

DATE: August 5, 2024
TO: Mayor Barbara Buffaloe
Members of the City Council
FROM: David Spear, Chair, Commission on Cultural Affairs
RE: Arts Funding Recommendations for FY2025

Dear Mayor Buffaloe and Members of the City Council:

Each year, the City of Columbia has allocated \$100,000 to the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) for its annual grant funding program for nonprofit arts organizations. These funds are crucial to our local arts organizations, the culture and vitality of our city, as well as an economic engine. We know that we can do more for the arts, which is why the City Council has an increase of \$100,000 in additional funding to consider for the FY2025 budget.

As you may know, many studies prove the arts are a sound investment. In FY2022, the direct economic impact of the nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Columbia and their audiences was \$18,266,853. Of this amount, \$421,711 went to local tax revenue. This economic impact data was gathered from 33 Columbia nonprofit arts organizations as part of a nationwide survey by Americans for the Arts for its Arts and Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) study.

When the AEP6 data is correlated with the annual arts funding provided by the City, static at \$100,000 per annum since 2015, this means that for every dollar the City invests in the arts, \$4 of tax revenue is provided in local tax revenue. These findings reveal that nonprofit arts organizations in Columbia not only provide a vibrant cultural force but are also an economic asset, repaying the funding the City provides by over 300%.

The overall budget for the annual arts funding program now represents less than 1/10th of 1% of the City's General Fund expenditures, a percentage indiscernible on any pie chart.

During the grant application process through OCA, Columbia's nonprofit arts agencies submit requests for funding, detailing the content and budget of project for which City funds would be allocated. This year's grant process started in the spring, and the Commission on Cultural Affairs spent many hours completing a detailed review of applications. If funding is approved for the OCA budget, contracts will be authorized in October to support arts projects. This year, OCA received 26 applications with requests totaling \$181,146.00. Attached to this document is an overview of the grant review process and summary of projects recommended for funding (Attachment A).

If additional funding is approved by City Council for FY2025, we are in a position to nearly fully fund all of this year's requests and would plan a second grant funding opportunity during the year. The Commission would also have its Funding Process Subcommittee meet to recommend any updates to the grant program that would account for the new level of core funding available going forward.

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. Because of contributions from individual donors and fundraising efforts from OCA's annual Celebration of the Arts event and CoMoGives, the fund has grown to more than \$367,000.

When communities invest in arts and culture, they are not investing in community at the expense of economic development. Rather, they are investing in an industry that stimulates the economy, supports local jobs, and contributes to building healthy, vibrant, and more livable communities. The arts power the communities where people want to live and work. Shared artistic and cultural experiences strengthen a sense of belonging and community pride.

The city's nonprofit arts agencies want to do more. But the reality is that doing more requires more funding. As a city, we surely want to continue to attract visitors, and we want to encourage the residents of Columbia to go to the theatre, festivals, galleries and concerts. The AEP6 study has made it clear that our nonprofit arts organizations not only make Columbia a culturally rich place to live but also provide direct economic impact to the City's bottom line.

Please know we deeply appreciate the Council's recognition of the importance of actively supporting the arts. Increased funding for our arts organizations will most assuredly grow the ineffable qualities and often intangible benefits that make Columbia a great place to live.

Submitted Respectfully,

David Spear
Chair, Commission on Cultural Affairs

Attachment A

Summary of Process

A basic summation of the process is as follows:

- The annual grant 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 grant 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 FY2025 budget is approved by the Council.

FY2025 Recommended Projects

Boone County Historical Society

Project Name: BCHS Visual Arts and Music Programming FY2025

Description: The Montminy Gallery year-long season of exhibits, a speakers' series, concerts, and monthly, free family events.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

Choral Arts Alliance of Missouri

Project Name: 2024-2025 Concert Season

Description: Presentation of nine choral programs that include concerts and workshops.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

Columbia Art League

Project Name: Art in the Park 2025

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

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Diana Moxon, Stacey Thompson, and Linda Helmick

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 2024-2025 Concert Series

Description: Series of six free concerts.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Compass, Inc.

Project Name: "Compass Music Education Program" (2025)

Description: Four music education programs, includes 1 camp, two choirs and an overnight program.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Dismal Niche Arts

Project Name: Columbia Experimental Music Series

Description: Contemporary music and arts program with concerts and events throughout the year.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

GreenHouse Theatre Project

Project Name: GreenHouse Theatre Project 2025 Season

Description: Three 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 2025 Education

Description: Education programs including dance programming; STEAM instruction; middle school art classes; The Art Bus; mural program; internships and theater production.

Stipulations: Provide finalized schedule of programs

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Kristin Gadsden

Jazz Forward Initiative

Project Name: The 2025 Mo Jazz Music Festival

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

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$3,000

Conflict of Interest: None.

Maplewood Barn Association

Project Name: Brush Up Your Shakespeare

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

Stipulations: Provide dates for productions.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

Mareck Center for Dance

Project Name: 2024-25 Mareck Dance Presentation Project

Description: Three dance performances (six shows), a choreographic installations and open rehearsal.

Stipulations: None.

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 a Mizzou dance series

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$3,256

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: \$4,090

Conflict of Interest: None

Odyssey Chamber Music Series

Project Name: Odyssey Chamber Music Series, Season 21

Description: Present chamber music concerts and outreach activities.

Stipulations: None

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

Orr Street Studios Artists Guild

Project Name: Orr Street Studios Community Programming

Description: First Friday exhibits, monthly artist talks, Hearing Voices/Seeing Visions, Second Saturday for Kids, Black History Month programs.

Stipulations: Provide full schedule of programming.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Ragtag Film Society

Project Name: Camp True/False

Description: Camp True/False program

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: Kristin Gadsden

School of Service (dba Access Arts)

Project Name: Aides for Artists

Description: Assistance for paraprofessionals and aides for teachers and adaptive students in K-12 programming.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None

Talking Horse Productions

Project Name: Talking Horse Productions 2024-2025 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: None.

The Columbia Book Festival, Inc.

Project Name: Unbound Book Festival 2025

Description: Annual book festival presenting nationally-recognized and best-selling authors and poets to participate in readings, panels discussions, performances, workshops and conversations.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

The Curators of the University of Missouri

Project Name: University Concert Series 2024-2025 Season

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

Stipulations: Provide final schedule of performances.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

The Missouri Review

Project Name: The Missouri Review: Access to Prize-Winning Authors

Description: Two free, public literary events in the spring and fall of 2025.

Stipulations: Provide final schedule of events.

Request: \$5,800

Conflict of Interest: None.

The Missouri Symphony

Project Name: Spring Pops Concert: The Music of Studio Ghibli

Description: Presentation of a spring pops concert.

Stipulations: None.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Theater Reaching Young People & Schools

Project Name: TRYPS 2025 Education Programming

Description: Education programs including classes, camps, and outreach opportunities.

Stipulations: Provide schedule for programs.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

Vidwest

Project Name: Media Accessed: 2025 Media Workshop Series

Description: Offering of 16 workshop days to educate participants in photography, podcasting, content creation for social media, livestreaming, writing, and sound production

Stipulations: Provide schedule for workshops.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.

"We Always Swing" Jazz Series

Project Name: "We Always Swing" Jazz Series - A 30th Anniversary Year-Long Celebration

Description: Season of nine concerts

Stipulations: Provide schedule of performances.

Request: \$7,500

Conflict of Interest: None.