

DATE: August 21, 2017
TO: The Honorable Mayor Brian Treece
Members of the City Council
FROM: Aaron Krawitz, Chair, Commission on Cultural Affairs
RE: Arts Contract Recommendations for FY2018

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The City of Columbia's funding for arts agencies has helped develop and create a strong cultural environment in our city. It is a unique aspect of Columbia that we can all be proud of. The city's Annual Funding process started in the spring and the Commission on Cultural Affairs spent 380 hours completing a detailed review of the art agencies' applications. Reading through the applications makes one appreciate how much these organizations add to our community and economic development. This partnership between the city and the arts industry is an important investment in the culture of our community for both our residents and visitors.

As you may know there are many studies that prove that the arts are a sound investment. Art organizations contribute to the quality of life for our residents and increase tourism, enhance education, contribute to public safety by creating defensible neighborhoods, and support economic development. We estimate that more than 181,000 citizens and visitors will participate in city funded arts activities and events this year. City dollars also leverage other funding sources that bring additional dollars into the community.

There is no doubt that the arts programming being proposed 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 and are serving more citizens and visitors, as well as providing cultural opportunities for the under-served population.

During the budget process, the Office of Cultural Affairs' (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 smaller projects.

In addition to city funding, \$8,500 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. Due to contributions from individual donors, the Columbia Visitors Bureau, and fundraising efforts from OCA's annual Celebration of the Arts events, the fund has grown to almost \$180,000 and will augment the annual funding amount of \$100,000 to allow for \$108,500 to be distributed.

If funding is approved in the Office of Cultural Affairs' (OCA) budget, contracts will be authorized in October to support arts "presentation", "education", and "combined" projects. This year, the OCA received 29 applications with requests totaling \$241,067, more agencies than ever before. Attached to this document are the notes on the funding recommendations and stipulations (attachment A).

The guidelines and evaluation criteria can be found at: como.gov/Arts/Arts_Funding/index.php

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, and the *City Source* newsletter publicized the opportunity. The OCA's web page 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.
- Requests are capped at \$10,000, allowing the most equitable distribution of the limited funds.
- Agencies may submit only one application.

Commissioners review applications in a process patterned after the Missouri Arts Council's. It results in significantly more feedback to agencies in the form of written comments and a shorter and therefore less hurried meeting at which the applications are formally considered. 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, preliminary scores are figured and finalized.

OCA staff employs a mathematical formula approved by the Commission to determine a preliminary funding level for each applicant. It directly relates the application scores and rankings, 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 FY18 budget is in place.

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

Boone County Historical Society

Project Name: **History, Art, & Education Exhibits: October 2017 - September 2018**

Project Description: seven art exhibits, outreach to eight schools with the Traveling Trunk Program, five major history exhibits, seven concerts (Blind Boone Concert Series) and monthly meet the author book talk

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Stipulation: Provide finalized schedule for projects (exhibits, concert series, Meet the Author).

Stipulation: Provide documentations from schools for Traveling Trunk when known.

Choral Arts Alliance of Missouri

Project Name: **Choral Arts Alliance of Missouri 2017-2018 Season**

Project Description: nine diverse choral concerts (including two free-will donation) and one choral workshops

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Stipulation: Provide finalized concert dates and venues.

Citizen Jane Film Festival

Project Name: **Citizen Jane Film Festival**

Project Description: The festival screens narrative, documentary and short films, hosting panel discussions with the filmmakers.

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Columbia Art League

Project Name: **Art in the Park & Teen Mentorship Program**

Project Description: fine arts and fine crafts festival, including performances and art installations; artist/student mentorship program targeting at-risk youth; and a community outreach program in partnership with Harry S. Truman VA Hospital providing bi-monthly art classes to veterans

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: Elle Rippetto

Columbia Chapter of the MO Writer's Guild

Project Name: **Show Me Writers Masterclass**

Project Description: two-day event that provides a vibrant learning experience for writers of mid-Missouri and is open to artisans of all ages, backgrounds and skill levels

Request: \$3,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Stipulation: Finalize keynote speakers.

Columbia Civic Orchestra

Project Name: **Columbia Civic Orchestra 2017-2018 Series of Five Concerts**

Project Description: series of five concerts with regular discounts or offer free student tickets and present at least one free concert per season

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Stipulation: Provide finalized concert dates.

Columbia Community Band

Project Name: **Columbia Community Band 2017-2018 Concert Series**

Project Description: present at least seven free symphonic band concerts for the Columbia Missouri community

Request: \$4,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Stipulation: Provide finalized concert dates.

Columbia Entertainment Company

Project Name: **Columbia Entertainment Company's 2017-2018 Season (39th Season)**

Project Description: present six, live theatrical productions featuring community cast and crew members

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Columbia Handbell Ensemble, Inc.

Project Name: **Columbia Handbell Ensemble, Inc. 29th Concert Season**

Project Description: will provide seven concerts as well as one workshop and hands-on educational experiences to promote musical artistry and excellence through the medium of handbells

Request: \$1,250

Conflict of Interest: None.

Stipulation: Provide finalized venues when known.

Dismal Niche Arts

Project Name: **Dismal Niche Music and Arts Festival 2017**

Project Description: four-day music and arts festival with live musical performances as well as interactive filming and performance art experiences, visual art exhibits and artist workshops

Request: \$5,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Greenhouse Theatre Project

Project Name: **201/2018 Theatre Season**

Project Description: three main stage productions and three smaller collaborative performances

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: Nick Kenny

Stipulation: Provide finalized dates and venues.

Jabberwocky Studios

Project Name: **Jabberwocky Education and Outreach 2018**

Project Description: classes and outreach in art, theatre, voice, dance, writing and poetry

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Maplewood Barn Association

Project Name: **Maplewood Barn Theatre, Annual Season**

Project Description: five live, stage shows at Nifong Park, 36 original radio adaptations of classic literature, a Children's Theater Camp, and outreach activities throughout the community

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: Aaron Krawitz

Stipulation: Provide letter from Boone County Historical Society confirming partnership.

Stipulation: Provide dates for productions.

Mid-Missouri Traditional Dancers

Project Name: **2018 Spring Breakdown Dance Weekend & Children's Dance Series**

Project Description: weekend festival of traditional dancing to live music by nationally known band and caller; workshops for callers, musicians and dancers; and a series of six children's dances at various Adventure Club after-school care sites during the school year

Request: \$6,880

Conflict of Interest: None.

Stipulation: Provide date for Spring Breakdown Weekend.

Mid-Missouri Woodcarvers

Project Name: **Technique Sharing Woodcarving Series**

Project Description: one weekend-long woodcarving seminar taught by a nationally recognized artist enabling interested citizens of all ages with basic wood carving skills an opportunity to experience one-on-one instruction, and demonstrations at Art in the Park and the Heritage Festival

Request: \$1,437

Conflict of Interest: None.

Missouri Contemporary Ballet

Project Name: **2017-18 MCB Dance Performance and Education Project**

Project Description: live dance performances (two shows), an open rehearsal, choreographic installations that engage community members, four interactive lecture-demonstrations and educational lecture-demonstrations

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Missouri Symphony Society

***Project Name:* 2018 Hot Summer Nights Music Festival and 2017-2018 Missouri Symphony Conservatory**

Project Description: year-long music conservatory for students in grades 3-12, a summer music camp, and Hot Summer Nights (25 concerts in six weeks--the largest classical and pops summer music festival in the heartland of America) that includes free community concerts

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: Nick Kenny

Stipulation: Provide dates for Hot Summer Nights festival.

North Village Arts District

***Project Name:* 2018 First Fridays in the North Village Arts District**

Project Description: free monthly art event that occurs the first Friday of every month in the North Village Arts District and exposes visitors to different types of art, music, and performances from a variety of cultures and perspectives

Request: \$4,500

Conflict of Interest: Kevin Shults

Odyssey Chamber Music Series

***Project Name:* Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Season 14**

Project Description: chamber music series (8 public concerts), 4 outreach events (free and open to the public), and the Odyssey Chamber Music Festival

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

PACE - Performing Arts in Children's Education

***Project Name:* PACE's 14th ANNUAL SEASON**

Project Description: six large productions (plays and musicals); outreach through Adventure Club and Barnes & Noble; classes in ballet, tap, jazz, hip/hop, lyrical, creative movement, acting, improvisation, and musical theatre training; teach and perform at community events; and theatrical internships

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: Carol Schmitz

Stipulation: Provide letters from participating groups--Adventure Club and Barnes & Noble--for education programs.

Ragtag Film Society

***Project Name:* Ragtag Film Society--True/False Film Fest and AfterWords (Community Screenings) at Ragtag Cinema**

Project Description: four-day festival celebrating new and nontraditional, nonfiction filmmaking; brings national and international filmmakers to Columbia, and offers a transformative weekend of films, director Q&A's, installation art, music, and events; 140 screenings of 60 plus films, and free community screenings

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of interest: Bill Bondeson

Stipulation: Provide letters of collaboration from organizations and schools.

Stipulation: Provide dates for community screenings when known.

Resident Arts

Project Name: **FY18 Core Programs**

Project Description: After-school Teen Artist Residency program, Emerging Artist Residency, Professional Development Workshop Series, Exhibitions, and free Career Coaching

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of interest: None.

School of Service, Inc. (dba Access Arts)

Project Name: **2018 Ceramics Programs**

Project Description: weekly classes for adults, children, and veterans, as well as periodic workshops and demos at community festivals and schools; visual art education for two distinct populations in our community--the business/professional community (team-building) and at-risk teens

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Talking Horse Productions

Project Name: **Talking Horse Productions 2017-2018 Theatre Season**

Project Description: six main theatrical productions and one touring children's production

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Lili Vianello

Stipulation: Provide documentation from schools for touring production when known.

The Columbia Book Festival Inc. dba: Unbound Book Festival

Project Name: **The Unbound Book Festival**

Project Description: third annual book festival presenting nationally-recognized and best-selling authors of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's literature; free and open to the public

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: Ellen Rippetto

Stipulation: Provide documentation from participating schools for outreach activities when known.

Stipulation: Finalize key personnel.

The Missouri Review

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

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

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Stipulation: Provide finalized dates and venues for public events.

TRYPS Institute

Project Name: **2018 Season, Education & Outreach**

Project Description: five musical productions, theatre camp, workshops, private vocal lessons, acting and dance class sessions for ages 10 months through college, as well as inclusive theatre for children ages 6-12 diagnosed on the Autism spectrum, Downs, and speech delay; free outreach workshops and appearances

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: Carol Schmitz

University Concert Series

Project Name: **University Concert Series 2017-2018 Season**

Project Description: seven entertainment and cultural experiences from around the world brought to Columbia; brings touring companies of artists that span four continents to Columbia

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: Lili Vianello

“We Always Swing,” Jazz Series

Project Name: **“We Always Swing,” Jazz Series: Season No. 23**

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

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of interest: Nick Kenny