

DATE: August 20, 2018
TO: The Honorable Mayor Brian Treece
Members of the City Council
FROM: Lili Vianello, Chair, Commission on Cultural Affairs
RE: Arts Contract Recommendations for FY2019

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. 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 the community and its 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, 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, contribute to public safety by creating defensible neighborhoods, and support economic development. We estimate more than 300,000 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 smaller projects.

In addition to city funding, \$7,800 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 Columbia Visitors Bureau, and fundraising efforts from OCA's annual Celebration of the Arts events, the fund has grown to more than \$222,000.

OCA is also making a budget recommendation for \$2,000 from FY2017 general fund savings and an additional \$700 from the prior general fund savings balance be used in FY2019. With the \$7,800 from the Columbia Arts Fund and \$2,700 from general fund savings, the annual funding amount of \$100,000 will be augmented to allow for \$110,500 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 \$183,688.00. 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>

Considerable time and numerous public meetings were held earlier this year 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, observations are discussed 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, 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 recommendations. Ultimately, the Commission approved the work done at its June work session, clearing the way for contracts to be authorized once the OCA’s FY2019 budget is in place.

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 2018 – Sept 2019

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

Stipulations: Provide finalized schedule for projects (exhibits, concert series, 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 2018-19 Season

Description: seven choral concerts (including two outreach shows, one workshop, and educational programming (including two free choirs).

Stipulations: None

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Citizen Jane Film Festival

Project Name: Citizen Jane Film Festival

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

Stipulations: None

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Columbia Art League

Project Name: 2019 Art in the Park & Teen Mentorship Program

Description: fine arts and fine crafts festival; artist/student mentorship program targeting at-risk youth

Stipulations: None

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Wendy Moore, Ellen Rippetto

Columbia Civic Orchestra

Project Name: Series of Five Concerts 2018-2019

Description: series of five concerts with free admission.

Stipulations: None

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Columbia Community Band

Project Name: Columbia Community Band 2019 Concert Season

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

Stipulations: None

Request: \$3,603

Conflict of Interest: None.

Columbia Entertainment Company

Project Name: Columbia Entertainment Company's 40th Season

Description: present seven, 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 30th Anniversary Season

Description: will provide four concerts as well as provide hands-on educational experiences to promote musical artistry and excellence through handbells

Stipulations: None

Request: \$1,250

Conflict of Interest: None.

Dismal Niche Arts

Project Name: Columbia Experimental Music Festival – Presented by Dismal Niche

Description: present a three-day celebration of experimental arts and music, featuring musical performances, film screenings, interactive filming and performance art, visual art exhibits and artist workshops.

Stipulations: Provide additional letters from collaborators

Request: \$2,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

GreenHouse Theatre Project

Project Name: GreenHouse Theatre Project 2019 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 2019 Education and Outreach

Description: classes and outreach in dance, music, poetry, and art; presenting the African Cultural Festival and Saturday Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) experiences

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Maplewood Barn Association

Project Name: Maplewood Barn Theater, Annual Season

Description: four live, stage shows in Nifong Park, 36 half-hour radio broadcasts of old-time radio scripts from the 1930s-1950s, a Children's Theater Camp, 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: \$3,335

Conflict of Interest: None.

Missouri Contemporary Ballet

Project Name: 2018-19 MCB Dance Performance and Education Project

Description: live dance performances (three productions), a choreographic installation that engage community members, and five interactive lecture-demonstrations.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Missouri Symphony Society

Project Name: 2019 Hot Summer Nights Music Festival and 2018-19 Missouri Symphony Conservatory

Description: year-long music conservatory for students in grades 1-12, a summer music camp, and Hot Summer Nights (25 concerts in six 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 art 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: \$4,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Odyssey Chamber Music Series

Project Name: Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Season 15

Description: chamber music series (10 public concerts), 8 outreach concerts (free and open to the public), up to four 1-hour presentations in Columbia Public Schools, and the Plowman Chamber Music Competition.

Stipulations: None

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Orr Street Studios Artist Guild

Project Name: Programing for Orr St. Studios

Description: gallery shows for visiting artists, presentation of Seeing Visions/Hearing Voices (twice a month during school year), and Second Saturday for Kids (free program offered in March, July, and October)

Stipulations: None

Request: \$4,000

Conflict of Interest: Mike Sleadd

PACE – Performing Arts in Children’s Education

Project Name: PACE's 15th Annual Production and Education Season

Description: eight productions (plays and musicals); outreach through Adventure Club and Arts in Health programming; classes in acting, singing, and art; and theatrical internships

Stipulations: Provide letters from participating group, Adventure Club for education programs.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Carol Schmitz

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 transformative weekend of films, director Q&A’s, installation art, music, and events, featuring 140 screenings of 60 nonfiction films; and presentation of Ragtag Cinema’s four annual specialty series.

Stipulations: Provide letters of collaboration from Columbia Public Schools.

Provide dates for annual specialty series screenings when known.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

Resident Arts

Project Name: 2019 Core Programs

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

Stipulations: None

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

School of Service (dba Access Arts)

Project Name: Inclusive Community

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

Stipulations: Provide letters from collaborators/partners (Boone County Family Resources, Harry S. Truman Veterans Hospital, and Boys & Girls Club of Columbia) and Benton Elementary School.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

Talking Horse Productions

Project Name: Talking Horse Productions: 2018-2019 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: None

The Columbia Book Festival, Inc.

Project Name: Unbound Book Festival 2019

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

Stipulations: Provide documentation from participating schools for outreach activities when known. Finalize key personnel.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Ellen Rippetto

The Missouri Review

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

Description: two free public literature events in the Columbia community

Stipulations: Provide finalized dates and venues for public events.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

TRYPS Institute

Project Name: 2019 Season, Education & Outreach

Description: five musical productions; theatre camp, workshops, private vocal lessons, acting and dance class sessions for ages 10 months through college; an inclusive theatre program

for children ages 6-12 diagnosed on the Autism spectrum, Down Syndrome, and speech delay; free outreach workshops and appearances.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Carol Schmitz

University Concert Series

Project Name: University Concert Series 2018-2019 Season

Description: season of performances, including 22 entertainment and cultural experiences; outreach activities in the community in addition to companies' performances

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Lili Vianello

"We Always Swing" Jazz Series

Project Name: "We Always Swing" Jazz Series: Season No. 24

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