

**DATE:** August 16, 2021  
**TO:** Mayor Brian Treece  
Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** James Melton, Chair, Commission on Cultural Affairs  
**RE:** Arts Contract Recommendations for FY2022

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 195,000 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, \$8,100 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 \$383,000. The annual funding amount of \$100,000 will be augmented to allow for \$108,100 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 24 applications with requests totaling \$162,422. 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 FY2022 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:* BCHS Exhibits and Programs in the Visual Arts, Literature and Music; October 2021 – September 2022

*Description:* Six art exhibits, six concerts (Blind Boone Concert Series) and monthly meet the author book talks.

*Stipulations:* Provide finalized schedule for projects.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Carol Schmitz

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

*Project Name:* Choral Arts Alliance of Missouri 2021-2022 Season

*Description:* Eight choral concerts, one workshop, and educational programming.

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None

### **Columbia Art League**

*Project Name:* Art in the Park 2022

*Description:* Fine arts and fine crafts festival

*Stipulations:* None

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Lisa Driskel Hawxby, Kristin Gadsden, Ellen Rippetto

### **Columbia Civic Orchestra**

*Project Name:* Series of Five Concerts

*Description:* Series of five concerts

*Stipulations:* Provide finalized dates and venues of all concerts.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

### **Columbia Community Band**

*Project Name:* Columbia Community Band 2022 Concert Season

*Description:* Present seven free symphony band concerts

*Stipulations:* Provide finalized dates and venues of all concerts.

*Request:* \$4,787

*Conflict of Interest:* Carol Schmitz

### **Columbia Entertainment Company**

*Project Name:* CEC's 43rd Season

*Description:* Present five, live theatrical productions

*Stipulations:* None

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Lisa Driskel Hawxby

**Columbia Handbell Ensemble**

*Project Name:* Columbia Handbell Ensemble 32 1/2 Annual Concert Season

*Description:* Present a series of six concerts and educational events.

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$1,400

*Conflict of Interest:* Carol Schmitz

**GreenHouse Theatre Project**

*Project Name:* GreenHouse Theatre Project 2022 Season

*Description:* Two main stage productions (in-person) and one virtual production.

*Stipulations:* Provide finalized dates.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

**Jabberwocky Studios**

*Project Name:* Jabberwocky Studios Education and Presentation 2022

*Description:* In-studio dance programming; special programs and outreach in dance and visual arts; Work Learn programs; Africa Fest 2022; and theater instruction.

*Stipulations:* Finalize schedule of programs and date/venue for Africa Fest.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

**Jazz Forward Initiative, Inc.**

*Project Name:* 2022 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:* Four live, stage shows in Nifong Park, radio theater broadcasts, and outreach activities throughout the community.

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

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

**Mid-Missouri Traditional Dancers**

*Project Name:* Traditional American Dance Series

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

*Stipulations:* Provide date and venue for dance weekend event.

*Request:* \$4,235

*Conflict of Interest:* None.

### **Missouri Contemporary Ballet**

*Project Name:* 2021-22 MCB Dance Performance and Education Project

*Description:* Three dance performances, two choreographic installation/open rehearsal, and five lecture-demonstrations.

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None

### **Missouri Symphony Society**

*Project Name:* 2022 Hot Summer Nights Music Festival

*Description:* 2022 Hot Summer Nights Music Festival

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

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Lisa Driskel Hawxby, James Melton

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

*Project Name:* KOPN 89.5 FM Community Radio

*Description:* Community radio projects including Columbia Carousel, digitizing and rebroadcast of Classical Trivia, Reel Rewind historic live performances, and KOPN Soundstage live on-air concert series

*Stipulations:* Provide full schedule of programming.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* None

### **Odyssey Chamber Music Series**

*Project Name:* Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Season 18

*Description:* Presenting 14 chamber music programs

*Stipulations:* Provide full schedule of programming.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* James Melton

### **Orr Street Studios Artist Guild**

*Project Name:* Orr Streets Studios Arts and Community Programming

*Description:* Second Saturday for Kids, First Friday events, Gallery Shows, and Artist in Residence Programs

*Stipulations:* Provide full schedule of programming

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Lisa Driskel Hawxby

### **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:* Robert Almony

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

*Project Name:* Inclusive Community 2022

*Description:* Ongoing programming 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:* Lisa Driskel Hawxby, James Melton

**Talking Horse Productions**

*Project Name:* FY2022 Theatre Season

*Description:* Six main theatrical productions, a new play festival, a virtual sketch comedy show, and a children's theatre touring production.

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

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Lisa Driskel Hawxby

**The Columbia Book Festival, Inc.**

*Project Name:* The Unbound Book Festival 2022

*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, Ellen Rippetto

**Theater Reaching Young People & Schools**

*Project Name:* 2022 Season, Education & Outreach

*Description:* Four theatrical productions, a monthly concert series, an education series and outreach activities.

*Stipulations:* Provide schedule for education series and outreach activities.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* James Melton, Sharon Roulier, Carol Schmitz

**University Concert Series**

*Project Name:* University Concert Series 2021-2022 Season

*Description:* Season of performances, including 20-25 performances in total

*Stipulations:* None.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* Robert Almony, James Melton

**"We Always Swing" Jazz Series**

*Project Name:* "We Always Swing" Jazz Series: Season #27 – Jazz[Still]NeverSleeps

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

*Stipulations:* Provide schedule of performances and educational and outreach programs.

*Request:* \$7,500

*Conflict of Interest:* James Melton