

Memorandum

TO: ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Paul Krutko

SUBJECT: See Below

DATE: May 2, 2007

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2007-08 PROJECT & PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute 2007-08 Project & Program Grant agreements with 22 organizations, as attached, for a total amount not to exceed \$325,082.

BACKGROUND

The Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) received 26 eligible applications to the FY 2007-08 Project & Program Grants (PPG) cycle. None of the organizations applying for PPG grants were first-time applicants. The grant requests ranged from \$6,000 to \$18,000, the maximum limit in the program. The combined value of the grants requested was \$421,344.

A review panel comprised of seven individuals considered each of the applications against the four evaluation criteria: Project/Program Quality, Community Impact, Organizational Capacity, and Appropriateness of Budget and Grant Request. The criteria are explained in greater detail in the Project & Program Grants information booklet. The panel met on March 31–April 1, 2007 to complete its evaluation of the applications.

Review Panel

Jill Arnone

Arts Commissioner, City of San Jose

Maria de la Rosa

Director of Heritage Programs, Mexican Heritage Corporation

Tom Fredericks

Development Director, Cabrillo Music Festival

Amul Goswamy

Arts Commissioner, City of San Jose

Steve McCray

Arts Commissioner, City of San Jose

Karen Ransom

*Executive Director, Museum of Children's
Art*

Nancy Ragey

Principal, NKR Consulting

ANALYSIS

Ten fewer applications were submitted in this cycle than in the previous (FY 2006-07). The smaller number of applications was accounted for in part by shifts to other grant opportunities, including the Operating Grants program and the new Project Mini-Grants. The shift to the latter is also reflected in the fact that the smallest grant requested this year was \$6,000, whereas the smallest grant requested in the previous cycle was \$3,550. The range of grants available as Mini-Grants is \$1,000–\$4,000.

Overall scores for the 26 applications ranged from 83.4 percent to 39.4 percent. As Project & Program grants are awarded on the strength of applications, the panel, after substantial discussion, decided not to propose grant awards for the four applications that scored the least.

Following further discussion, the panel decided on graduated awards for the remaining 22 applications, in recognition that the range of scores indicated a range of strengths among the applications.

As has been the case in past years, the panel identified the larger gaps in the range scores and proposed grant awards as follows:

Applications scoring 73 percent and above: Full funding

Applications scoring 62.6 – 70.3 percent: Funding at 90 percent of the grant requested

Applications scoring 58.9 – 59.9 percent: Funding at 70 percent of the grant requested

Applications that scored 56 percent and lower were not recommended for funding.

In the FY 2006-07 cycle, the City awarded 33 PPG awards, totaling \$424,246. Three applications were not funded.

Appeal

One applicant, Aztlan Academy, filed an appeal, alleging that a member of the panel had triggered the Conflict-of-Interest grounds for appeal by virtue of employment with an organization that Aztlan Academy had often and long criticized publicly. The appellant also claimed that the panelist had a conflict of interest by virtue of association with another arts organization that the appellant regarded as having a history of unwillingness to work with itself.

The Appeals Panel, comprised of three arts commissioners, Dr. Lisa Gonzales, Sharon Gustafson and Michael Martin, considered the appellant's allegations at length in a publicly noticed meeting on April 12. The panel determined that the evidence did not indicate that the participation of the panelist had biased the outcome of the review process in any discernible way.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Grant applicants were notified in advance of the review panel meeting schedule and were invited to both observe review panel discussions, in general, and to address the review panel about own applications, if they wished. The Appeals Panel met in a publicly noticed meeting on April 12, 2007. The Programs Committee reviewed and endorsed this recommendation at its publicly noticed meeting on April 18, 2007.

PAUL KRUTKO
Chief Development Officer
City Manager's Office

Attachments

1. List of grant applicants, in descending order of scores, with proposed grant awards.
2. List of applicants and projects or programs proposed, in alphabetical order.
3. Review panel bios.