

**DATE:** August 7, 2023  
**TO:** Mayor Barbara Buffaloe  
Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** David Spear, Chair, Commission on Cultural Affairs  
**RE:** Arts Contract Recommendations for FY2024

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 many 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 180,000 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 underserved 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, \$16,500 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 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 \$116,500 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" and "education" projects. This year, the OCA received 27 applications with requests totaling \$184,152. 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. 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 FY2024 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 that the Council will consider future increases to the core amount of City arts funding, and that 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 FY2024

Description: Arts programming and presentation in the Montminy Art Gallery, the Storytellers Concert Series, the Things That Matter lecture series, and free family events.

Stipulations: Provide finalized schedule.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

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

Project Name: 2023-2024 Concert Season

Description: Presentation of six concerts and a choral workshop.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

### **Columbia Art League**

Project Name: Art in the Park 2024

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

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Lee Ann Garrison

### **Columbia Civic Orchestra**

Project Name: Series of Five Concerts

Description: Series of five concerts.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

### **Columbia Community Band**

Project Name: Columbia Community Band 2024 Concert Series

Description: Series of six free concerts.

Stipulations: Provide finalized dates and venues for all concerts.

Request: \$4,910

Conflict of Interest: None.

### **Columbia Entertainment Company**

Project Name: CEC's 45<sup>th</sup> Season

Description: Presentation of five theatrical productions.

Stipulations: Provide finalized dates for all productions.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Jim Little

**Compass, Inc.**

Project Name: Compass Music Education Program (2023-2024)

Description: Music education program including five music camps and classes.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Dismal Niche Arts**

Project Name: Columbia Experimental Music Festival

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

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**GreenHouse Theatre Project**

Project Name: GreenHouse Theatre Project Season 2024

Description: Two main stage productions and a youth theatre workshop

Stipulations: Provide finalized dates and venues.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Jabberwocky Studios**

Project Name: Jabberwocky 2024 Education

Description: In-studio dance programming; special programs and outreach in STEAM and visual arts; Work Learn programs; Arms Wide Open Celebration; and theater instruction.

Stipulations: Provide finalized schedule of programs and date/venue for Arms Wide Open Celebration.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Jazz Forward Initiative**

Project Name: 2024 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 2024 "All New, All Different" Season

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

Stipulations: Provide dates for productions.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Jim Little

**Mareck Center for Dance**

Project Name: 2023-2024 Mareck Center for Dance Presentation Program

Description: Three dance performances, a choreographic installations and open rehearsal.

Stipulations: Provide date and venue for June 2024 performance.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Mid-Missouri Traditional Dancers**

Project Name: Traditional American Dance Program

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

Stipulations: Provide date and venue for dance weekend event.

Request: \$1,942

Conflict of Interest: None.

**Missouri Dance Organization**

Project Name: 2024 Annual MDO Conference and Festival-Connecting Missouri Dance-Dance Goes Around(working title)

Description: Annual MDO Conference and Festival

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$2,800

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 20

Description: Present chamber music concerts and outreach activities.

Stipulations: Provide full schedule of programming.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: James Melton

**Orr Street Studios Artists Guild**

Project Name: Orr Street Studios Community Programming

Description: First Friday events, Hearing Voices/Seeing Visions, Second Saturday for Kids, Black History Month events.

Stipulations: Provide full schedule of programming.

Request: \$6,000

Conflict of Interest: Keondre Harrison, Lee Ann Garrison

**Ragtag Film Society**

Project Name: True/False Film Fest

Description: Four-day festival featuring nonfiction films, musical showcases, visual art installations and panel discussions.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Kristin Gadsden, James Melton

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

Project Name: Inclusive Community 2024

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: James Melton

**Talking Horse Productions**

Project Name: Talking Horse Productions 2023-2024 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: Jim Little

**The Columbia Book Festival, Inc.**

Project Name: Unbound Book Festival 2024

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: None.

**The Curators of the University of Missouri**

Project Name: University Concert Series 23-24 Season

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

Stipulations: Provide final schedule of performances.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: James Melton

**The Missouri Symphony**

Project Name: 2023-2024 Season

Description: Presentation of five orchestra concerts and the Firefly Music Festival.

Stipulations: Provide final schedule of performances.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: James Melton

**Theater Reaching Young People & Schools**

Project Name: 2024 Program Season

Description: Education programs including classes, camps, workshops, theatre productions and community outreach

Stipulations: Provide schedule for programs.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: James Melton

**Vidwest**

Project Name: Media Accessed: A Workshop Series at Vidwest

Description: Offering of 10 workshop days to educate participants in lighting, photography, podcasting, content creation for social media, video and sound production.

Stipulations: Provide schedule for workshops.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: James Melton, Keondre Harrison

**“We Always Swing” Jazz Series**

Project Name: “We Always Swing” Jazz Series – Season #29

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: James Melton