

**DATE:** August 15, 2022  
**TO:** Mayor Barbara Buffaloe  
Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** James Melton, Chair, Commission on Cultural Affairs  
**RE:** Arts Contract Recommendations for FY2023

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 200 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 175,000 residents 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 resident 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, \$8,900 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 event, the fund has grown to more than \$340,000. The annual funding amount of \$100,000 will be augmented to allow for \$108,900 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" and "education" projects. This year, the OCA received 25 applications with requests totaling \$168,396. Attached to this document are the notes on the funding

recommendations and stipulations (attachment A).

The guidelines and evaluation criteria can be found at: <https://www.como.gov/cultural-affairs/funding-opportunities/>

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 FY2023 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 residents and visitors.

## **Attachment A**

### **Boone County Historical Society**

Project Name: BCHS Visual Arts, Music, and Literature Programming FY2023

Description: Arts programming and presentation in the Montminy Art Gallery, the Blind Boone Concert Series, and the Meet the Author Series.

Stipulations: Provide finalized schedule.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

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

Project Name: 2022-2023 Concert Season

Description: Presentation of seven concerts and a choral workshop.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

### **Columbia Art League**

Project Name: Art in the Park 2023

Description: A two-day fine arts and crafts festival.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Ellen Rippetto

### **Columbia Civic Orchestra**

Project Name: Series of Five Concerts

Description: Series of five concerts.

Stipulations: Provide finalized dates and venues for all concerts.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

### **Columbia Community Band**

Project Name: Columbia Community Band 2023 Concert Series

Description: Series of six free concerts.

Stipulations: Provide finalized dates and venues for all concerts.

Request: \$4,069

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Columbia Entertainment Company**

Project Name: CEC's 44<sup>th</sup> Season

Description: Presentation of five theatrical productions.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Dismal Niche Arts**

Project Name: Columbia Experimental Music Festival

Description: A four-day contemporary music and arts festival.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**GreenHouse Theatre Project**

Project Name: GreenHouse Theatre Project 2023 Season

Description: Three main stage productions.

Stipulations: Provide finalized dates and venues.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Jabberwocky Studios**

Project Name: Jabberwocky Studios Education 2023

Description: In-studio dance programming; special programs and outreach in STEAM and visual arts; Work Learn programs; Africa Fest 2023; and theater instruction.

Stipulations: Provide finalized schedule of programs and date/venue for Africa Fest.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Jazz Forward Initiative**

Project Name: 2023 Mo Jazz Music Festival

Description: Presentation of one-day music festival, free and open to the public.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$2,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Maplewood Barn Association**

Project Name: Maplewood Barn Theatre, Annual Season

Description: Four live, stage shows, Maplewood Barn Radio Theater broadcasts, and outreach

activities throughout the community.

Stipulations: Provide dates for productions and schedule for outreach programs.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

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

Project Name: Early American Traditional Dance Series

Description: Regularly scheduled Contra Dances, a dance weekend event, and Children's Dance Series.

Stipulations: Provide date and venue for dance weekend event.

Request: \$1,427

Conflict of Interest: None.

### **Mareck Center for Dance**

Project Name: 2022-2023 Mareck Dance Presentation Program

Description: Three dance performances, and three choreographic installations / open rehearsals.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

### **New Wave Corporation / KOPN**

Project Name: KOPN Soundstage 2023

Description: Live music series of four events and related on-air programming.

Stipulations: Provide dates of live events.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

### **North Village Arts District**

Project Name: First Friday Music!

Description: Support musicians performing at monthly First Friday events.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Frances Lakatos

### **Odyssey Chamber Music Series**

Project Name: Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Season 19

Description: Present 19 chamber music programs.

Stipulations: Provide full schedule of programming.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Orr Street Studios Artists Guild**

Project Name: Orr Street Artists Guild Community Programming

Description: First Friday events, Second Saturdays for Kids, and Hearing Voices Seeing Visions

Stipulations: Provide full schedule of programming.

Request: \$5,400

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Ragtag Film Society**

Project Name: True/False Film Fest

Description: Four-day festival celebrating new and nontraditional, nonfiction filmmaking, featuring 150 screenings of 60 nonfiction films.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Kristin Gadsden

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

Project Name: Inclusive Community 2023

Description: Ongoing programming including weekly classes, youth art camps, after-school enrichment, 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 2022-2023 Season

Description: Six main season productions, a new play festival, and a touring children's theatre production.

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

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**The Columbia Book Festival, Inc.**

Project Name: The Unbound Book Festival 2023

Description: Annual book festival presenting nationally-recognized and best-selling authors and poets to participate in readings, interviews, panels, and other book-related activities.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

**Conflict of Interest:** Kristin Gadsden and Ellen Rippetto

**The Missouri Symphony**

Project Name: 2023 Summer Music Festival

Description: A multi-week summer music festival featuring orchestral and chamber music.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Theater Reaching Young People & Schools**

Project Name: 2023 Season, Education & Outreach

Description: Three theatrical productions, a monthly concert series, and an education series.

Stipulations: Provide schedule for education series.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**University Concert Series**

Project Name: University Concert Series 2022-2023 Season

Description: Season of performances in music, dance and theatre.

Stipulations: Provide schedule of performance.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**“We Always Swing” Jazz Series**

Project Name: “We Always Swing” Jazz Series – Season #28

Description: Season of performances with an array of the finest jazz artists in the world

Stipulations: Provide schedule of performances.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.