

DATE: August 17, 2020
TO: Mayor Brian Treece
Members of the City Council
FROM: Ellen Rippetto, Chair, Commission on Cultural Affairs
RE: Arts Contract Recommendations for FY2021

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 300 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 250,000 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, \$5,700 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 \$290,000. The annual funding amount of \$100,000 will be augmented to allow for \$105,700 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 26 applications with requests totaling \$167,760. 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 FY2021 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 2020 - September 2021

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 2020-2021 Season

Description: Nine choral concerts, one workshop, and educational programming.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: James Melton, Phong Nguyen, Kern Wisman

Columbia Art League

Project Name: Art in the Park 2021

Description: Fine arts and fine crafts festival

Stipulations: None

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Phong Nguyen, Ellen Rippetto

Columbia Civic Orchestra

Project Name: Series of Four Concerts

Description: Series of four 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 2021 Concert Season

Description: Present seven free symphony band concerts

Stipulations: Provide finalized dates of all concerts.

Request: \$4,015

Conflict of Interest: James Melton

Columbia Entertainment Company

Project Name: CEC's 42nd Season

Description: Present five, live theatrical productions

Stipulations: None

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Columbia Handbell Ensemble

Project Name: Columbia Handbell Ensemble 32nd Annual Concert Season

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

Stipulations: Provide letter from participating school.

Request: \$1,400

Conflict of Interest: Kern Wisman

GreenHouse Theatre Project

Project Name: GreenHouse Theatre Project Season 2021

Description: Two main stage productions and several smaller performance collaborations.

Stipulations: Provide finalized dates.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Jabberwocky Studios

Project Name: Jabberwocky Studios Education, Outreach and Presentation 2021

Description: In-studio dance programming; special programs and outreach in dance and visual arts; Work Learn programs; Africa Fest 2021; and theater instruction.

Stipulations: Finalize schedule of programs and date/venue for Africa Fest. Submit letters from participating schools.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Jazz Forward Initiative, Inc.

Project Name: 2021 Mo Jazz Music Festival

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

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$3,500

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. Provide letters from participating schools for Children's Dance Series.

Request: \$4,235

Conflict of Interest: None.

Missouri Contemporary Ballet

Project Name: 2020-21 MCB Dance Performance and Education Project

Description: Five dance performances, one choreographic installation, and five lecture-demonstrations.

Stipulations: Provide letters from participating schools and groups.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

Missouri Symphony Society

Project Name: 2021 Hot Summer Nights Music Festival and 2020-21 Missouri Symphony Conservatory

Description: 2021 Hot Summer Nights Music Festival and 2020-21 Missouri Symphony Conservatory

Stipulations: Provide dates for Hot Summer Nights festival. Provide letters from participating schools for outreach program.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: James Melton

North Village Arts District

Project Name: First Fridays in the North Village Arts District

Description: Free monthly art event that occurs the first Friday of every month in the North Village Arts District

Stipulations: None

Request: \$2,816

Conflict of Interest: Lisa Driskel Hawxby, Phong Nguyen

Odyssey Chamber Music Series

Project Name: Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Season 17

Description: Chamber music series (9 concerts), outreach concerts, and a pre-collegiate concerto competition event.

Stipulations: None

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: James Melton

Orr Street Studios Artist Guild

Project Name: Artistic Community Programming at Orr Street Studios

Description: Second Saturday for Kids, Hearing Voices/Seeing Visions, gallery shows, and community non-profit event support and collaboration.

Stipulations: None

Request: \$5,000

Conflict of Interest: Phong Nguyen

PACE – Performing Arts in Children’s Education

Project Name: PACE 17th Annual Season

Description: Five theatrical productions. One production part of the summer camp program.
Stipulations: None.
Request: \$7,500
Conflict of Interest: James Melton, Carol Schmitz

Ragtag Film Society

Project Name: True/False Film Fest and Ragtag Cinema
Description: Four-day festival celebrating new and nontraditional, nonfiction filmmaking, featuring 150 screenings of 60 nonfiction films; and presentation of Ragtag Cinema's four annual specialty series.
Stipulations: Provide dates for annual specialty series screenings when known. Provide letters from participating schools and groups.
Request: \$7,500
Conflict of Interest: Kamau Bilal, Phong Nguyen

School of Service (dba Access Arts)

Project Name: Inclusive Community 2021
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: Provide letter from participating school.
Request: \$7,500
Conflict of Interest: Lisa Driskel Hawxby, James Melton, Kern Wisman

Talking Horse Productions

Project Name: Talking Horse Productions: 2020-2021 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: Lisa Driskel Hawxby

The Columbia Book Festival, Inc.

Project Name: Unbound Book Festival 2021
Description: Annual book festival presenting nationally-recognized and best-selling authors of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and children's literature.
Stipulations: None.
Request: \$7,500
Conflict of Interest: Phong Nguyen, Ellen Rippeto

Theater Reaching Young People & Schools

Project Name: 2021 Season, Education & Outreach
Description: Four theatrical productions, an education series and outreach activities.

Stipulations: Provide schedule for education series and outreach activities. Provide letters from participating schools.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: James Melton, Carol Schmitz

University Concert Series

Project Name: University Concert Series 2020-2021 Season

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

Stipulations: Provide finalized schedule of performances.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: James Melton, Lili Vianello

“We Always Swing” Jazz Series

Project Name: "We Always Swing" Jazz Series – The Next Chapter

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. Provide collaboration letter from MU School of Music Jazz Studies Department.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: 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, an in-school assembly, and a community performance.

Stipulations: Provide letter from participating school. Provided finalized venue for Saturday dance and percussion classes.

Request: \$4,294

Conflict of Interest: Phong Nguyen