



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: September 29, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Department of Arts and Culture

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Krystal Jones

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

An Ordinance approving a list of individual professional artists and nonprofit arts organizations to receive funds through the ARPA 4 Arts grant program managed by the Department of Arts & Culture. This ordinance authorizes contracts and payments based on the grant program outline.

SUMMARY:

On February 3, 2022, City Council allocated \$5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to the Arts for recovery and resiliency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The U.S. Treasury's Final Rule categories of impacted households and impacted industries aids industries in the travel, tourism, and hospitality sector and areas with employment losses of more than 8%, which San Antonio's creative economy exceeded with an 18% loss of jobs. Of the \$5 million in ARPA SLFRF, \$1 million was allocated for individual artists and \$4 million was allocated for nonprofit arts organizations.

The Department of Arts & Culture developed the ARPA 4 Arts Grant Program for the distribution of ARPA SLFRF to the arts. The program and its implementation plan were approved by the San Antonio Arts Commission on May 6, 2022, the Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee on May 10, 2022, and the City Council on June 2, 2022.

The application for the ARPA 4 Arts Grant Program was open from June 29, 2022 through July

29, 2022. During the application period, a total of 151 individual artist applications and 54 nonprofit arts organizations applications were received. Applications were evaluated to ensure all established program eligibility criteria were met. After review and evaluation, the department recommends the approval of 136 individual artists to receive a total of \$1 million in recovery funds and 46 nonprofit arts organizations to receive a total of \$5 million in recovery funds. On September 13, 2022, the San Antonio Arts Commission approved the ARPA 4 Arts grant distribution to the 136 individual artists and 46 nonprofit organizations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The COVID-19 pandemic immediately devastated San Antonio's creative economy, causing organizations and businesses that house artistic programming to shutter their doors, cancel performances and exhibitions, cut budgets, and reduce personnel. This ultimately impacted individual artists, who lost jobs and gigs due to these cancelations, budget cuts, and closures. San Antonio's creative economy job loss during the pandemic was 18%.

On February 3, 2022, the City Council allocated \$5 million in ARPA SLFRF to the arts. The Department of Arts & Culture developed the ARPA 4 Arts Grant Program for the distribution of ARPA SLFRF to the arts. The program and its implementation plan were approved by the San Antonio Arts Commission on May 6, 2022, the Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee on May 10, 2022, and the City Council on June 2, 2022.

After approval, the department created an application, provided technical support for grantees, conducted an eligibility review and scoring, and proposed funding recommendations for both areas of the grant.

ISSUE:

The Department of Arts & Culture managed a request for applications and evaluation process for the distribution of ARPA SLFRF to the arts through the ARPA 4 Arts Grant Program. During the application period, a total of 151 applications were received for the individual artist grant and 54 applications from nonprofit arts organizations. Applications were evaluated to ensure the established eligibility criteria outlined in the grant's program outline was met. After review and evaluation, the department recommends the approval of 136 individual artists to receive \$1 million in recovery funds and 46 nonprofit arts organizations to receive a total of \$4 million in recovery funds. Based on the City Council approved guidelines, an equitable points system was applied to the ARPA 4 Arts individual artist grant to prioritize race/ethnicity and LGBTQIA+, female, disabled, Veteran and low-income applicants by awarding additional points. Of the individual artist applicants being recommended, 85% identified as persons of color, 40% identified as women, and 65% have an income 50% below the area median income (AMI). Artistic practices represented include music, visual arts, filmmaking, literary arts, dance, and theatre.

The recommended allocations to eligible nonprofit arts organizations are based on a non-competitive funding scale determined by the organization's budget range, whether the organization has a current grant with the department, and the organization's culturally specific representation. The ARPA 4 Arts nonprofit arts organization grant provided 20% in additional funding (up to a

maximum of \$150,000) for organizations that are culturally specific. The organization may qualify as culturally specific if the organization's mission statement and programming promote, preserve, and enhance the identity and character of specific communities including women, African American, Hispanic-Americans/Latinx, Asian American, and Native American and its leadership, Executive Director and Board Chair, demographically represent the specific culture identified and supported by the organization's mission statement and their actual operations and programming. Of the 46 nonprofit arts organization's being recommended for funding, 11 are culturally specific organizations.

This ordinance approves the distribution of funds and authorizes contracts and payments based on the grant program outline. Once awarded, grant recipients must keep detailed records of receipts for expenditure of grant funds. Grant recipients are required to comply with all grant requirements and maintain all records in accordance with City, State & Federal Regulations and Guidelines.

Individual Artist grant recipients will be required to complete follow-up surveys and submit a final report within one year of receiving the grant. Nonprofit grant recipients will be required to complete follow-up surveys after grants are awarded through December 2026, the date by which all expenditures must be made, along with a final report. The Department of Arts & Culture will continue to manage the entire process from distribution of funds, to collection of surveys, and final reports of grant funding usage.

Data collected through surveys include, but are not limited to:

- Plans for grant funding, including how much is allocated for each expenditure category and when funding will be spent
- Any successes, including resiliency of organization and creation of new artworks, as result of funding
- Any staff, artists or contractors supported as result of funding

Eligible use of funds for nonprofits include payroll, support of operations for new or existing programs, facilities/equipment maintenance, technical assistance, business planning, and COVID-19 mitigation and infection prevention measures. Eligible uses of funds for individual artists include creation of new works, artistic performances, professional development, and housing/living expenses.

On September 13, 2022, the San Antonio Arts Commission approved the ARPA 4 Arts grant distribution to the 136 individual artists and 46 nonprofit organizations, as recommended by the Department of Arts & Culture.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should City Council choose not to approve the ARPA 4 Arts grant distribution to the qualified list of applicants, San Antonio's creative economy will be further delayed in its recovery and a new method of distribution would need to be determined for allocation of the \$5 million in ARPA SLFRF for arts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of \$5 million were allocated by the City Council to the Department of Arts & Culture on February 3, 2022 for the recovery and resiliency of San Antonio's arts community. Of the \$5 million in funding, \$1 million was allocated for individual artists and \$4 million was allocated for nonprofit arts organizations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff and the San Antonio Arts Commission recommend the approval of the distribution of ARPA 4 Arts federal funds to 136 individual artists and 46 nonprofit arts organizations.