

**DATE:** August 19, 2019  
**TO:** The Honorable Mayor Brian Treece  
Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** Lili Vianello, Chair, Commission on Cultural Affairs  
**RE:** Arts Contract Recommendations for FY2020

The City of Columbia's funding for arts agencies has helped develop and create a strong cultural environment in our city. We can all be proud of this unique aspect of Columbia. As usual, the Office of Cultural Affairs' (OCA) Annual Funding process started in the spring, and the Commission on Cultural Affairs spent more than 250 hours completing a detailed review of applications from our local arts agencies. Reading through the applications makes one appreciate how much these organizations add to our community and its economic development. This partnership between the city and the arts industry is an important investment in our culture for both our residents and visitors.

As you may know, many studies prove the arts are a sound investment. Arts organizations contribute to the quality of life for our residents and increase tourism, enhance education, add to public safety by creating defensible neighborhoods, and support economic development. We estimate more than 270,000 citizens and visitors will participate in city-funded arts activities and events this year. City dollars also leverage other funding sources to bring additional dollars into the community.

There is no doubt the proposed arts programming is a vital part of why Columbia is a leader in the arts statewide and Missouri's first-ever designated "Creative Community." We are particularly proud that local arts organizations continue to grow their programs and services while serving more citizens and visitors, as well as providing cultural opportunities for under-served populations.

During the budget process, the OCA staff estimated funding from the city's general fund to be \$103,000. This budget scenario assumes \$100,000 for Annual Funding with an additional \$3,000 for our Small Request funding to support applications from arts and cultural organizations for new, smaller projects added throughout the year.

In addition to city funding, \$4,890 will be distributed from the Columbia Arts Fund, an arts endowment fund established at the Community Foundation of Central Missouri in 2012 with an initial amount of \$10,000. Because of contributions from individual donors, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and fundraising efforts from OCA's annual Celebration of the Arts events, the fund has grown to more than \$265,000. The annual funding amount of \$100,000 will be augmented to allow for \$104,890 to be distributed, in addition to the \$3,000 for Small Requests.

If funding is approved for the OCA budget, contracts will be authorized in October to support arts "presentation," "education," and "combined" projects. This year, the OCA received 28 applications with requests totaling \$178,543.00. Attached to this document are the notes on the

funding recommendations and stipulations (attachment A).

The guidelines and evaluation criteria can be found at: <http://www.como.gov/arts/funding-opportunities/annual-arts-funding>

Since 2017, considerable time and numerous public meetings have been held as an OCA sub-committee reviewed and modified the funding process to create a more open and transparent system. A basic summation of the process is as follows:

- The arts funding application form is revised annually to guide planning, implementation and evaluation of programs.
- Notification of the funding process was sent to all previous applicants. An announcement was made in *Art News* E-Newsletter distributed weekly. The OCA's webpage listed a timeline of the process and included an interactive application form.
- There was an opportunity for agencies to turn in drafts to the OCA staff for feedback and/or meet with the OCA for assistance.
- Organizations may request up to 25% of last fiscal year's total revenue, with a minimum request of \$1,000 and a maximum request of \$7,500.
- Agencies may submit only one application.

Commissioners review applications in a manner patterned after the Missouri Arts Council's process. In short, each Commissioner reads all applications on their own, makes written comments pertaining to the evaluation criteria, and scores applications in advance of the June meeting. The written comments and scores are submitted to the OCA and a compilation is provided to all Commissioners prior to the June meeting. At the June meeting, each application is discussed, and preliminary scores are figured, which are then ratified by the Commission at the July meeting.

OCA staff employs a mathematical formula approved by the Commission to determine a preliminary funding level for each applicant. It directly relates to the application scores, therefore rewarding proposals that most clearly and directly meet guidelines and address program criteria.

The Commission held a posted, public hearing at its July meeting to gather feedback from organizations and individuals wishing to comment on the funding process. Ultimately, the Commission approved the work done at its June work session, clearing the way for contracts to be authorized once the OCA's FY2020 budget is approved by the Council.

Above all, please know we deeply appreciate the Council's recognition of the importance of actively supporting the arts locally. We hope you share our enthusiasm for the range of cultural and arts-related opportunities the recommended projects will present to Columbia's citizens and visitors.

## **Attachment A**

### **Boone County Historical Society**

*Project Name:* Boone County Historical Society: Music, Art, History & Education Exhibitions;  
Oct 2019 – Sept 2020

*Description:* seven art exhibits, outreach to schools with Traveling Trunk program, three major history exhibits, six concerts (Blind Boone Concert Series) and monthly meet the author book talks.

*Stipulations:* Provide finalized schedule for projects (concert series and Meet the Author).

Provide documentations from schools for Traveling Truck when known.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

### **Choral Arts Alliance of Missouri**

*Project Name:* Choral Arts Alliance of Missouri 2019-20 Season

*Description:* choral concerts and outreach shows, two workshops, and educational programming.

*Stipulations:* Provide venue information for March concert.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* James Melton

### **Columbia Art League**

*Project Name:* Art in the Park 2020

*Description:* fine arts and fine crafts festival

*Stipulations:* None

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Wendy Moore, Phong Nguyen, Ellen Rippetto

### **Columbia Civic Orchestra**

*Project Name:* Series of Five Concerts

*Description:* series of five concerts

*Stipulations:* Provide finalized dates of all concerts.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

### **Columbia Community Band**

*Project Name:* Columbia Community Band 2020 Concert Season

*Description:* present seven free symphony band concerts for the Columbia, Missouri community.

*Stipulations:* Provide finalized dates of all concerts.

*Request:* \$3,330

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

**Columbia Entertainment Company**

*Project Name:* Columbia Entertainment Company's 41st Season

*Description:* present five, live theatrical productions featuring community cast and crew members.

*Stipulations:* None

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

**Columbia Handbell Ensemble**

*Project Name:* Columbia Handbell Ensemble 31st Annual Concert Season

*Description:* will provide five concerts as well as one provide hands-on education experiences to promote musical artistry and excellence through the medium of handbells

*Stipulations:* None

*Request:* \$1,140

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

**GreenHouse Theatre Project**

*Project Name:* GreenHouse Theatre Project 2020 Season

*Description:* two main stage productions and several smaller performance collaborations

*Stipulations:* Provide finalized dates and venues

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

**Jabberwocky Studios**

*Project Name:* Jabberwocky 2020 Education and Outreach

*Description:* in-studio programming in dance, music, poetry and visual art; special programs including outreach activities; Work Learn programs; and Africa Fest 2020

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Alan Toigo

**Jazz Forward Initiative, Inc.**

*Project Name:* 2020 Mo Jazz Music Festival

*Description:* presentation of one-day music festival, free and open to the public

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$2,000

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

### **Maplewood Barn Association**

*Project Name:* Maplewood Barn Theater, Annual Season

*Description:* five live, stage shows in Nifong Park, 36 half-hour radio broadcasts of old-time radio scripts from the 1930s-1950s, and outreach activities throughout the community.

*Stipulations:* Provide dates for productions.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

### **Mid-Missouri Traditional Dancers**

*Project Name:* Bi-Weekly Contra Dances and Adventure Club Dance Series

*Description:* presentation of bi-weekly contra dances, and the Adventure Club Dance Series.

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$2,665

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

### **Missouri Contemporary Ballet**

*Project Name:* 2019-20 MCB Dance Performance and Education Project

*Description:* live dance performances (four productions), a choreographic installation, and four interactive lecture-demonstrations.

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Alan Toigo

### **Missouri Symphony Society**

*Project Name:* 2020 Hot Summer Nights Music Festival and 2019-20 Missouri Symphony Conservatory

*Description:* year-long music conservatory for students in grades 1-12, a summer music camp, and Hot Summer Nights (20 concerts in five weeks) that includes free community concerts.

*Stipulations:* Provide dates for Hot Summer Nights festival.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Nick Kenny

### **North Village Arts District**

*Project Name:* First Fridays in the North Village Arts District

*Description:* free monthly event that occurs the first Friday of every month in the North Village Arts District that provides an opportunity for visitors of all ages and interests to walk the area, learn about art and visit with artists.

*Stipulations:* None

*Request:* \$3,408

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

**Odyssey Chamber Music Series**

*Project Name:* Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Season 16

*Description:* chamber music series (8 public concerts) and 6 outreach concerts (free and open to the public)

*Stipulations:* None

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* James Melton

**Orr Street Studios Artist Guild**

*Project Name:* Programing for Orr St. Studios

*Description:* gallery shows, presentation of Seeing Visions/Hearing Voices, and Second Saturday for Kids

*Stipulations:* None

*Request:* \$5,000

*Conflict of Interest:* Phong Nguyen

**PACE – Performing Arts in Children’s Education**

*Project Name:* 16th Annual PACE Season

*Description:* three theatrical productions

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

**Ragtag Film Society**

*Project Name:* True/False Film Fest and Ragtag Cinema

*Description:* four-day festival celebrating new and nontraditional, nonfiction filmmaking, bringing national and international filmmakers to Columbia, and offers a weekend of films, director Q&A’s, installation art, music, and events, featuring 150 screenings of 60 nonfiction films; and presentation of Ragtag’s four annual specialty series.

*Stipulations:* Provide dates for annual specialty series screenings when known.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* James Melton, Phong Nguyen

**Resident Arts**

*Project Name:* 2020 Core Programs

*Description:* After-school Teen Artist Residency program, Emerging Artist Residency, Professional Development Workshop Series, and Exhibitions

*Stipulations:* None

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Phong Nguyen

**School of Service (dba Access Arts)**

*Project Name:* Inclusive Community

*Description:* ongoing programming to provide multiple opportunities for underserved populations in Columbia, including year-long collaborations with service organizations, week-long summer camps, and one-day workshops. Includes education in ceramics, fibers, drawing, and mixed media.

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None

**Talking Horse Productions**

*Project Name:* Talking Horse Productions: 2019-2020 Theatre Season

*Description:* six main theatrical productions, one touring children's production, and the Starting Gate New Play Festival.

*Stipulations:* Provide documentation from schools for touring production when known.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Lili Vianello

**The Columbia Book Festival, Inc.**

*Project Name:* Unbound Book Festival 2019

*Description:* fifth annual book festival presenting nationally-recognized and best-selling authors of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's literature; programming includes of readings, interviews, panels, and other book-related activities; free and open to the public.

*Stipulations:* Finalize key personnel.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Wendy Moore, Phong Nguyen, Ellen Rippetto

**The Missouri Review**

*Project Name:* The Missouri Review: Access to Contemporary Literature and Writers

*Description:* three free public literature events in the Columbia community

*Stipulations:* Provide finalized dates and venues for public events.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Phong Nguyen, Alan Toigo

**TRYPS Institute**

*Project Name:* 2020 Season, Education & Outreach

*Description:* four theatrical productions, an education series and outreach activities.

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

**University Concert Series**

*Project Name:* University Concert Series 2019-2020 Season

*Description:* season of performances, including 25 performances in total

*Stipulations:* Provide finalized schedule of shows

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Alan Toigo, Lili Vianello

**“We Always Swing” Jazz Series**

*Project Name:* "We Always Swing" Jazz Series: Season No. 25

*Description:* season of performances with an array of the finest jazz artists in the world, coupled with in-school and community-oriented programs

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Nick Kenny, James Melton

**Wontanara, Inc.**

*Project Name:* CoMo African Dance and Percussion Celebration

*Description:* one-day event offering classes to all ages and levels and a performance; workshops with elementary school students the weeks leading up to the Celebration

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$3,500

*Conflict of Interest:* James Melton, Phong Nguyen