



COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 22, 2024
1:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 416
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

Draft Minutes

Chair Shiota called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment (0:15)

Commissioners Present:

Janine Shiota, Chair
Seth Brenzel
Nabiel Musleh
Marcus Shelby

Commissioners Absent:

J. Riccardo Benavides
Charles Collins

Staff Present:

Ralph Remington, Director of Cultural Affairs
Ebon Glenn, Deputy Director of Programs
Denise Pate, Director of Community Investments
Anne Trickey, Senior Program Officer
Jennifer Chu and Jonell Molina, Program Officers
Natalia Perez, Program Associate
Manraj Dhaliwal, Commission Secretary

There were no additional agenda changes.

Chair Shiota announced the public meeting instructions.

Program Associate Perez announced public comment instructions. Chair Shiota began the meeting by reading the Arts Commission's land acknowledgment statement.

2. General Public Comment (6:27)

There was no public comment.

3. Special Project Grants (7:14)

Senior Program Officer Anne Trickey presented the item. They provided information about the grant category and Arts Commission endowments. They clarified that the Special Project Grants are not funded by the Arts Commission endowments but by other funding sources.

Trickey shared that this year's Special Project Grants total \$800,000 and are funded by the Library, the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF), and previous Board of Supervisors addbacks. These funds will be allocated to the Citywide Youth Arts Program and the Citywide Arts Services Organizations.

Chair Shiota requested discussion, comments, or questions from commissioners. Seeing none, she shared the following details:

Motion to approve recommendations to award four (4) Special Project Grants, to the following organizations and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into grant agreements with each organization or their fiscal sponsor for amounts not to exceed the following at this time:

1) Citywide Youth Arts Program – San Francisco Youth Theatre, \$350,000 over three years to support the design and implementation of socially responsive art and creative exploration learning experiences for youth ages 0 to 24 years old.

2) Citywide Youth Arts Program – Youth Art Exchange (Fiscal Sponsor: Tides Center), \$350,000 over three years to support the design and implementation of socially responsive art and creative exploration learning experiences for youth ages 0 to 24 years old.

3) Citywide Arts Service Organizations – Independent Arts & Media, \$50,000 over one year to support providing services that may include the following: fiscal sponsorship services; grant writing; legal assistance; capacity building; technical assistance; training and paid internships; education and community convenings.

4) Citywide Arts Service Organizations – Intersection for the Arts, \$50,000 over one year to support providing services that may include the following: fiscal sponsorship services; grant writing; legal assistance; capacity building; technical assistance; training and paid internships; education and community convenings.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Brenzel, seconded by Commissioner Musleh moved to approve the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Cultural Ambassador Update (11:58)

Program Officers Jonell Molina and Jennifer Chu presented the item. Molina began with an overview of the FY25 Cultural Ambassador program applicant and outreach data. He reported on the increase in the honorarium and noted that this year's cohort includes 5 ambassadors He presented the names of the 5 ambassadors and the communities they represent.

Molina continued to share information on the application process, coaching structure, and outreach strategies for the Cultural Ambassadors including

in-person event representation and Instagram Live events. Molina noted the implementation of monthly data tracking this year.

Program Officer Chu presented additional information on this year's IG Live events including changes to make them more engaging. Chu further clarified that the social media element was only one part of the implemented outreach strategies along with in-person events, word of mouth and direct emails. Chu highlighted this year's advanced planning and coordination.

Program Officer Chu invited Cultural Ambassador Rowena Richie to present to the commissioners about her experience in the program. Rowena discussed her years of experience working with disabled artists and individuals over the age of 65, and noted how many of the artists in this community are people of color, low income, struggling with isolation and challenged by the cost of living increases in the City. Richie stated her appreciation of the grant opportunities to support seniors and people with disabilities, and shared her observation that for many, their art practice is a lifeline connected to their health and well-being.

Commissioner Brenzel asked Program Officers Chu and Molina if they would prefer to have more cultural ambassadors – citing last year's cohort of 8 ambassadors. Molina explained that if resources and time allowed, of the number of ambassadors is tied to staff resources and time, and that five ambassadors has allowed him and Program Officer Chu to successfully train, coach, and coordinate this year's cohort while also maintaining their other professional priorities and responsibilities.

Commissioner Musleh asked for additional data comparing this year and last year's social media engagement, and if there has been a correlated increase in applications received. Jennifer Chu responded noting this year's data capturing efforts and that a more complete data will be available once grant applications have closed for the year.

Commissioner Shelby asked about the various arts practices represented by the Cultural Ambassador cohort. Program Officer Molina shared that several are practicing artists, and background experiences with the arts is

discussed during program application and interviews. The program has historically encouraged artists of various genres to apply, and additional information on the types of art currently represented will be provided at the April Community Investments Committee.

Commissioner Shelby also expressed commitment as a commissioner to assist in outreach efforts during grant cycles and reaching out to practicing artists in his community of musicians. He encouraged other commissioners to do the same and advised the Community Investments team to continue sharing opportunities and updates. Program Officer Chu reiterated the 4 open grants for the current cycle and their deadlines.

There was no public comment.

5. Staff Report (37:51)

Director of Community Investments Denise Pate presented the item. Director Pate shared that Molly Barrons was promoted to Senior Compliance Program Officer serving as the primary point of contact for grants management, compliance, and grants portal administration. Additionally, recruitment for the vacant Program Associate position should begin soon in order to continue providing support to the more than 400 annual active grants.

Director Pate announced that on September 11, the Community Investments team launched five grant categories for San Francisco based individual artists and arts organizations. The website has been updated with all the opportunities and their respective deadlines.

Director Pate summarized the updates to the grant guidelines, highlighting improvements to the document's structure and streamlined redesign. She shared the team's investment in outreach strategies and outlined examples from this year.

In addition to the team's grant work, Director Pate noted the improvements to the art vendor program that have been made to better serve the artists such as new maps, an updated application, and an updated and translated

program manual. She also announced the art vendor holiday markets on December 6th, 7th and 18th and invited Commissioners and the public to attend.

Commissioner Shelby asked for additional information on the open Artistic Legacy Grant. Program Officer Jennifer Chu provided clarification that there is no nomination process for the category and that applicants must have lived in and practiced their art in San Francisco for 25 consecutive years to be considered for this category. Program Officer Chu also advised that individual artists can also apply for the Arts Impact Endowment and San Francisco Artist categories.

There was no public comment.

6. New Business and Announcements (46:55)

There were no new business or announcements.

There was no public comment.

7. Adjournment (47:25)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Posted October 31, 2024, 9:55 a.m., NP.

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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sfac.grants@sfgov.org.

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