZOOM
9:30 a.m.**

Call to Order

Gennaria called the February 8, 2024, meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Lea to conduct the Committee roll call.

Committee Members in Attendance

Jerry Gennaria - chair, Robert Arbuthnot, Angela Williams, David Wilson

Absent

Roz Johnson

Staff Attendees

Ann Haubrich, Tracey Morgan, Chloe Smith, Leigh Winter, Tony Chance, Angie Peters, Lea Sutherlin

Approval of Minutes

Gennaria then called for the approval of the minutes from the October 19, 2023, Grants & Programs Committee meeting.

Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Williams, and unanimously carried to approve the October 19, 2023 Grants & Programs Committee minutes. Votes were as follows:

Yea – Gennaria, Arbuthnot, Williams, Wilson

Nay – none

Abstain - none

Gennaria asked Haubrich to report on the following:

2024 Hotel/Motel Tax Grants Cycle

Haubrich reported on the 2024 Hotel/Motel Tax Grants Cycle as follows: (1) annual grants opened on February 5 and applications already being received; (2) office hours at the Foundry on a weekly basis for artists and arts organizations with Haubrich [theater companies and nonprofits for special education students] and Smith [variety of disciplines, and requests for reapplication along with new artists]; (3) grant money available for Artist Support - \$1M, Artist Organizations - \$2.25M and Program Support - \$150K; (4) offering nonrestricted funding for arts organizations based on budget size; (5) arts organization financial review panel for budgets over \$500K in addition to regular review panels; (6) two





cycles for the Artist Support grants, March 4 [grants made in May], and August 2 [grants made in November] and Program Support grants timeline same as Organizations; (7) Haubrich and Smith pre-recorded workshop series for all applicants underway; and (8) in-person workshops at The Foundry - with help from VLAA on the Financial Statements Clinic for Organization Applicants [2/20], on completing the Artist Support Application [2/21], and completing the Organization and Program support applications [3/12].

ARPA Funds Update (Haubrich/Morgan)

Haubrich shared the following update on ARPA for the Arts Citywide Impact Tourism Grants: (1) sizeable ARPA grants aimed at increasing tourism and participation in the arts by STL residents and visitors; (2) budget of \$4.5M; (3) successful applicants will receive a 3-year grant, ranging from \$500,000 to more than \$1M; (3) Haubrich and Cooksey met with six [6] organizations in December explain rigorous reporting and relationship building as part of the three year grant; (4) received 15 applications by February 1 deadline; and (5) review panel, made up of RAC commissioners, staff, and Sue Greenberg [VLAA] will convene on February 16 to determine awardees.

Haubrich then asked Morgan to report on the mural project.

Morgan shared the following update on Mural Grants: (1) mural project has launched; (2) partnership with City of St. Louis to provide two [2] murals across each of the 14 wards; (3) artists reaching out daily with questions regarding guidelines; (4) MARCOMM sent out press release and receiving outstanding media attention including Scherder interviews with *KMOV 4*, *STL Fox 2*, *Riverfront Times*, *Spectrum Times*, and a scheduled interview with *KSDK 5*; (4) contacted alderpersons - some already engaged with this project and will involve their communities; (6) will contract a public art specialist who will assist with selecting the final artists; and (7) applications close March 14.

Arbuthnot asked about lightbox project at the Foundry.

Morgan noted the project is underway, anticipate completion by 2/9 and up for testing by 2/12.

Gennaria asked if there would be sufficient applications to select from for the mural project, based on inquiries.

Morgan noted that she is confident there will be an adequate number of applications as community leaders and alderpersons are providing input and outreach.

CAT Institute Update

Haubrich gave the following update on the CAT Institute: (1) "inspired leadership" from Pacia Anderson; (2) 27th CAT cohort will commence in 2024; (3) activation of the CAT Alumni Network; (4) during the spring, selection of CAT Alumni Council, alumni website listing, alumni gathering during the summer; (5) application process begins in July, and Cohort training scheduled for October through March; (6) recalled the three \$5000 grants provided by RAC to the three lab teams from CAT cohort 26; (7) successfully





executed projects wrapped up in December [a] community story project at Wohl Recreation Center, [b] the Healing Art Space Project, and [c] a visual and literary arts project in Normandy, where the CAT team worked with elementary school children for a period of eight weeks; and (8) Haubrich and Anderson discussions with Great Rivers Greenway regarding a 2025 partnership for CAT Cohort 27.

GYO Obata Fellowship

Haubrich gave the following update on the GYO Obata Fellowship [GOF]: (1) application process will soon begin for third consecutive year of the Gyo Obata Fellowship, supported by the Gateway Foundation; (2) reminded that GOF aim is to build a more equitable field of arts administration in the STL region by supporting substantive, full-time summer work opportunities for college undergraduates from backgrounds who have been traditionally underrepresented in the arts; (3) 10 week paid summer fellowship provides 10 college students with a hands-on introduction to STL arts organizations; (4) program lead, Angela Rhone, is working on a recruitment plan for both the students/fellows as well as the arts organizations; (5) applications for both fellows and host organizations will open on February 26, with selections made in April; and (6) RAC's Research and Evaluation Manager, MK Stallings, will begin tracking and gathering data on the fellows from the past 3 years as well as the pilot year, in 2019.

Artist INC

Haubrich gave the following update on Artist INC: (1) First full year of programming with Mid-America Arts Alliance for Artists INC has been scheduled; and (2) this program provides two areas of professional development for STL area artists – Artists INC Express and Artists INC Live, which creates peer-to-peer networks within the realm of the professional development.

Haubrich extended kudos and appreciation to Smith, Winter, Anderson, Rhone, and the entire RAC staff for their hard work in making possible the many exciting happenings at RAC.

Brief discussion held regarding Gyo Obata and the possibility of continued funding from the Gateway Foundation, based on that organization's grant requirements.

Williams extended kudos to everyone for all the hard work being done and great reporting, and asked if numbers related to the online, pre-recorded grant writing workshops are being tracked.

Winter noted that she will request that information from Marcomm.

Haubrich added that it would also be interesting to track the office hours relative to her and Smith addressing questions in person.

Smith noted that RSVPs for in-person inquiries can help track those numbers.

Brief discussion held on (1) best way to direct artists who might not be familiar with RAC but interested in applying; (2) directing those artists to the RAC website which includes, guidelines, budget samples, FAQs, and other key information.





Winter placed the RAC website and Grants links in the chat for this meeting.

Additional brief discussion held on returning grantee applicants and additional information on ARPA grants.

Adjournment

Wilson also gave kudos to staff for all the good work being done.

Gennaria concurred on behalf of the committee.

Motion made by Wilson, seconded by Williams, and unanimously approved to adjourn the February 8, 2024 Grants & Programs Committee meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Votes were as follows:

Yea – Gennaria, Arbuthnot, Williams, Wilson

Nay – none

Abstain - none

Submitted by

L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator

Attachments

- Grants & Programs Committee Minutes, October 19, 2023

