

City of San Antonio



Minutes

Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7

Mario Bravo, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2

Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3 | Teri Castillo, Dist. 5

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

10:00 AM

City Hall

Members Present: Ana Sandoval, *Chair*
Mario Bravo, *Member*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*
Phyllis Viagran, *Member*
Teri Castillo, *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes for the April 28, 2022, Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee meeting.

Councilmember Viagran moved to Approve the minutes for the April 28, 2022 Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee meeting. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Sandoval, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Castillo

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. **The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Arts.** [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Krystal Jones, Interim Director, Department of Arts & Culture]

Krystal Jones, Interim Arts and Culture Director, provided an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for Arts which covered the COVID-19 recovery and relief support for Arts plan components and strategies. Jones reviewed the artist grant process and eligibility components for artists and non-profit art organizations to receive awards. Jones discussed the performance indicators and goals for the disbursement of grant funds. She provided an overview of the selection process, communication plan and timeline for the grant process and awards.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Heathcott, Executive Director of Blue Star Contemporary, spoke in support of the grants for artists and non-profits to provide relief for artists impacted by COVID-19.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Castillo expressed her support of the proposed plan and stated that her only concern was the possibility of funding arts organizations whose employees were on strike.

Councilmember Viagran recommended that applicants submit their zip codes and other demographics to determine areas in most need. She requested that artists submit a listing of their work and if reorganized on the local, State and national level. Councilmember Viagran asked for clarification if applicants would provide a plan for their awards. Jones stated that a plan was required along with a timeline for the use of the funds.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification on the awards associated to non-profit annual budgets and eligible awards. Jones provided clarification on the eligible awards.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested clarification on the performance indicators for individual artists and eligible expenses for awards. Jones provided clarification.

Councilmember Bravo asked how 133 grant awards were determined to be awarded. Jones provided clarification on the available funds and stated that \$7,500 was the maximum award and noted that an equity tool and eligibility criteria would be used to award grants.

Chair Sandoval asked if applicants would be required to list any previous awards or grants received during the past year. Jones confirmed that applicants would be required to submit that information. Chair Sandoval asked if the review panel had been selected. Jones stated that the panel was currently being vetted and would be finalized once applications were submitted. Chair Sandoval asked that a full list of applicants be provided to the Committee for review.

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Sandoval, Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Castillo

3. **The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Seniors** [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Melody Woosley, Human Services Director, provided an update on the American Rescue Plan Act funds for Seniors and reviewed the policy direction provided by City Council and the Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee (CHECC). She noted that staff had conducted key stakeholder meetings to obtain additional feedback on implementing the plan. She reviewed COVID-19 impact on seniors, program strategies and equitable outcomes of the plan. She stated that staff recommended a Joint Request for Proposal (RFP) process for youth, senior and non-profit/social service investments and reviewed the solicitation and award timeline.

DISCUSSION

Councilmember Viagran expressed her support of the solicitation process especially for seniors and youth. She asked for a report that reflected zip codes for outreach efforts, wages and benefits provided to staff and other awards received by applicants.

Councilmember Castillo requested that organizations addressing food desert issues be considered in the grant process and expressed her support of the RFP process.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez expressed his support of the plan and requested that housing stabilization and wellness checks for seniors be included in the solicitation.

No action was required for Item 3.

4. **The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Nonprofits and Social Services.** [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Melody Woosley, Human Services Director, provided an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for non-profits and social services organizations to include immigration services. She reviewed the stakeholder engagement conducted by staff and recommended a competitive process for joint Request for Proposal (RFP) for youth, senior and nonprofit/social investments.

Woosley reviewed the timeline for the competitive process and approval by City Council.

DISCUSSION

Chair Sandoval stated that the process conducted by staff was very thorough and asked how the timeline overlapped with the delegate agency funding process. Woosley clarified the overlap and process for delegate agency awards. Sandoval expressed concern regarding the length of the proposed timeline and stated that there were some applicants that were in dire need of funding. Woosley stated that staff would review the timeline and accelerate where able.

Chair Sandoval asked for clarification on the application categories. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that combining the solicitation process and categories simplified the application process for potential

awardees since many of the categories overlapped services.

Chair Sandoval asked where the mental health component grant awards would be considered. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that staff would brief the Public Safety Committee on May 26, 2022 to obtain feedback on the scope of work for the competitive process. Chair Sandoval asked that the Committee be kept up to date on the timeline for that competitive process and that both solicitations be aligned for release.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested that technical assistance be provided to organizations that had not applied in the past.

Councilmember Viagran requested that additional organizations that worked on these issues and organizations that addressed disability services be included.

Councilmember Castillo encouraged acceleration of the grant process due to the fact that there was a great need for financial assistance by many non-profits in the community.

Chair Sandoval requested that the scheduled timeline be accelerated and with a possible meeting in July 2022. Deputy City Manager Villagomez stated that staff would review the meeting schedule and provide a memo in June 2022 with updates to the process.

No action was required for Item 4.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM.

Approved

Ana Sandoval, Chair

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk
