



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
FUNDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)
October 19, 2022; 6pm-7:30PM (VIA ZOOM)**

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AGENDA

- **CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- **REPORTS** Roberto Bedoya, Manager - Cultural Affairs Division
Raquel Iglesias, Cultural Funding Program Analyst
- **OPEN FORUM (15 minutes)**
- **DISCUSSION ITEM #1:** FY22-23 Grantmaking
- **DISCUSSION ITEM #2:** FAC Meeting Discussion: Dates and planning for December and January Meetings
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - Next Meeting of the Funding Advisory Committee is scheduled for December 7, 2022.

- **ADJOURN**

- **ATTACHMENTS**
 - Attachment A: Minutes from September 7, 2022 Special Meeting of the Funding Advisory Committee

♿ To request materials in alternative formats, languages, or to request an ASL interpreter, or assistive listening device, please call Cultural Funding Program Analyst Raquel Iglesias at 510-238-2212 or TDD 510-238-3254 at least three working days before the meeting. Thank you.



**Cultural Funding Program (CFP)
Funding Advisory Committee Special Meeting
Wednesday September 7, 2022; 6PM-7:30PM**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance: Jim Santi Owen (chair), Adriana Grino, Sriba Kwadjovie, Michelle Mush Lee, Indi McCCasey and Tyese Wortham.

Committee Members Absent:

Staff in Attendance: Roberto Bedoya, Raquel Iglesias, and Gina Acebo.

Call to Order/Determination of Quorum: 6:05PM

Approval of Minutes:

1. Approval of MINUTES of July 2022 Minutes

Indi McCCasey Motions to Approve and noted their appreciation for the details in the minutes. Jim Santi Owen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Roberto Bedoya, Cultural Affairs Manager

Roberto Bedoya began his report by sharing a special appreciation for Raquel Iglesias, and her work in managing the Cultural Funding Program. Bedoya continued by detailing the current staffing situation. The Division is still waiting for the PAIII position to be posted, which will then be followed by the Public Art PAII position.

The Cultural Affairs Commission is working to host a conversation with mayoral candidates to discuss Oakland arts and culture. More news about dates and details will be shared with the public soon.

Bedoya continued with providing a detailed overview of the Cultural Funding Programs budget and processes, including:

- Guidelines are posted for roughly two months. During this time, staff are available for support and will provide informational webinars to help the public prepare their applications.
- After applications are submitted, staff review each application to ensure completeness and eligibility. Incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible.
- A panel composed by experts in the field review each application according to the published evaluation criteria, scoring and commenting on each.

- The panel gathers for a public deliberation process, in which scores are ranked and displayed. Scores eligible for funding are determined by the amount of funding available. Tied scores at the funding threshold will be honored.
- Appeals: Applicants who identify a 1) conflict of interest, 2) panelists receiving incorrect information, or 3) applicant was given incorrect information, are invited to Appeal. Appeals are not honored for applicants who are unhappy with their score, or those who submitted incomplete applications.
- Eligible Appeals are submitted to the Funding Advisory Committee for deliberation.

Bedoya also noted the trend of applicants who fall below the line going straight to City Council to voice their concerns, as opposed to approaching CAD staff or the Funding Advisory Committee. This trend does not support the integrity of CFP's transparent deliberation process.

Lastly, Bedoya shared that the NEA regranting program, *Creative Economies of Belonging*, is accepting applications until September 22nd. This program will support teaching artist salaries.

Discussion Points:

- Tyese Wortham asked if the additional budget allocation has improved the applicant decline rate. Bedoya expressed that it has improved, but varied per grant program.
- Adriana Grino asked if applicants receive feedback on their application, and also asked if CAD is receiving contract support from other City Divisions. Bedoya confirmed that applicants do receive feedback, and the team is working on possibly receiving support from outside the Division to assist with contracts.
- Tyese Wortham asked for clarification on the Appeals process. Bedoya clarified that Appeals should initially go to staff for review, and if it is eligible, the Appeal will proceed to FAC for review.
- Jim Santi Owen expressed his desire for future CFP funding, if available, to support arts in schools.

PROGRAM ANALYST REPORT

Raquel Iglesias, Cultural Funding Program Analyst II

Raquel Iglesias began her report by welcoming back Tyese Wortham, and giving her the opportunity to say hello. Iglesias continued by sharing that today would be Jim Santi Owen's last meeting as the Chair of FAC.

Iglesias proceeded to detail the Appeals process, stating that ideally applicants interested in appealing would approach her first so she can share information, guide them through the process, and proceed to FAC if eligible.

In regards to the recently completed Festivals Grants process, Iglesias shared that CFP was able to grant \$120,000 more than in the FY21-22 Festival Grants round. The decline rate for the program

also improved at 30%. The Division received 45 applications total, with 37 eligible for public panel review.

In regards to Organizational Assistance grants, Iglesias stated that AXIS Dance has relocated to Berkeley and is no longer eligible for an OA grant, which has freed up some funding. These extra funds, along with the increase in our CFP budget, has allowed the Division to pump each OA grant by \$5,000 for FY22-23.

OPEN FORUM:

Speaker(s): Open Forum

The following community members were in attendance: Saly Lee, Samee Roberts, Cheryl Fabio, Stephanie Huang.

No public comments were made.

DISCUSSION ITEM #1: FY22-23 Festival Grant Recommendations

Discussion:

- Raquel Iglesias began the discussion by providing an overview of the FY22-23 Festival Grant Recommendations, highlighting the 26 applications are being recommended to move forward and receive funding at a total of \$435, 350. Iglesias shared that the bottom of the threshold was a tie of three applications, which CFP would like to honor. These additional grants funds will be taken out of other grant categories.
- Jim Santi Owen expressed his support of these recommendations, as well as in funding the three applications which tied.
- Indi McCassey asked for information regarding district representation of the Festivals being recommended. Iglesias shared that each District is represented in the list of recommendations. CFP had hoped we would receive more applications from D7, but staff are in discussion about how to support those doing cultural work in East Oakland.
- Adriana Grino expressed her support of the recommendations.
- Michelle Mush Lee pointed out that a school applied for Festival funding, and if they were aware of the Creative Economies grant opportunity. Iglesias clarified that schools were not eligible for the NEA funds, but she would invite each applicant who did not receive funding to have a one-on-one conversation with staff.
- Tyese Wortham expressed her support of the recommendations, and also noted how high the scores were for all applicants.
- Jim Santi Owen expressed his desire for the community to work with both Division staff and City Council to support cultural funding in Oakland.

DISCUSSION ITEM #2: FY22-23 Organizational Assistance Recommendations (Year 2)

Discussion:

- Raquel Iglesias began the discussion by sharing details about Year Two of funding for the Organizational Assistance (OA) grant category. As previously noted, because AXIS Dance is no longer eligible, thus \$35,000 was freed-up for this grant category. Each OA grantee would receive an additional \$5,000 with these recommendations. Iglesias also shared that OA grantees use to receive up to \$80,000 in previous years, however CFP hopes this small bump will support Oakland's core Arts Organizations in the face of inflation. \$750,000 is being recommended for OA funding this year.
- Tyese Wortham asked for clarification on whether this grant amount would be spread across two years, or be allocated per year. Iglesias confirmed OA grant amounts were allocated per year.
- Adriana Grino expressed her support of these recommendations, and enthusiasm for being able to allocate additional funds to these arts organizations.
- Indi McCCasey asked for clarification on OA grantees overlapping in other categories, and being eligible for Festival funding moving forward. Iglesias expressed that this has been on her mind and she's reconsidering if OA grantees will be eligible for other categories moving forward.
- Jim Santi Owen asked CFP staff if there has been any discussion about how many organizations will qualify for OA grants next year and possibly revisiting the idea of grantees taking a break after x amount of years. Iglesias shared that this is on her to-do list and previously FAC had approved Org Projects taking a break after two years, but not Org Assistance grantees.
- Jim Santi Owen expressed his support of the recommendations and sadness that AXIS is no longer Oakland-based.

DISCUSSION ITEM #3: Jim Santi Owen Appreciation Circle!

Discussion:

- Roberto Bedoya expressed how thoughtful and even-handed Jim Santi Owen has been as Chair of FAC and in his public service to Oakland's cultural community. Bedoya also shared that Owen has been approached to join the Cultural Affairs Commission!
- Raquel Iglesias shared that Jim Santi Owen has been a pillar of knowledge and consistency for the program. His support has been deeply appreciated both by her, as well as Denise Pate, especially during times of uncertainty.
- Adriana Grino echoed what Iglesias and Bedoya shared, and expressed her admiration for Owen and his leadership of FAC.

- Tyese Wortham expressed her thanks to Owen for his support and advocacy of Oakland's artist community, as well as her excitement for Owen joining the Cultural Affairs Commission.
- Indi McCasey shared their appreciation for the intention behind everything Owen does, including his advocacy for the Teaching Artist community and making Roberts Rules of Order feel so relationship driven.
- Michelle Mush Lee thanked Owen for welcoming her into the FAC and for all of his hard work through the years.
- Sriba Kwadjovie expressed that FAC would miss Owen tremendously, and thanked him for his leadership. Kwadjovie also expressed wanting to see Owen in his artistry outside of FAC following his departure.
- Jim Santi Owen thanked everyone for their kind words, and reflected on his tenure. Owen also thanked all members for their service on FAC and hard work in supporting Oakland's cultural community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Meeting of the Regular Meeting of the Funding Advisory Committee is scheduled for October 19, 2022.
- Roberto Bedoya shared that we still have unfinished business in sorting out FAC's structure. He expressed that having Jim Santi Owen on the Commission will be instrumental in resolving this issue.
- Indi McCasey highlighted Prop 28, a Music Funding Initiative, is on the ballot this year. McCasey also introduced Currant, McCasey's brand new kitten and FAC member.
- Roberto Bedoya shared that the Division will be attending the Life Enrichment Committee meeting on October 24th for review of our funding recommendations.
- Jim Santi Owen shared that staff is still looking for panelists for the Creative Economies grant program.
- Adriana Grino stated that the Individuals in the Arts grant program, administered by the Center for Cultural Innovation, is accepting applications until September 28th.

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 7:25 PM

- *Motion to adjourn by Jim Santi Owen. Seconded by Currant the Kitten. The motion passed unanimously.*