

**Regional Arts Commission
Grants & Programs Committee Minutes
May 11, 2023 @ 8 a.m. via ZOOM**

Committee Members in Attendance

Roz Johnson, chair, Sukanya Mani, David Wilson

Absent

Beverly Isom, 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 8:02 a.m.

Johnson then called for the approval of the minutes from the January 19, 2023, Grants and Programs Committee meeting.

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

Johnson asked staff to present the following reports:

ARPA for the Arts Update (Cooksey)

Cooksey welcomed Sukanya Mani to her first Grants and Programs meeting and reported on the following: (1) shared ARPA for the Arts allocation plan including revenue replacement for FY23, negative economic impact for tourism FY24, and administrative expenses FY23 – FY26; (2) update on ARPA for the Arts Lead interviews; (3) securing lease for The Foundry arts pop up facility; and (4) working on request for possible STL County ARPA funds.

Brief discussion held regarding qualifying wards as outlined in the ordinance.

Update on Programs & Save the Date (Haubrich)

Haubrich gave kudos to Smith and Winter for their outstanding work with Blackbaud, and reported on the following: (1) CAT – first session held with the 2023 cohort with

topics ranging from the history of community arts in STL and beyond, RAC making funding available for CAT Lab Teams' application and presentation process to receive \$5,000 grant for project implementation, extended invitation to Lab Teams projects pitch on June 3 @ 11a – 12:30p; and (2) Gyo Obata Fellowship (GOF) - program off to a running start, 10 fellows [STLCC, McKendree, University of Kentucky, Webster, and WashU] have been paired with 10 STL arts organizations for a paid summer internship, extended invite to GOF kick-off on June 1 @ 9a – 11a at the National Blues Museum;

Grants Update (Haubrich)

Haubrich recapped the packet for this meeting as follows: (1) Program Support – in midst of reviewing ratings; (2) there were 65 reviewers for both Program Support and Artist Support combined; (3) conducted training for review panels including an unbiased training session with Rudy Nickens; (4) 52% increase in eligible Program Support and 49% increase in eligible Artist Support applications from last year (2022) – eligible names included in the packet for this meeting; and (5) from January through March, she and Smith visited each GOS organization and gathered information on common challenges - shared key information learned from those meetings. Haubrich added that during the GOS meetings, executive directors requested professionally facilitated board development for their executive director roundtables – for which RAC is paying a reasonable fee to the Rome Group for a facilitator.

Haubrich further noted that RAC staff has recommended the following totals from Hotel/Motel revenue for 2023 - GOS \$1,629,359. She added the RAC request for 2023 Program Support totals \$1,683,070; and Artist Support requests total \$1,177,515.

2023 Key Learnings for 2024 (Haubrich)

Haubrich reported the following: (1) applicant surveys were recently returned and results are under review; (2) the preapplication process was very helpful to applicants; (3) staff continues to support/assist applicants and grantees; (4) RAC will continue to create accessible processes and systems for artists and arts organizations; (5) 2024 - will offer Sustaining Grants for organizational grants which means that arts groups may apply for unrestricted funds and non-arts organizations will be eligible for Program Support only; (6) Sustaining Grant will carry a 3-year commitment, and include an annual review; (7) Artist Support Grants will be Responsive Grants, and made available quarterly.

Feedback/Discussion

Committee feedback included the following:

Wilson: Impressed with approach being taken, adaptive, supportive, and interactive; mission to promote collaboration.

Mani: Appreciate idea of meeting with orgs in person as it is what they need.

Johnson: A greater transparency around the process; signals an intent to want to support artists and how RAC supports arts in the community; thanked Haubrich and her team.

Cooksey noted that Winter, Haubrich and Smith have all done an outstanding job; would like this Committee to start thinking about how to best help support and engage the boards of these organizations and the impact of board leadership on an org – e.g. recent media surrounding Jazz St. Louis and their relationship with Cbabi; consider talent, reputation, etc. and further

incorporate board assessment in grantmaking process, how it is weighted and impact of work orgs are doing.

Adjourn

Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Mani and unanimous to adjourn the May 11, 2023 Grants & Programs meeting at **8:33 a.m.**

Attachments

- Minutes – Grants Committee meeting, January 19, 2023
- Committee Recommendation Sheet – May 2023
- ARPA for the Arts Distribution Plan

Submitted by Lea Sutherlin
Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator