



Civic Arts Commission

50

INFORMATION CALENDAR

April 14, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Civic Arts Commission

Submitted by: Lisa Bullwinkel, Chair, Civic Arts Commission

Subject: Civic Arts Grants Program

INTRODUCTION

In the recently updated Arts & Culture Plan, 5 primary goals were identified:

- Goal 1: Increase Access to Affordable Housing and Affordable Spaces for Artists and Arts Organizations
- Goal 2: Increase Investment in a Vibrant Arts Community
- Goal 3: Expand High Quality and Equitable Arts Education
- Goal 4: Produce More Public Art Throughout Berkeley
- Goal 5: Expand the City of Berkeley's Organizational Capacity to Better Serve the Arts Community

The Civic Arts Grants Program is a tool to meet the Arts & Cultural Plan goals. Several additional grant categories have been or are being created to further this process. Funding is still needed to support the newer grants and the additional number of new applicants.

The Cultural Planning process also foregrounded a commitment to Cultural Equity and the Civic Arts Commission is promoting this in its grant-making process by including cultural equity as a scoring criteria in the guidelines for all grant categories and in the evaluation of potential grants panelists.

At the Civic Arts Commission meeting on January 22, 2020, the following motion was approved: Action: M/S/C (Covarrubias/Passmore) to approve the Report to Council on Civic Arts Grant with noted corrections. Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Covarrubias, Ozol, Passmore, Slattery, Tamano; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — Ross.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

- The Civic Arts Grants Program, under the auspices of the Civic Arts Commission is working to achieve all of the Goals listed above.

- The program has successfully allotted funding to **Arts Organizations** since 1991 and to **Individual Artists** since 2016, achieving Goal 2 which is to *Increase Investment in a*

*Vibrant Arts Community.* The current allotment from the General Fund for these combined grants currently has a funding baseline of \$500,000. In 1999 Grants were awarded to 54 organizations and 12 individuals as follows:

17 Large Art Organizations	\$171,687
20 Mid-Size Art Organizations	\$171,747
17 Small Art Organizations	\$105,488
12 Individual Artists	\$44,411

- In 2018, a **Festival Grant** program was created, specifically allocating prior General Funds budgeted for 17 festivals at \$158,315. In 2019 grants were awarded to 24 festivals as follows:

2 Large Festivals	\$15,062
21 Mid-Size Festivals	\$139,985
1 Small Festival	\$1,189

- At the Council's request, the Commission is creating a fourth category, a **Creative Spaces Capital Improvement Grant**. Funding will need to be appropriated from the General Fund, as these substantial grants will be in the \$50,000–\$100,000 range for three to five applicants annually.

- The Commission is also working on an **Arts in Education Grant** that is currently unfunded. However, this program initially will only require approximately \$50,000 to make a large impact quickly.

- In 2019, for the first time, the grant application review panel was comprised entirely of outside Arts professional who were compensated using a portion of the grants budget. Prior to this, members of the Civic Arts Commission Grant Committee, along with professional grant readers, were scoring the grants. This new method is more equitable and transparent and is in line with best practices as noted in other grant programs.

### BACKGROUND

These grant programs have been established to provide equity, transparency, and accountability throughout the art community.

Before the Festival Grant category existed, event producers lobbied individual Council members for funding for their events. This resulted in General Funds in the amount of \$158,315 being distributed annually to only 17 festivals. The process was opaque and inequitable. Furthermore, there was little oversight of the funding. The new Civic Arts Festival Grant category resolved these issues. However, more festivals than before are now applying for the same funding. The need for a larger budget in this category is apparent.

The Creative Spaces Capital Improvement Grant will work to solve Goal 1 above: *Increase Access to Affordable Housing and Affordable Spaces for Artists and Arts Organizations*. In the past, when an organization suddenly discovered a leak in the roof or needed to be brought into ADA compliance, or was given the opportunity to purchase its building, it came directly to Council to ask for a large sum of money. The Council has been quite generous and has helped many organizations with these problems. However, that funding was usually unbudgeted and resulted in unanticipated expenditures from the existing General Fund. In addition, many arts organizations did not realize they could ask the Council for this type of funding. Establishing an equitable, transparent, and accountable program will resolve this. The Civic Arts Commission is hoping to fund it with a base amount from the General Fund of \$250,000 annually plus the staff resources to manage the additional category.

The Civic Arts Commission is currently developing an Arts in Education Grant. Its aim is to achieve Goal 3 above: *Expand High Quality and Equitable Arts Education*. To maintain the City of Berkeley’s thriving arts scene and “grow our own” art makers and art patrons, exposure and education in the arts should begin when the population is very young (0–5) and continue through adulthood. An Arts Education Grant category could pair teaching artists with teams of classroom teachers to develop integrated units incorporating visual and performing arts to deepen learning in science, math, English, and social studies.

Arts education can be a powerful equity tool to address disproportionate achievement, for example, the urgent challenge of African American student underperformance on the Vision 2020 indicators. Targeted strategies like arts integration and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) can increase students’ academic engagement and performance, attendance, and reduce disciplinary referrals.

Furthermore, when an Arts Education grant category is created, additional funding can be tapped, as the California Arts Council requires a one-to-one local funding match.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The Council will need to approve the new grant programs created by the Civic Art Commission.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The Council will need to designate additional funding annually:

Festival Grants	\$91,685 (to bring it up to \$250,000)
Creative Spaces Capital Improvement Grant	\$250,000

Arts in Education Grant	\$50,000
Staffing Resources to Administer	Approximately 0.5 FTE

CONTACT PERSON

Lisa Bullwinkel, Chair, Civic Arts Commission

Jennifer Lovvorn, Secretary, Civic Arts Commission, 981-7533