



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: February 8, 2022

In Control: Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

DEPARTMENT: Department of Arts and Culture

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Krystal Jones

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing on the Events Grants and Project Grants for Individual Artists Programs

SUMMARY:

In December 2020, City Council approved the Department of Arts & Culture's new funding policy, the Core Grant Funding Program Guidelines. The guidelines include two new funding programs – Events Grants and Project Grants for Individual Artists. The Department will provide an overview of both programs, which are being funded for the first time in FY22.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Department of Arts & Culture offers grant programs to support arts and cultural organizations and individual artists in their mission to deliver authentic, excellent, and innovative programming that engage a wide variety of audiences in San Antonio's arts offerings. The funds distributed through the granting process comes from Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT). By state law, up to 15% of the local HOT collections can be utilized to fund arts and cultural activities.

In January 2020, the Department began a multifaceted strategic planning process including analysis of the creative economy, past artist programs, a community and visitor survey, the researching of peer cities best practices, and hosting a series of focus groups to identify needs and potential new programs to update the Department's funding programs. In March 2020, the Individual Artist Strategic Plan was approved with four goal areas and several strategies to accomplish the plan's vision - San Antonio is a place where Artists thrive. The Strategic Plan also included increasing the amount of grant money available to individual artists.

After extensive research and review of community feedback, the Department developed the Core Grant Funding Program Guidelines. The Core Grant Funding Program Guidelines include a total of five funding programs: Base Operational Support, Culturally Specific Support, Project Grants for Individual Artists, Events Grants, and Artist Re-granting. In December 2020, the San Antonio Arts Commission approved the new funding policy to go to City Council for consideration. In December 2020, City Council approved the policy. These grants are aimed to support a diverse portfolio of art organizations and artists working across the City of San Antonio in the production of on-going, sustainable, and high-quality artistic activities.

ISSUE:

In 2020, the Department of Arts & Culture began an extensive review and input process to update the arts funding policy and make updates to the policy before opening the next three-year funding cycle. In December 2020, the Core Grants Funding Program Guidelines were adopted for FY22 funding. Two new programs of the Core Grant Funding Program Guidelines include Project Grants for Individual Artists and Events Grants.

Project Grants for Individual Artists are administered on an annual basis with the specific intent of expanding the artist's professional development through their creation of new works, which must be publicly displayed/performed in San Antonio during the contract period. Funding under this program is \$5,000 per eligible artist and grants are awarded based upon a competitive score. A request for applications process opened in March 2021, with artists selecting the project category that best aligned with their project from the following categories: Literary Arts, Media Arts, Multi-Disciplinary, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts. A panel of evaluators reviewed and scored all applicants that met the eligibility criteria. The application and review process ended in December 2021 with the San Antonio Arts Commission's Arts Funding Committee and the San Antonio Commission recommending 60 of the 83 applications that were received. Artists are currently working to develop their projects, which will need to be publicly displayed by March 31, 2023.

The Department of Arts & Culture provides Event Grants to qualifying San Antonio based non-profit organizations to further the presentation, production and preservation of arts and cultural programs that are unique to the San Antonio experience. The goal of the program is to support the extraordinary artistic presentations and performances through a competitive process specific to Events that give increased access to the arts, culture, and diverse heritage in San Antonio. Awards may be up to 20% of event's overall budget up to a maximum of \$20,000 and are based on a competitive score. A request for applications process was opened in September 21, 2021 and

closed October 26, 2021. The department received 23 applications, which were reviewed and scored by an evaluation panel. In December 2021, the San Antonio Arts Commission's Arts Funding Committee and the San Antonio Arts Commission approved funding for all 23 applicants. Events will take place on an annual basis and grants are allocated for a three-year funding cycle. Grantees will receive awards for FY22, FY23, and FY24.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact with this briefing item. Funding awarded through these programs were included as part of the Department of Arts & Culture FY2022 budget ordinance.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is a briefing to the Community Health, Environment, and Culture Council Committee and no action will be taken.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is a briefing item on the Events Grants and Project Grants for Individual Artists Programs. No recommendation is being made at this time.