

DATE: August 15, 2016
TO: The Honorable Mayor Brian Treece
Members of the City Council
FROM: Kevin Shults, Chair, Commission on Cultural Affairs
RE: Arts Contract Recommendations for FY2017

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 289 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 underserved populations.

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.

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 27 applications with requests totaling \$228,402, 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 at least one written comment in each of four criteria categories, 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 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 2016 - September 2017**

Project Description: six art exhibits, outreach to at least four schools with the Traveling Trunk Program, three major history exhibits, six concerts (Blind Boone Concert Series) and monthly meet the author book talk

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Choral Arts Alliance of Missouri

Project Name: **2016-2017 Concert Season**

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

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Columbia Art League

Project Name: **Art in the Park & At Risk Youth Art Mentoring 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: None.

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: \$5,200

Conflict of Interest: None.

Columbia Civic Orchestra, Inc.

Project Name: **2016-2017 Series of 5 Concerts**

Project Description: series of five concerts

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Columbia Community Band

Project Name: **Performance Series 2016-2017**

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

Request: \$5,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Columbia Entertainment Company Theatre

Project Name: **2016-2017 (38th Season)**

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

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Stipulation: “Little Mermaid” is not eligible for funding as it takes place in September.

Columbia Handbell Ensemble, Inc.

Project Name: **Concert Season**

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

Request: \$1,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

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Project Name: **Annual Oduduwa Day Anniversary Celebration**

Project Description: one-day event that educates, celebrates, showcases, and advances the Africa/Yoruba cultural heritage

Request: \$3,599

Conflict of Interest: None

Stipulation: Finalize program and provide details regarding the speaker.

GreenhouseTheatre Productions

Project Name: **2016/2017 Season**

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

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: Nick Kenny

Stipulation: Venues will need to be determined.

Jabberwocky Studios

Project Name: **Jabberwocky 2017 Education and Outreach Program**

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: **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: None.

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

Mid-Missouri Woodcarvers, Inc.

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: \$1,473

Conflict of Interest: None.

Mid-Missouri Traditional Dancers

Project Name: **Spring Breakdown 2017**

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: \$6,630

Conflict of Interest: None.

Missouri Contemporary Ballet

Project Name: **2016-17 MCB Dance Performance and Education Project**

Project Description: live dance performances (featuring seven world premieres), choreographic installations that engage community members, and educational lecture-demonstrations targeting under-served communities; four interactive lecture-demonstrations; and a live performance featuring children trained through the DanceReach program

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Missouri Symphony Society

Project Name: **2017 Hot Summer Nights Music Festival and 2016-2017 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)

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: Nick Kenny

North Village Arts District

Project Name: **2017 First Fridays in the North Village Arts District**

Project Description: gallery crawl and entertainment opportunity that occurs the first Friday of every month in the North Village Arts District

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Inc.

Project Name: **Season 13**

Project Description: chamber music series (7 public concerts), 5 outreach concerts (free and open to the public), the 8th Plowman Chamber Music Competition, and a two-week summer music camp for musicians, ages 12-25

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None

PACE - Performing Arts in Children's Education

Project Name: **13th Annual Education Series**

Project Description: collaboration with Columbia College and CPS; a National Diversity Playwriting Contest; partnerships with the Unbound Book Festival, Adventure Club, Barnes and Noble; day camps when school is not in session; 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: None.

Ragtag Film Society

Project Name: **True/False Film Fest and Ragtag Cinema Community Service Screenings**

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; and ten community service Cinema screening events

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of interest: Bill Bondeson

Stipulation: Provide documentation from schools participating in the project.

Stipulation: City funds cannot be used for utilities.

Resident Arts

Project Name: **FY17 Core Programs**

Project Description: After-school Teen Artist Residency program, Emerging Artist Residency, Professional Development Workshop Series, Exhibitions and Artist Talks, Cooperative Workspace, FREE Career Coaching and Critique Night

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of interest: None.

Stipulation: Finalize workshop topics.

School of Service, Inc. (dba Access Arts)

Project Name: **"We Are" Project**

Project Description: creative learning experiences for everyone, with emphasis on those who are underserved, including three Artists-in-Residences working with the community

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Talking Horse Productions

Project Name: **2016-2017 Season**

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

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Stipulation: Provide documentation from school participating in the project when known.

The Columbia Book Festival Inc. dba: Unbound Book Festival

Project Name: **Unbound Book Festival 2017**

Project Description: second 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: None

Stipulation: Finalize 2017 key personnel and/or project directors.

The Missouri Review

Project Name: **Access to the Literary Arts**

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

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

TRYPS Institute

Project Name: **2017 Season and Outreach**

Project Description: six productions, six weeks of all-day theatre camp, workshops, private vocal lessons, acting and dance class sessions for ages 10 months through college

Request: \$10,000

Conflict of Interest: Carol Schmitz

Stipulation: Provide documentation from schools participating in the project when known.

"We Always Swing," Jazz Series

Project Name: **Season No. 22**

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