

Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting

March 6, 2023

Attendees: M Cajigas, L. Gold, A Guzhnay, A Norcott, B. Schaffer, F. Vignola

Absent: P. Dunn, J. Hameen, R. Immer

Staff: A. Jefferson, K. Futrell, T. Rich

Guest: Steve Roberts

4:36pm meeting called to order by B. Schaffer

I. Minutes

B. Schaffer called for a motion to approve the January minutes. L. Gold motioned to approve. Seconded by Motion unanimously passed.

II. Directors Report

A. Jefferson introduced Thabisa Rich an artist, and an arts administrator. She comes with a plethora of background and experience in the arts ecosystem. T. Rich excited to be part of the staff and continuing to work closely with the community.

A Jefferson provided an overview of the allocated 1.2 million dollars in ARPA funding and offerings that include:

- Expanded Arts Education Program
- Arts Gathering & Networking
- Communal Holiday Celebration
- Summer Events Partnership

Procurement process is challenging for artists who do not have insurance. Goal is for the grants to reach the broader community.

Creative Arts Advancement program for workers who are seeking further education on how to start a creative business; for professional development, so that they can start a business or to learn more about how to start a business. The funding is also for mid-level creative businesses that need technical assistance (like a website) to improve their business success.

In addition to that, the funds will also be made available to service-based organizations that serve creative entrepreneurs, individual creative entrepreneurs, nonprofit arts. Or maybe they don't serve traditionally creative entrepreneurs, but they have a concept, and they have the infrastructure in place to be able to support creative entrepreneurs. And creative work so this program is all about professional development, technical assistance support, getting products if they need products, scaling the business, etc. L. Gold inquired if capital requests are acceptable. A. Jefferson and T. Rich will further discuss and update the commission.

Grants or sponsorships for events is one of the most frequent requests we receive. The event grant opportunity is for events of all scales developed by cultural curators, small businesses with relevant arts and culture events, individuals, and arts organizations. We plan to offer this opportunity more than once.

The hope is the grant funding will help drive cultural activity and increase foot traffic for the city.

Funding will be allotted to support nonprofit arts and cultural organizations who are still recovering from the pandemic. This money can be allocated for workforce, programming and will be unrestricted.

Creative Workforce Summit. The department is working with a handful of non-profit arts organizations and SCSU (has an arts administration minor) whose desire is to address the need for a creative workforce. The group is in the process of developing an arts administration pipeline geared towards black and brown administrators. \$50,000 will be committed to this effort in conjunction with the State's Office of the Arts (also dedicated funding). When ready an RFP will be issued. L. Gold recommended the pipeline include a path for local high school students. B. Schaffer noted to include Rebecca Goodheart in conversations. M. Cajigas inquired about promotional plans for college age young adults.

The Creative Relief Fund is currently in the process of raising additional funding to open for applicants.

A. Jefferson briefly discussed the 2024 budget allotment of \$190,000. Members discussed raising additional dollars and advocacy.

A. Jefferson reminded members the city is part of the Americans for the Arts art and the economy study. The study should be complete by October.

New Haven has recently been named one of the 52 best places to visit in the world.

III. Old Business

None discussed.

IV. New Business

None discussed.

V. Public Comment

None

ADJOURNMENT

Presented Freetown Skate Park and Skateboarding initiative and discussed a potential collaboration with New Haven Sister Cities. Members agreed to revisit in the April meeting.

Members adjourned at 5:45pm.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY, April 3, 2023