



MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023
1 p.m.**

Remote Meeting via video and teleconferencing

Approved Minutes

Chair Shiota called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment (00:24)

Commissioners Present:

Janine Shiota, Chair

J. Riccardo Benevides (joined meeting at 1:20 p.m.)

Seth Brenzel

Charles Collins, President

Jeanne McCoy

Nabiel Musleh

Marcus Shelby (joined meeting at 1:25 p.m.)

Staff Present:

Ralph Remington, Director of Cultural Affairs

Joanne Lee, Deputy Director of Programs

Debbie Ng, Senior Program Officer

Jowy-Jhan Curameng, Program Associate

Arianna Vazquez, Program Associate

Chair Shiota announced the hybrid meeting instructions.

Program Associate Vasquez announced public comment instructions.

Chair Shiota began the meeting reading the Arts Commission's land acknowledgement statement.

2. General Public Comment

(7:18)

There was no public comment.

3. ARTS IMPACT ENDOWMENT - FIRST TIME GRANTEE INITIATIVE GRANT

(8:50)

Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng presented the discussion and possible action regarding funding an additional recommendation for the Arts Impact Endowment - First Time Grantee Initiative. She explained that this is an additional grant in the Space/Capital category to support the San Francisco Art Book Fair's annual event, maintain their year-round community programs and to assist them with organizational infrastructure.

President Collins inquired about the need to approve an additional grantee in this category. Senior Program Officer Ng explained that an applicant who was previously recommended for funding in this category was unable to enter into a grant agreement because the business closed due to the impacts COVID-19. She added that the Space/Capital category was limited to ten (10) grants and that the San Francisco Arts Book Fair LLC was number eleven (11) in the ranked order as determined by the grant application review panel; and is now moving into the tenth position, making them eligible for funding.

There was no public comment.

Item 3. Subitem 1 Action - ARTS IMPACT ENDOWMENT - FIRST TIME GRANTEE INITIATIVE GRANT

(9:11)

Motion to approve the funding recommendations of the Arts Impact Endowment - First Time Grantee Initiative Discussion and possible action to approve an additional funding recommendation of the Arts Impact Endowment - First Time Grantee Initiative, Space/Capital Support to award one (1) grant to San Francisco Art Book Fair LLC, funded by the FY21 Arts Impact Endowment in accordance with the priorities outlined in the Community Services Allocation Plan; and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a grant agreement not to exceed \$50,000 at this time.

There were no comments from the Commissioners.
There was no public comment.

President Collins, seconded by Commissioner Brenzel moved to approve, as presented.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Shiota, Brenzel, Collins, McCoy, Musleh

4. SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS (19:46)

Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng presented the discussion and possible action regarding funding seven (7) Special Project Grants, funded by District Supervisor Add-Backs.

President Collins suggested that staff explain the district Supervisor Add-Back process for the new commissioners. Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng explained that the Board of Supervisors annually allocates either, district specific or citywide funds and there are two rounds of requests for applications that the Community Investments staff administers each fiscal year.



Deputy Director of Programs Joanne Lee added that during the annual budget process each district Supervisor has an allocation to fund specific projects in their district. These projects are not always arts and culture projects and funds may go to other city agencies to administer. She noted that when funds are designated by the Board of Supervisors to the Arts Commission, staff works with them to develop goals and descriptions for the applications and this becomes a competitive request for proposals. She added that the citywide funds are currently allocated to the Arts Commission by the San Francisco Public Library and the Arts Commission will collaborate with the library on events in honor of Maya Angelou and in conjunction with a new Maya Angelou sculpture that will be unveiled on the steps of the library in this summer.

President Collins inquired if the Add Back grants are included in the data presented by the Senior Racial Equity & Policy Analyst, Sandra Panopio. Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng confirmed that the Community Investments staff collects both district and demographic data and annually presents this information along with the recommendations for funding at the April Community Investments Committee meeting.

There was also a discussion about the benefits of serving on a Community Investments application review panel to further understand the transparent peer review process of how applications are reviewed, scored, and recommended for funding. Commissioner Shelby reported that he has experienced all aspects of the funding cycle including being an applicant, a grantee, a panelist and now a Commissioner. He noted that participating on a grant application review panel is a valuable way to understand the deliberation process and that it is a powerful and important experience. Chair Shiota also noted that when serving as a panelist one can experience the amount of consideration that is involved in the application review process; and it reveals the high quality of work and offers confidence in the due diligence that the Community Investment staff performs. She recommends that the new commissioners serve as panelists. Deputy Director of Programs Joanne Lee confirmed that Commissioners are allowed to serve as panelists, and they must complete a conflict of interest form and review to ensure there is no conflict of interest with any

applicants. Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng added that there is an open year-round call for panelists and that staff provide training about the panelist process.

There was no public comment.

Item 4. Subitem 1

(43:00)

Discussion and possible action approve recommendations to award seven (7) Special Project Grants, funded by District Supervisor Add-Backs to the following organizations and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into grant agreements with each organization for amounts not to exceed the following at this time.

- i. District 5 – Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society, \$62,250 over one year to support a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) History Project in the Mid-Market/Tenderloin neighborhood.
- ii. District 5 - Mission Art 415, Inc., \$75,000 over one year to support Murals and arts-related events in Fillmore, Hayes Valley, and Tenderloin neighborhoods.
- iii. District 7 – Michael Ritch, \$24,950 over one year to support Utility Box Mural Installation and Repair along Ocean Avenue and neighboring streets.
- iv. District 8 - Eureka Valley Neighborhood Association (Fiscal Sponsor: Castro Upper Market Community Benefit District Inc.) \$25,000 over one year to support Mural Restoration.
- v. District 9 – Galeria Studio 24, \$300,000 over two years to support an Arts Fellow Program in the Mission District including the hiring of four (4) four fellows to develop a partnership with the San



Francisco Latino Parity and Equity Coalition and the Latino Task Force Coalition.

- vi. Citywide Maya Angelou Celebration - African American Shakespeare Company, \$50,000 over one year to support free community events commemorating Maya Angelou.
- vii. Citywide Maya Angelou Celebration – Youth Speaks Inc., \$50,000 over one year to support free community events commemorating Maya Angelou.

There were no comments from the Commissioners.
There was no public comment.

Commissioner Musleh, seconded by Commissioner McCoy moved to approve, as presented.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Shiota, Benevides, Brenzel, Collins, McCoy, Musleh, Shelby

Item 5. Commissioner Site Visits to Cultural Centers

(48:28)

Deputy Director of Programs Joanne Lee gave historical background about the Cultural Center program. She reported that there are seven (7) Cultural Centers, four (4) that have buildings which are: the African American Art and Culture Complex (AAACC), Bayview Opera House (BVOH), Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts (MCCLA) and SOMArts Cultural Center (SOMArts). There are also three (3) virtual Cultural Centers which are: the American Indian Cultural Center (AICC), a subgrantee of BVOH; Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center (APICC), a subgrantee of SOMArts and the Queer Cultural Center (QCC) a subgrantee of AAACC. All of the Cultural Center buildings are owned by the City and County of San Francisco. The Arts Commission annually funds all seven (7) of these nonprofits with over \$1 million dollars in general operating support for the centers, provided by

hotel tax revenue. The Arts Commission also funds maintenance and repairs for the buildings. She noted that in past years the Cultural Center Directors would make annual presentations at Community Investments Committee meetings to inform Commissioners about their programming and communities served. In 2022 the Community Investments Committee members requested an opportunity to visit the Cultural Centers to allow for more in depth discussions with the center's staff regarding their programming and strategies. This is the first year for the site visits and so far Commissioners have visited four Cultural Centers. She thanked the Commissioners for their time and energy to make these visits and asked them to offer comments about the site visits and noted that many of the Cultural Center Directors are in the audience at this meeting.

Commissioner Shelby reported on his visit with President Collins to SOMArts/APICC. He added that it was enlightening and valuable to meet with the staff in person. He noted that both SOMArts/APICC and MCCLA are doing incredible programming and both have unique infrastructure needs. He added that he is interested in visiting the other Cultural Centers. President Collins also reported on the value of meeting in person. He highlighted an interesting conversation with SOMArts Executive Director, Maria Jenson, about the development of a data report that would reflect data from all of the Cultural Centers that could then inform some of the strategic planning with the Arts Commission and the Cultural Center program. He noted that the urgent topic at SOMArts is the seismic work that needs to be completed. Chair Shiota added for historical context that the Arts Commission funds the Cultural Center program in a variety of ways including grants for general operating, events and capital improvements; and that some of the funding is provided by other City agencies.

Commissioner Shelby also reported on his visit with Chair Shiota to, MCCLA. He noted the infrastructure needs and needs related to the relocation of the center during its upcoming seismic work, including storing archives and historical material. He also mentioned the need to assist

MCCLA's renters to find a place to continue their programming while MCCLA is under renovation. Chair Shiota reported that the seismic upgrades at MCCLA are mandatory to bring the building up to code and commended MCCLA's staff for strategizing on how to continue programming during the renovations.

Commissioner McCoy reported on her visit with Commissioner Musleh to QCC. She thanked QCC's new Executive Director, Anand Kalra for their time and for the discussion about the mission of QCC; she noted that Kalra spoke a lot about passion and purpose. She highlighted that as a virtual center QCC's key issues have been related to staffing and that QCC is now fully staffed. She also reported that as a virtual center their goal of community organized messaging is essential in their strategy. She added that QCC has been very successful in establishing its online identity and that they have Bay Area wide and national participants in their programming; and that they use survey data to inform their curation and programming. Commissioner Musleh added that he is also interested in the data report mentioned during the conversation and how it may help the Cultural Centers with marketing or additional funding.

AAACC Co-Executive Director, Melorra Green noted that prior to COVID-19 AAACC offered an affordable space rental program for its studios, multiuse rooms and theater. This program was offered to QCC and all the Cultural Centers. During COVID-19 AAACC closed its doors to develop plans for a reimagined use of space, to design a coworking space, a store, a pop-up for culinary arts, and during its closure offered the AAACC parking lot as gallery space for free, for the last two years. She added with the recent storms the center has experienced a lot of leaks and that coupled with seismic work has made some of the spaces unavailable and added that AAACC is working with the Arts Commission Capital Programs Manager, Lisa Zayas-Chien on the seismic upgrades and capital needs.



SOMArts Executive Director, Maria Jenson thanked the Commissioners for their visit and ongoing support and also the Arts Commission staff for their support on the capital needs. She noted that there are tremendous existing facility needs and now new needs due to storm damage. She noted that SOMArts needs ADA upgrades in order to serve its disabled members of the community. She also said that recent changes in the neighborhood, with tech business moving out there is a possible loss of funding sources for SOMArts.

MCCLA's Executive Director, Martina Ayala thanked the Commissioners for their visit and the Arts Commission for identifying the infrastructure needs relocation support. She added that relocating the existing programming will be challenging and welcomes any suggestions.

AICC's Executive Director, April McGill noted that the Commissioners will visit AICC in March. She added that AICC is a virtual space and is privileged to partner with BVOH and that this is an exciting time for AICC to be rooted in the Bayview neighborhood. She also said that the virtual centers need support and that she loved the idea of leveraging data, especially with a focus on services provided during the pandemic.

QCC's Senior Development Manager, Celeste Chan noted that QCC has a thirty (30) year history of programming and that its annual festival has been running for twenty-six (26) years. She added that recently QCC has focused on organizational infrastructure and that AAACC has been a welcoming partner. She thanked the Commissioners for their visit.

There was no public comment.

Staff Report

(1:40:17)

Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng reported that the Community Investments staff are close to filling the Program Associate and Senior



Program Officer positions. Once those positions are filled, the Community Investments team will be fully staffed.

She also noted that the Native American Art and Cultural Traditions Special Grant deadline was extended to Feb 22, 2023 and that this is a regranting program created to address emerging and existing needs within the arts ecosystem of the San Francisco Native American communities. There are two grants of \$100,000 available.

She also reported that the Community Investments staff are hard at work facilitating the Cultural Equity Grant panels. For context for the new Commissioners, the Cultural Equity grants program is the cornerstone of the Community Investments grant program, and in fiscal year 2022 approximately \$12 million dollars was granted through this program. It is the largest and most visible grant program with five (5) distinct grant categories and nine (9) application review panels taking place in February and March 2023. Staff will bring the funding recommendations to the Community Investments Committee meeting on April 18 2023 and will also share data regarding the applicants and grants recommended for funding.

She also highlighted that due to a new policy issued by the city's Controller's office, staff is currently working with grantee organizations that are delinquent with the California Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts to bring them into compliance. Every charitable organization doing business in California is required to be in compliance with State Attorney General filings to operate in California and do business with the City and County of San Francisco. Staff is following the new policy and working with twenty-six delinquent grantees.

And finally, she reported that Community Investments Director, Denise Pate has been in touch with the San Francisco Juneteenth Festival organizers Tamika Chenier regarding the settlement of outstanding 2019 funds due to them, from an Arts Commission fiscally sponsored project.

Chair Shiota added for context for the new commissioners, that regarding the Cultural Equity grant categories that Community Investments staff

administer the request for proposals, review all the applications and offer deep technical assistance to help organizations and artists apply for the grants.

Chair Shiota also inquired about the process for organizations who are not compliant with the California Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts. Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng confirmed that staff is working with grantees to ensure that they understand their status, monitoring the progress and following up with them once the requirements are complete.

Public Comment

(1:49:05)

Melorra Green, Co-Executive Director of the African American Art and Culture Complex (AAACC) thanked the Commissioners for their time and highlighted that with regard to the policy regarding California Attorney General's Registry of Charitable she was curious if Arts Commission staff had suggestions to move this process forward faster. She mentioned that AAACC recently hosted a Cultural Center Directors meeting and at this meeting there was a truthful conversation about the compliance needs from the California Attorney General's office. She noted that this compliance is a part of the annual audit process and that AAACC has spent several weeks trying to confirm with the California Attorney General's office that their fees were paid. She inquired if there is anything the Arts Commission can do to assist those organizations who have paid the required fees and have not yet been brought into compliance.

Chair Shiota noted that she could not comment on this process as this would introduce an item that was not on the agenda for this meeting.

5. New Business and Announcements

(1:40:14)

President Collins noted the recent event at the Southeast Community Center as a remarkable demonstration of partnership with the Arts Commission, the Department of Public Works and the Southeast Community Center. He praised the work of Arts Commission staff, Director of Cultural Affairs, Ralph Remington, Senior Program Manager, Jackie von Treskow, the entire Communications staff and Director of Public Art, Mary Chou. He added that it was an important conversation with local artists Afatasi the Artist, Malik Seneferu, Kenyatta Hinkle and Mildred Howard.

Director of Cultural Affairs, Ralph Remington thanked the Commissioners for their support and also thanked staff and noted that it was a great event.

There was no public comment.

6. Adjournment

(1:57:35)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Posted 03/02/2023, adv 11:30am

Approved 03/06/2023

Updated 03/07/2023 adv 11:15am

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