



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
**DEPARTMENT OF
ARTS & CULTURE**

**San Antonio Arts Commission's
Arts Funding Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, July 6, 2023

2:30 p.m.

WebEx

Members present

Susana Segura (Committee Chair - D4)
Emily Fleisher (D6)
Dr. Ellen Riojas Clark (D7)
Ana Chowdhury*
Rafael Castillo*
Tim Hedgepeth*

*Ad Hoc

Members Absent

Eileen Kret (Mayoral)

Staff

Krystal Jones
Diana Hidalgo
Christina Hernandez
Karen Dlugosz
Victoria Garcia
Ellen Goos-Hockaday
Amanda Montalvo
Crisa Valadez

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:36 PM by Committee Chair, Susana Segura. Roll call was taken by Committee Liaison, Victoria S. Garcia. A quorum was present.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: A motion was made by Rafael Castillo to approve the minutes from the meeting held on May 5, 2023. The Motion was seconded by Emily Fleisher.

Discussion: None.

Vote: The Motion passed.

3. Individual Artist Project Grants Preliminary Funding Recommendations (Action Item)

Senior Management Analyst, Victoria Garcia presented. background and Preliminary Funding Recommendations for FY24 Individual Artist Project Grants. Two hundred and eight (208) applications were received and scored. The recommendations presented grants to the 3 top scoring artists in each of the 12 Panels, with the next 14 highest scoring applicants also being recommended for funding.

2A. Appeals (Briefing and Possible Action)

Contract Manager, Karen Dlugosz, presented the grounds for appeal per the funding Guidelines and informed the Committee that five appeals were received, one was withdrawn. Four appeals are present today as follows:

Appellant #1: Carlos Sanchez De La Garza cited Grounds for Appeal 2.

Staff responded none of his application materials were omitted.

Motion: Anna Chowdhury moved that the Committee decline the appeal and accept Staff's recommendations for funding.

Tim Hedgepeth seconded the motion.

Committee Discussion: The Committee recognizes the time and effort that goes into grading, and respects the expertise and opinions of panelists scoring applications. Members of the Committee reviewed panelist applications and affirms that the panelists are outstanding, they put a lot of work into grading applications and the Committee respects and defers to panel judgement as they were adjudicated and approved before becoming panelists.

Committee Vote: Motion to accept Staff's recommendations for funding by roll call vote by Susana Segura. Garcia took roll call vote. Motion passes.

Appellant #2 Francisco Leal/Frank Weyssos cited Grounds for Appeal 1 and 2.

Staff responded the panel did not substantially deviate from the materials provided in the application and none of his application materials were omitted.

Motion: Fleisher moved that the Committee decline the appeal and accept Staff's recommendations for funding.

Chowdhury seconded the motion, adding that it would be helpful for the Committee to receive any applications related to appeals prior to the meeting held to vote on them.

Committee Discussion: The Committee is not privy to the specific scoring and must trust in the panelists' methodology of scoring. The Committee feels the panelists did the utmost to score everyone and needs to be consistent in their process as this was a composite score.

Committee Vote: Motion for option one by roll call vote by Segura. Garcia took roll call vote. Motion passes.

Appellant #3: Jose Raul Corres cited Grounds for Appeal 2.

Staff responded that based on his explanation, the appellant omitted materials from his application and submitted them after the deadline, and per the guidelines p18 this is not permissible.

Motion: Hedgepeth moved that the Committee decline the appeal and accept Staff's recommendations for funding.

Fleisher seconded the motion, adding that it would be helpful for the Committee to receive any applications related to appeals prior to the meeting held to vote on them.

Assistant Director, Diana Hidalgo informed the Committee and attendees that the Committee does not review applications to judge whether an appeal should be granted. It is the responsibility of the appellant to state and prove their grounds for appeal according to the Core Grant Program Guidelines. The Committee hears appeals presented by the appellant, hears the Department's response, and determines whether the appeal should be granted.

Committee Discussion: None

Committee Vote: Motion for option one by roll call vote by Segura. Garcia took roll call vote. Motion passes.

Appellant #4: Ricardo Gonzalez Cited Grounds for Appeal number 2.

Staff responded that none of the application materials that were submitted by the deadline were omitted.

Motion: Chowdhury moved that the Committee decline the appeal and accept Staff's recommendations for funding.

Hedgepeth seconded the motion.

Committee Discussion: The Committee notes that the Department does excellent outreach in providing support for these applications and attendance of workshops for this application process and notes that DA&C staff spends a lot of one-on-one time with the applicants and makes an enormous amount of effort to resolve any questions they have when applying for grants.

Committee Vote: Motion for option one by roll call vote by Segura. Garcia took roll call vote. Motion passes.

2(a) Preliminary Funding Recommendations for Project Grants for Individual Artists

Motion: A motion was set forth by Fleisher to approve the recommendation for funding as presented. The motion was seconded by Hedgepeth.

Public Comments: None

Committee Discussion: The Committee noted that the DA&C did a great job with outreach regarding these grants. The Committee also noted that for a long time we didn't have individual artist grants and that the program was brought back by popular demand, as it filled a need in the community.

Vote: Motion passes.

4. Base Operational Support Grants Renewal (Action)

Dlugosz gave an overview of the Base Operational, Culturally Specific and Events Grants approved by City Council on December 17, 2020, along with the Preliminary Funding Recommendation amounts by agency. Staff is recommending approval of funding for 35 agencies, as presented.

Garcia took roll call to determine any recusals. Segura stated a conflict of interest with Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. Chowdhury stated a conflict of interest with San Antonio African American Community and Archive Museum.

Motion: A motion was set forth by Fleisher to approve the recommendation for funding as presented for all except Esperanza Peace and Justice Center and San Antonio African American Community and Archive Museum. The motion was seconded by Castillo.

Public Comments: None

Committee Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve by Segura. Motion passes.

Segura recused herself.

Motion: A motion was set forth by Hedgepeth to approve the recommendation for funding as presented for Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. The motion was seconded by Chowdhury.

Public Comments: None

Committee Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve by Fleisher. Motion passes.

Segura returned to the meeting to preside over the rest of the meeting.

Chowdhury recused herself.

Motion: A motion was set forth by Castillo to approve the recommendation for funding as presented for San Antonio African American Community and Archive Museum . The motion was seconded by Fleisher.

Public Comments: None

Committee Discussion: None

Vote: Motion passed.

Chowdhury returned to the meeting to preside over the rest of the meeting.

5. Events Grants Renewal (Action)

Dlugosz presented the Events Grants Preliminary Funding Recommendations. Staff is recommending approval of funding for 23 agencies, as presented.

Segura took roll call to determine any recusals. No appeals or recusals received.

Motion: A motion was set forth by Fleisher to approve the Renewal of Events Grants as recommended. The motion was seconded by Hedgepeth.

Public Comments: None

Committee Discussion: None

Vote: Motion passed.

Public Comments

None

Announcements and Reports

Dlugosz announced the next meeting will be August 3, 2023. Staff will send out agenda to Committee members in advance of the meeting.

Adjournment

Discussion: None.

Motion: Castillo moved to adjourn the Arts Funding Committee meeting. Fleisher seconded the motion.

Vote: The Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.