



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FUNDING ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (FAC)
October 13, 2021; 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:** Proposed plan for establishing a hiatus period for Organizational Assistance applicants.
- **DISCUSSION ITEM #2:** Discussion about whether to re-establish the Art-in-the-Schools category for FY22-23.
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - Next Meeting of the Regular Meeting of the Funding Advisory Committee is scheduled for January 12, 2022.
 - Denise Pate's last day was October 8, 2021. She has accepted the position of Director of Community Investments for the City of SF, SF Arts Commission.

ADJOURN

Attachments

- Minutes from September 15, 2021 Special Meeting of the Funding Advisory Committee

♿ To request materials in alternative formats, 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 15, 2021; 6pm-7:30PM

Meeting Minutes

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

Committee Members Absent: Adriana Grino, Maisha Quint and Tyese Wortham.

Staff in Attendance: Roberto Bedoya, Denise Pate, Kristen Zarembo, Neha Balram and Raquel Iglesias.

Call to Order/Determination of Quorum: 6:03 pm

Approval of Minutes:

1. Approval of MINUTES of July 2021 Minutes
Motion moved to approve by Indi McCCasey. Seconded by Michelle Mush Lee. The motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Roberto Bedoya, Cultural Affairs Manager

Roberto Bedoya began his report by sharing an appreciation for staff, the Funding Advisory Committee and all applicants who recently applied to round one of grant funding. Bedoya expressed his thanks to Denise Pate and Raquel Iglesias who conducted a significant amount of heavy lifting this round of applications, and facilitated a very thorough group of panelists. He continued by sharing his appreciation for the FAC's time and support, and concluded with a thank you to all applicants this round for their efforts with the work involved in submitting a proposal. Bedoya shared that he and staff have been listening to applicants, including those who have been disappointed by the results of the grant recommendations, and thanked staff for their support and grace during this time. The additional \$500,000 in grant funding approved in June by City Council will support more grants in this 1st round of funding, and festivals in the new year.

Bedoya continued with updating FAC on the progress of the Cultural Strategist Program. The program is moving slowly, but will be announced in two weeks after the participating departments refine their request for strategist qualifications. Furthermore, the next Cultural Affairs Commission meeting will occur on September 27th. The commission is currently working with Parks and Recreation on civic commons and public spaces, foregrounding work from the Cultural Plan. And

lastly, the division recently received a last minute allocation from City Council to support a mural program with the district offices; guidelines for this program are currently in development.

Discussion Points:

- Michelle Mush Lee shared her appreciation for staff, and the hard work conducted during this round of grant applications.
- Jim Santi Owen asked what FAC, staff and applicants need to consider with this additional funding being allocated from Council. Bedoya shared that he and Denise Pate are currently discussing the additional 1M being provided next year, and will come back to FAC to gain their insight. Pate also shared that we hope to support more applicants with this funding, as well as add another grant category. Jim Santi Owen clarified that he'd love to think even beyond what to do with this additional funding, but what this may mean for everyone involved further ahead and how to build upon it. Bedoya shared that national funding for creative workforce development may come into fruition.

Coordinator's Report

Denise Pate, Cultural Funding Program Coordinator

Denise Pate began her report by sharing some statistics for Round One of funding. We received 115 applications total for all three categories, which is lighter than previous years due to no increased promotion and a shorter application window. 65 grants total will be awarded this round, which is a 55% award rate; organizational assistance had a 77% award rate in comparison to last year where their was an 81% award rate. Individual Arts Projects and Organization Projects grant categories have an award rate of just under half. 65% of grantees in the Neighborhood Voices categories are in East Oakland council districts. Organizational Assistance grantees are mostly based Downtown in District 3, but are serving districts 1-7. In the Neighborhood Voices for Organizational Projects Category, 6 out of 20 of the grantees are first time applicants working in underserved communities.

Pate is pleased to see the Council mandate to serve flatland neighborhoods is being met and can be demonstrated as such. 30% of Organizational Project grantees are based in and/or serving district 6, a very high percentage. Furthermore, Pate shared that the program has a very transparent and open culture, which encourages applicants to reach out. She has been in conversation with disappointed applicants who are not being recommended for funding. Most of those calls came from applicants in the Organizational Assistance category. This category is becoming increasingly competitive, as new applicants who qualify for funding in this category are entering the fold. Most comments made by panelists were positive, which made it especially difficult to make necessary decisions. The 6 applicants who did not get funding in this category are organizations who have been receiving funding for a long time - 7+ consecutive years, half receiving 2 grants these years.

Pate has been in conversation with other public sector funders to discuss this dilemma and has learned most enforce a hiatus year, but also have other grant opportunities for organizations to apply to during their off-year. She recommends we bring back Art in the Schools grant program to help remedy this issue. Furthermore, Pate shared that Raquel Iglesias will be moving into a full-time role, and our program will soon have a higher capacity to support grant contracts and new funding categories. Lastly, Pate shared more about the diverse panelist pool who included arts administrators, artists and public funders. She also stated that there is a need to spend additional time supporting panelists, as well as compensating them more.

Discussion Points:

- Roberto Bedoya shared with FAC and the public that the reason Arts in the Schools was folded into Organizational Projects was due to staffing. He also shared that the messaging from Council to support festivals and flatland neighborhoods was a directive, not an ordinance.
- Michelle Mush Lee asked how FAC can support the department for more robust outreach efforts next year, as well as how can we compensate panelists more. Lastly, she asked Denise Pate how artists are understanding their work now post-covid. Pate shared that artists are pivoting and still thriving during COVID, despite economic challenges.
- Indi McCasey seconded everything Michelle Mush Lee shared, and hoped that the next meeting FAC could dive deeper into Mush's questions as well as reviving Arts in the Schools grant program. They also shared that the six Organizational Assistance applicants who did not receive support were previously Arts in the Schools grantees, and expressed concern about the City not supporting intergenerational arts education. Bedoya shared that he submitted a proposal for supporting workforce development including teaching artists. Bedoya also expressed the challenge of supporting everyone's needs with little to no staff to support the work.

OPEN FORUM:

Speaker(s): Open Forum

The following community members were in attendance: Nina Woodruff-Walker, Amana Harris, Shannon McDonnell, Gema Cantu, Jean Marie Durant, Phyllis Hall, and Unity Council.

- Nina Woodruff Walker is the Executive Director of MOCHA shared her appreciation of Denise Pate and FAC for being considered the last funding round, as well as sharing the accomplishments of MOCHA. She continued to express that not receiving funding from Org Assistance this round has thrown the organization a curve ball, and requests that a letter be sent from FAC to City Council as to why BIPOC children are not being served by the City.
- Amana Harris of Attitudinal Healing Connection shared her appreciation for Denise Pate and Roberto Bedoya for their work this round funding and supporting the arts in Oakland. Harris continued acknowledging how challenging it can be to not be funded, and is grateful that her organization was able to receive funding this round.
- Shannon McDonnell shared her appreciation for Denise Pate and FAC. McDonnell shared that one of the panelists who reviewed her application did not understand their organizations history with EDI, and their work as the only white-serving organization doing this work for the length they have been doing it. McDonnell felt the panelists were ill-prepared and requested that applications receive questions ahead of time to address questions more thoroughly.
- Jean Marie Durant of Oakland Art Murmur shared her appreciation for staff and the work they are doing to secure more funds for Oakland's artist community. She continued to share that she did not know that serving certain districts in the community as well as festivals, were a directive of City Council and would have appreciated that information.
- Phyllis Hall with Attitudinal Healing Connection shared her appreciation for the Cultural Affairs staff and all applicants who are working to support Oakland's arts and culture. Hall continued with encouraging all applicants and community members to advocate for more funds for the community at the city, county and state level.

- Unity Council shared that Dia de Los Muertos will still occur on Sunday October 31st and will look slightly different from previous years. The festival has always been a tool to uplift the community and offrendas will continue to be a key feature at the festival, as well as the indigenous dancers and low rider group which will all be supported by this grant.
- Roberto Bedoya answered Jean Marie Durants question, and shared that the directive from council to support flatland communities was supported by the additional \$500,000 allotted to Cultural Funding, and festival support will come from Round Two.

ACTION ITEM #1 : Motion to Approve the Funding Recommendations for FY21-22 Neighborhood Voices for Organizations.

- *Motion to approve by Michelle Mush Lee. Seconded by Indi McCasey. Action item passes unanimously.*

Discussion:

- Denise Pate shared that initially \$200K was allotted to this category, however due to the high scoring we took funding from the \$500k additional funds allotted this year to support this category. For this category, 70% of applications scored in the 90s.

ACTION ITEM #2: Motion to Approve the Funding Recommendations for FY21-22 Neighborhood Voices for Individuals.

- *Motion to approve by Sriba Kwadjovie. Seconded by Indri McCasey. Action item passes unanimously.*

Discussion:

- Denise Pate shared that initially \$100K was allotted to this category, however we took additional funds from the \$500K additional funds allotted this year to support this category

ACTION ITEM #3: Motion to Approve the Funding Recommendations for FY21-22 Organizational Assistance.

- *Motion to approve by Michelle Mush Lee. Seconded by Sriba Kwadjovie. Action item passes unanimously.*

Discussion:

- Denise Pate shared that \$600k was initially allocated to this category, but the natural break came at 87.75% which with an additional \$70K could support 3 dance companies, including a new grantee. \$70K was taken from the \$500K in additional funding to support this category.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Meeting of the Regular Meeting of the Funding Advisory Committee is scheduled for October 13, 2021.
- Denise Pate shared that she will be sending FAC additional information about supporting legacy organizations, as well as panelist suggestions.
- Jim Santi Owen asked if City Council will be given the attachments and information shared with FAC, Bedoya confirmed that all information will be shared with elected officials.
- Michelle Mush Lee shared that the Mid-Autumn Festival will be occurring September 18th 12-5pm at Clinton Park.
- Indi McCasey wanted to thank the public who spoke tonight, and for their advocacy in getting City Council to increase funds to Arts and Culture in the City. McCasey also shared that SB628 is on the Governor's desk to support the creative workforce at the CA state level. Roberto Bedoya shared that this support is going to Counties.

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

- *Motion to approve by Michelle Mush Lee. Seconded by Indi McCasey. The motion passed unanimously.*