



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

Call to Order

Gennaria called the May 9, 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

Committee Member Absent

Roz Johnson – ex officio

Staff Attendees

Vanessa Cooksey, Ann Haubrich, Pacia Anderson, Tracey Morgan, Leigh Winter, Angie Peters, Lea Sutherlin

Approval of Minutes

Gennaria then called for the approval of the minutes from the February 8, 2024, Grants & Programs Committee meeting.

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Wilson, and unanimously carried to approve the February 8, 2024 Grants & Programs Committee minutes. Votes were as follows:

Yea – Gennaria, Arbuthnot, Williams, Wilson

Nay – none

Abstain - none

Gennaria called for the following reports:

2024 Hotel/Motel Tax Grants Cycle

Haubrich noted that this work has been “challenging and exciting,” and thanked Smith and Winter for their ongoing work and support, along with this Committee. She also thanked the full Commission for their timely turnaround of the Artist Support Grant vote. Haubrich then reported on the 2024 Hotel/Motel Tax Grants Cycle as follows: (1) strategy for awards that were eligible but not granted because of budget challenges; (2) Cooksey will deliver key messaging during June 5 Town Hall including information on the overall landscape, economy, hotel motel volatility, and supply and demand; (3) Organization and Program Support grants will be presented for approval at June 20 full Commission



meeting; (3) grants update document included in the packet for this meeting; (4) eligible scores and available funding; (5) those Artist Support applicant's eligible but not funded will be encouraged to apply again for the summer round/cycle, and sessions will be held at the Foundry to assist those applicants; (6) gave update on applications for Organizations and Restricted Grants, and Program Support Grants – both under review; (7) she will share more in-depth analysis of the 2024 Grants rounds during the August meeting of this Committee; (8) on the right course with simplifying applications, holding in-person office hours, published resources, and the in-person and virtual workshops; and (8) implementing financial review panel for review of organizational applicant budgets of \$500K+ has been well received.

ARPA Funds Update (Haubrich/Cooksey/Morgan)

Tourism Grants (Cooksey)

Cooksey reported as follows: (1) RAC continues to work with CDA to distribute funds in accordance with the Treasury categories of revenue replacement and income replacement; (2) CDA changes have required RAC to pivot and align distribution with City ordinance and with the U.S. Treasury ARPA Bill, resulting in dollar amount adjustments for both tourism grants and mural grants; (3) presented PPT with alignment requirement categories of spending - General Operating Support, Program Support, Artist Support and revenue replacement; and (4) partnering with CDA to supply required documents so as not to delay RAC's ability to distribute funds.

Brief discussion held on (1) RAC compliance with rules provided by CDA and changes resulting in funding adjustments (2) RAC announcement and quasi commitments; (3) blind selection process of mural artists; and (4) reduction of funds while maintaining quality.

Cooksey then noted the following: (1) announcement of deliverables will occur; (2) objective is to distribute/get funds out of the account; and (3) and to pursue other diverse revenue.

Brief discussion held on overall operations of CDA.

Mural Grants (Morgan)

Morgan reported as follows: (1) recalled to this Committee that 14 meetings were held with ward alderpersons along with public art specialists, Chloe Smith as RAC's public arts lead, and other key members from SLDC, PDA and CDA; (2) overall, a thoughtful process on how artists selected and locations chosen: (3) 29 artists have been selected as potential muralists with 25 approved to date with a limit of 28 total; (4) in process of contacting and sending out approvals; (5) alderpersons suggested some of the locations and she (Morgan) is working with Missouri Department of Transportation, Saint Louis Public Schools, and local businesses to get their approval of the walls; and (6) will have full list and additional information at the June 20 full Commission meeting.

CAT Institute Update (Haubrich/Anderson)

Haubrich reported that the next session of CAT will be Cohort 27, under the strong leadership of Pacia Anderson. Haubrich then asked Anderson to report.





Anderson highlighted the following: (1) in the interest of time, shared her email in this meeting chat for for questions; (2) presented PPT on 2024 Goals Overview including alumni engagement, partnerships, and Cohort 27 updates, and marketing and digital strategies; (3) details of the CAT alumni page on RAC's website -extended 'kudos' to Jason Schipkowski for his support and outstanding work; (4) engagement events and opportunities; (5) thanked Cooksey for her leadership and assistance on recommending a mental health professional work with CATs during the Cohort 27 sessions; and (6) partnership and lab team project collaboration with Great Rivers Greenway.

Arbuthnot left the meeting.

Artist INC

Haubrich gave the following update on Artist INC: (1) reminded that Artist INC provides professional development for local artists; (2) this is year two of that partnership – going well; (3) Scherder and MARCOMM team doing a great job on getting the word out; (4) eight weeks of training will begin this fall; and (5) good responses received for Artist INC virtual and in-person application training, during the months of May and June, prior to the application deadline.

Cooksey reminded that June meeting agenda will be full. She then acknowledged Haubrich, Smith, Winter, and Morgan for their continued amazing work.

Adjournment

Motion made by Williams, seconded by Wilson, and unanimously approved to adjourn the May 9, 2024 Grants & Programs Committee meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Votes were as follows:

Yea – Gennaria, Williams, Wilson

Nay – none

Abstain - none

Submitted by

L. Sutherlin, Exec. Asst. & Commission Administrator

Attachments

- Grants & Programs Committee Minutes, February 8, 2024
- 2024 Hotel/Motel Grants Update

