



MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 18, 2023
1 p.m.

Final Minutes

Chair Shiota called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment (0:07)

Commissioners Present:

Janine Shiota, Chair

Seth Brendel

Jeanne McCoy

Marcus Shelby

J. Riccardo Benavides (joined the meeting at 1:07 p.m.)

Staff Present:

Ralph Remington, Director of Cultural Affairs

Joanne Lee, Deputy Director of Programs

Denise Pate, Direct of Community Investments (joined via WebEx)

Debbie Ng, Senior Program Officer

Jennifer Chu, Program Officer

Jonell Molina, Program Officer

Anne Trickey, Program Officer

Jowy-Jhan Curameng, Program Associate

Arianna Vazquez, Program Associate

Thanh Hong, Program Associate

Frank Ortiz, Program Associate



Chair Shiota announced the hybrid meeting instructions.

Program Associate Vasquez announced public comment instructions.

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

2. General Public Comment

(6:29)

There was no public comment.

3. Cultural Equity Endowment Fund and Grant Program Overview

(7:43)

Director of Community Investments, Denise Pate, presented an overview of the Cultural Equality Endowment Fund Grant Program. Pate reported on the application process, technical assistance and outreach included in the fiscal year 23 cycle (FY23). Pate introduced Program Officer Jennifer Chu, to discuss Cultural Ambassador outreach program.

Program Officer Jennifer Chu reported that cultural ambassadors were paid a stipend to increase outreach to meet the Cultural Equity Endowment Fund goals. Chu reviewed the demographics of cultural ambassadors, the cultural districts represented by those cultural ambassadors and areas of outreach to strengthen for the next grant cycle.

Program Officer Jonell Molina shared the outreach conducted by the cultural ambassadors in the Fall of 2022 through their networks, social media, word of mouth, email, and phone calls. He noted that the top three outreach methods were the SFAC Website, the SFAC newsletter, and word of mouth.

Director of Community Investments, Denise Pate described the public nature of the application review process, noting that there was an open call for panelists and that staff onboarded 38 panelists with 5 orientations. Panelists were supported with tools such as the panelist handbook,

including category specific grant guidelines and scoring criteria.

Pate also shared fiscal year 23 grant cycle data including that in this cycle, there were 181 applicants, 115 recommendations for funding, reflecting a 64% success rate. The total amount of recommended funding is \$5,054,961, to 44 organizations and 71 artists across 11 supervisorial districts. Pate also reported that 17% of recommended applicants were first time organizational recipients, and 39% were first time artist recipients.

Senior Program Officer, Debbie Ng presented the Cultural Equity Endowment program demographics. Ng presented a geographic map that displayed grantees representing the most populated areas served, including the Mission District, Tenderloin, and Soma. Ng explained the breakdown of applicants and grantees based on Supervisorial districts and shared a graph that showed the racial demographics of the applicants, which reflects that the goals of the Cultural Equity legislation are being met. Ng added that the data shared will be used to inform the next cycle of grants.

Chair Shiota thanked Community Investments staff for their work on both the data presentation and the coordination of all of the panels and noted the considerable amount of work it is to produce in a brief time period.

Chair Shiota called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Commissioner McCoy shared gratitude for the Community Investments staff for the heavy workload. She inquired how the racial demographic categories were selected for the Cultural Ambassadors. McCoy also asked about district outreach, and noted the seeming disproportionate allocation of proposed funding in certain neighborhoods, such as the Bayview. She suggested that the staff focus outreach on neighborhoods rather than districts. McCoy added that Commissioners would enjoy being involved in the outreach process to ensure more representation from the Bayview neighborhood and Black/African American artists.

Commissioner Shelby also inquired about the process of selection for the cultural ambassadors.

Senior Program Officer Ng explained that demographic data in the presentation was self-reported by cultural ambassadors. She noted this as an opportunity for Commissioners to help support the outreach efforts through suggestions of future cultural ambassadors.

Commissioner Shiota noted that the Cultural Centers could be a resource to increase awareness, technical assistance and outreach during the grant application cycle.

Commissioner Brenzel asked about grantee trend data, to highlight the historical context of funding and what communities the funding is reaching.

4. Cultural Equity Grant Program – FY23 Funding Recommendations (35:05)

Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng presented the fiscal year 23 funding recommendations totaling \$5,054,961 across four grant categories: Artistic Legacy Grant, Cultural Equity Initiatives, Creative Space Grants and the San Francisco Artist Grants with a total of 44 grants to organizations and 71 grants to Artists.

Commissioner McCoy inquired what the success rate trend was for the Cultural Equity Initiative grants. Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng reported that the trend has stayed the same, at 50% annually and added that the Cultural Equity Initiative grant category funds multi-year general operating support and is a competitive grant category.

Chair Shiota called for public comment.

Public comment:

1. Public Comment via WebEx - Barbra Ockel echoed Commissioner McCoy's concern of low applicant numbers from the Bayview neighborhood. She suggested a holistic approach, such as changing the application requirements that pose barriers to access and added that the

technical assistance workshops aren't enough to increase access to funding, due to limited capacity to apply.

Item 5. FY23 Funding Recommendations

(42:00)

Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng introduced the Community Investments Program Officers Anne Trickey, Jennifer Chu, and Jonell Molina to present on the fiscal year 23 panel funding recommendations.

Item 5. Subitem 1. FY23 Funding Recommendations for San Francisco Artist Grants

(41:59)

Program Officer Anne Trickey presented an overview of the panel funding recommendations and the application process for the San Francisco Artist Grants. Trickey shared updates made to the San Francisco Artist grant application that were based on community feedback regarding accessible language, career length and genre specific applications. Trickey noted that the success of this application round is largely defined by the increase of first-time applicants and the 17% of funding going to first time applicants.

Commissioner McCoy expressed gratitude for the changes to the San Francisco Artist grant category, which removed barriers to artistic funding. She also inquired about the success metrics regarding application access and encouraged staff to continue to remove barriers in accessing SFAC funding.

Commissioner Shelby inquired about the panelist selection process, specifically because there are limited amounts of practicing musicians represented in panels. He expressed concerns in the changes mentioned making grants less focused on genre, thus limiting the panelist's ability to provide deep insight based on a specific genre, like music and suggested that there should be panelists who have historical knowledge of the art form included on the panel. Commissioner Shelby noted his appreciation for all work done behind the scenes to make the funding recommendations.

Program Officer Anne Trickey explained that panelists are not always comfortable sharing all of the ways that engage in their artistic practice, which can create a perception that there are not practicing musicians on a panel, when in fact there are. Trickey also mentioned that there is often a conflict of interest with panelists who apply to serve, that are from specific genres, which limits the ability of representation of panelists based on genre. Trickey added that staff would welcome Commissioners to recommend individuals to serve as panelists or cultural ambassadors.

Commissioner McCoy echoed the desire to support the panelist and cultural ambassador outreach and shared the understanding that there will be pain points as things continue to evolve.

Motion to approve the funding recommendations of the San Francisco Artist Grant (SFA) panel, to award 71 grants totaling \$1,413,800 to the following individuals, and to enter into grant agreements with each artist or their fiscal sponsor for amounts not to exceed the following currently:

- i. Aguirre, \$18,500
- ii. Alexander Lee Morris Davis, \$20,000
- iii. Alicia Escott, \$20,000
- iv. Alita Edgar, \$20,000
- v. Alleluia Panis, \$20,000
- vi. Allison Lovejoy, \$20,000
- vii. Alyssa Mitchel (Fiscal Sponsor: Dancers' Group Inc.), \$16,800
- viii. Amal Bisharat, \$20,000
- ix. Andrea Rodriguez, \$20,000
- x. Anne Albagli, \$20,000
- xi. Annie Sprinkle, \$20,000
- xii. Anthony Jimenez, \$20,000
- xiii. Arthur Koch, \$18,500
- xiv. Aureen B Almario, \$20,000
- xv. Benjamin David Barnes, \$20,000
- xvi. Briana Grogan, \$20,000

- xvii. Carol Queen PhD, \$20,000
- xviii. Carolyn Ho, \$20,000
- xix. Charles Slender-White, \$20,000
- xx. Christine Huhn, \$20,000
- xxi. Chuck Wilt, \$20,000
- xxii. Chun Yu, \$20,000
- xxiii. Clara Hsu, \$20,000
- xxiv. Conrad J. Benedicto, \$20,000
- xxv. Cornelius, \$20,000
- xxvi. Duygu Gun, \$20,000
- xxvii. Eddy Navia, \$20,000
- xxviii. Elizabeth Rivera, \$20,000
- xxix. Emily Hansel, \$20,000
- xxx. Emma Logan (Fiscal Sponsor: Earplay), \$20,000
- xxxi. England Hidalgo, \$20,000
- xxxii. Esha Reddy, \$20,000
- xxxiii. Eugenie Chan (Fiscal Sponsor: Intersection for the Arts), \$20,000
- xxxiv. Gazelle Samizay, \$20,000
- xxxv. Geralyn Montano, \$20,000
- xxxvi. Gina Stella dell'Assunta, \$20,000
- xxxvii. Greta Snider, \$20,000
- xxxviii. Harvey Magsaysay Lozada, \$20,000
- xxxix. Helen Shewolfe Tseng, \$20,000
 - xl. Idris Ackamoor, \$20,000
 - xli. Jeremy Chan, \$20,000
 - xl.ii. Jethro Patalinghug, \$20,000
 - xl.iii. Jon Jang (Fiscal Sponsor: Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center), \$20,000
 - xl.iiii. Julián Delgado Lopera, \$20,000
 - xl.v. Julz Kelly, \$20,000
 - xl.vi. Kirti Bassendine, \$20,000
 - xl.vii. Marga Gomez, \$20,000
 - xl.viii. Margaret Timbrell, \$20,000
 - xl.ix. Maryzelle Ungo, \$20,000

- I. Olivia Ting, \$20,000
- ii. Pam Benjamin, \$20,000
- iii. Patricia Diart, \$20,000
- iiii. Patrick Makuakāne, \$20,000
- liv. Quentin Navia ~ SUKAY~ Peña Pachamama, \$20,000
- lv. Ranko Ogura, \$20,000
- lvi. Rebeka Rodriguez Mondragón, \$20,000
- lvii. Richard Marriott (Fiscal Sponsor: Circuit Network), \$20,000
- lviii. Ryan Gordon, \$20,000
- lix. Sara Shelton Mann (Fiscal Sponsor: Circuit Network), \$20,000
- lx. Shannon Kurashige, \$20,000
- lxi. Sherene Melania, \$20,000
- lxii. Steve Youn, \$20,000
- lxiii. Susannah Smith, \$20,000
- lxiv. Takeshi Moro, \$20,000
- lxv. Tina D'Elia, \$20,000
- lxvi. Toshio Meronek, \$20,000
- lxvii. Tracy Grubbs, \$20,000
- lxviii. trixxie carr, \$20,000
- lxix. Violeta Luna (Fiscal Sponsor: Galeria Studio 24), \$20,000
- lxx. Wawi Amasha, \$20,000

There was no public comment.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Shiota, Benavides, Brenzel, McCoy, Shelby

Item 5. Subitem 2. FY23 Funding Recommendation for the Artistic Legacy Grant
(1:10:38)

Program Officer Jennifer Chu presented an overview of the panel funding recommendations and application process for the Artistic Legacy Grant.



She shared that there were 8 applicants and 1 recommendation for funding.

Motion to approve the funding recommendation of the Artistic Legacy Grant (ALG) panel, to award one grant totaling \$40,000 to the following organization, and to enter into a grant agreement not to exceed the following at this time:

- i. La Pocha Nostra Inter-Cultural Performance & Comm Arts Projects, \$40,000

Commissioner McCoy asked if the grant category only funds 1 grant, and asked how many applications were received.

Program Officer Chu confirmed that the Artistic Legacy grant category only funds one application to an Artistic leader with a history of 25 years or more with their organization and noted that there was a total of 8 applications.

Commissioner Brenzel motioned for approval, seconded by Commissioner McCoy moved to approve, as presented.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Shiota, Benavides, Brenzel, McCoy, Shelby

There was no public comment.

Item 5. Subitem 3. FY23 Funding Recommendations for Creative Space Grants
(1:17:05)

Program Officer Anne Trickey presented an overview of the panel funding recommendations and application process for the Creative Space Grants. Trickey reported that there were 12 applicants and 6 recommendations for funding.

Motion to approve the funding recommendations of the Creative Space Grant panel to award six grants totaling \$336,161 to the following

organizations, and to enter into grant agreements not to exceed the following at this time:

- i. Art of the Matter Performance Foundation, \$50,000
- ii. Bindlestiff Studio, \$36,161
- iii. Magic Theatre, Inc., \$50,000
- iv. Womens Audio Mission, \$100,000
- v. Yerba Buena Arts & Events, \$50,000
- vi. Youth Art Exchange (Fiscal Sponsor: Tides Center), \$50,000

Commissioner McCoy inquired about the category and asked if there were any applications for game design. Program Officer Trickey confirmed that the focus of this grant category is for organizations for capital planning and space upgrades and mentioned that in previous rounds there have been game design applicants.

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

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Shiota, Benavides, Brenzel, McCoy, Shelby

There was no public comment.

Item 5. Subitem 4. FY23 Funding Recommendations for the Cultural Equity Initiatives.

(1:23:02)

Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng presented an overview of the panel funding recommendations and the application process for the Cultural Equity Initiatives grant .There were 66 applicants and 35 recommendations for funding.

Motion to approve the funding recommendations of the Cultural Equity Initiatives panel, to award 36 grants totaling \$3,000,065 to the following

organizations, and to enter into grant agreements not to exceed the following at this time:

- i. 3rd I South Asian Independent Film, \$100,000
- ii. African Arts Academy, \$75,000
- iii. Anne Bluethenthal & Dancers, \$100,000
- iv. Arenas Dance Company (Fiscal Sponsor: World Arts West), \$50,000
- v. Arts.Co.Lab (Fiscal Sponsor: Accion Latina), \$65,000
- vi. Aunt Lute Foundation, \$100,000
- vii. Bindlestiff Studio, \$100,000
- viii. Chinese Cultural Productions, \$100,000
- ix. Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco, \$100,000
- x. Clarion Alley Mural Project (Fiscal Sponsor: Independent Arts & Media), \$75,000
- xi. Duniya Dance and Drum Company (Fiscal Sponsor: Dancers' Group Inc.), \$100,000
- xii. First Exposures (Fiscal Sponsor: Tides Center), \$100,000
- xiii. Honey Art Studio (Fiscal Sponsor: New Community Leadership Foundation Inc.), \$100,000
- xiv. InterMusic SF, \$100,000
- xv. Intersection for the Arts, \$100,000
- xvi. Kulintang Arts Inc., \$100,000
- xvii. Little Boxes Theater (Fiscal Sponsor: Independent Arts & Media), \$50,000
- xviii. Lyzette Wanzer Projects (Fiscal Sponsor: Intersection for the Arts), \$25,000
- xix. Manilatown Heritage Foundation, \$100,000
- xx. Parangal Dance Company, \$50,000
- xxi. Playground, \$100,000
- xxii. Red Poppy Art House (Fiscal Sponsor: Intersection for the Arts), \$100,000
- xxiii. Robert Moses' Kin, \$100,000
- xxiv. Sakura Matsuri Inc, \$100,000
- xxv. San Francisco African American Historical & Cultural Society, \$50,000

- xxvi. San Francisco Music Mission Corporation, \$25,000
- xxvii. Shipyard Trust for the Arts, \$100,000
- xxviii. StageWrite (Fiscal Sponsor: Intersection for the Arts), \$100,000
- xxix. Theatre Bay Area, \$100,000
- xxx. Theatre of Yugen, \$100,000
- xxxi. Theatre Rhinoceros, Inc., \$100,000
- xxxii. The Litquake Foundation, \$10,000
- xxxiii. The Marsh, a breeding ground for new performance, \$100,000
- xxxiv. Urban Jazz Dance Company (Fiscal Sponsor: Intersection for the Arts), \$100,000
- xxxv. Voice of Witness a Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation, \$100,000
- xxxvi. Youth Art Exchange (Fiscal Sponsor: Tides Center), \$100,000

Chair Shiota asked staff to explain how organizations can receive funding in two different grant categories in the same fiscal year.

Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng explained that applicants are allowed to apply in multiple grant categories in the same fiscal year, as long as they meet all of the eligibility criteria.

Commissioner Shelby shared gratitude to staff for providing funding through the Cultural Equity Initiatives, as they provide funding that affects so many people by sustaining organizations.

Commissioner Brenzel, seconded by Commissioner Shelby moved to approve, as presented.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Shiota, Benavides, Brenzel, McCoy, Shelby

Public Comment:

1. Public Comment via WebEx - Al Williams, the President from the San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society extends

gratitude for the support as a first-time applicant through the application process. They are excited to showcase the work they will accomplish with the support of the funding.

2. Public Comment via WebEx Barbra Ockel shared gratitude for the funding Shipyard Trust for the Arts will receive and shared an invitation to the open studio event to showcase increased diversity on April 29th and 30th from 11am to 6pm.

Chair Shiota stepped out at 2:45 p.m. Commissioner Shelby chaired the committee meeting at this time.

Item 6. Native American Arts and Cultural Traditions Special Grants (1:42:13)

Program Officer Jonell Molina presented an overview of the panel funding recommendations and application process for the Native American Arts and Cultural Traditions Special Grants.

Motion to approve the funding recommendations of the Native American Arts and Cultural Traditions Special Grant panel, to award two grants totaling \$200,000 to the following organizations, and to enter into grant agreements not to exceed the following at this time:

- i. The American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco, \$100,000
- ii. QCC-The Center for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Art & Culture, \$100,000

There were no comments from the Commissioners.

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

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Benavides, Brenzel, McCoy, Shelby

Public Comment:

1. Public Comment via WebEx Anand Kalra, Executive Director of the Queer Cultural Center shared gratitude to the Arts Commission panelists for reviewing their application and noted QCC's excitement to support Indigenous communities regranting programs.

Item 7. Commissioner Site Visits to Cultural Centers

(1:53:00)

Deputy Director of Programs Joanne Lee thanked the Commissioners for their time and energy to make site visits to the African American Art and Culture Complex, the Bayview Opera House and the American Indian Cultural Center, which is a virtual center and subgrantee of the Bayview Opera House. Lee invited the Commissioners to report on their visits.

Chair Shiota shared the value of visiting the Bayview Opera House, meeting staff and touring the cultural center.

Commissioner Shelby asked if there are any structural challenges happening at the Bayview Opera House. Chair Shiota confirmed that the Bayview Opera house is now focused on outreach and utilization of space after recent substantial renovations.

Commissioner Shelby shared his valuable experiences visiting the SOMArts, the African American Art and Culture Complex (AAACC) and the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts (MCCLA) and noted that AAACC and MCCLA will undergo seismic renovations, and their staff are working hard as they face relocation; and inquired how the Arts Commission plans to help with finding alternate spaces for them.

Chair Shiota proposed the possibility of renting vacant office space in downtown San Francisco as one option.

Deputy Director Lee confirmed that AAACC and MCCLA will move out of their facilities in Summer 2024 for two years due to renovations, and staff is helping with the move coordination and with assistance in finding vacant spaces that the centers can use for programming and events.

Public Comment:

1. Public Comment via WebEx Barbara Ockel shared that the Bayview Opera House facilities are a historical building that required specific care. While the building was painted inside and out, the external paint job was done in 2017 leading to damage such as cracks. The total cost to repaint the Opera House would be estimated at \$45,000 and suggested that the Arts Commission should try and get ahead of it and start planning for that now

8. Staff Report

(2:03:55)

The Director of Community Investments Denise Pate shared gratitude to the Community Investments staff for the for the entire grant cycle and for the presentation including the data graphics provided by Program Associate Vasquez, and funding recommendations prepared by all Program Officers.

Pate happily shared that the Community Investments team recently filled the Program Associate position and welcomed Frank Ortiz as the new Program Associate. She also reported that they are still recruiting for a Senior Program Officer and hoping to fill that position in June so that the Community Investments team will be fully staffed.

Pate also reported that the team has been working on implementing a new grants management system to streamline grant administration and management.

Pate also thanked the Commissioners for their support through the grant cycle and for visiting the cultural centers.

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

9. New Business and Announcements

(2:08:26)

Commissioner Shelby extended gratitude and support to the Community Investments staff for their hard work in the grant cycle.

Commissioner Brenzel asked about the timeline for cultural ambassadors and panelists for the next cycle.

Senior Program Officer Debbie Ng will follow up with dates and timelines regarding the cultural ambassadors and panelists for FY24.

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

(2:15:55)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Posted 05/01/2023, 4:25 PM ,a.d.v.

Archives Available

A recording of this meeting will be available online after the meeting at the following address:

https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=151

Language Accessibility

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