



**REPORT TO THE ARTS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2011**

SUBJECT June 2011 IDEA grant adjudication

ISSUE Approval of recommendations for June 2011 IDEA Grants

BACKGROUND

The second IDEA grant deadline was June 2, 2011. Six applications were received. An adjudication committee met on June 14 to review proposals and make recommendations.

The adjudication committee began using an assessment form to record their observations. Using the form each proposal was assessed to what degree it fulfilled the goals of IDEA grants: supporting one-time opportunities, innovation, being developmental, experimental or providing access.

Each proposal was also assessed in three areas of potential arts impact: providing exposure to new audiences, developing capacity, or providing opportunities for new participation. These results were tallied and averaged. Individual and average rankings were compared in order to assess consistency in approach and to maintain a focus on the goals of the program.

Comments

The examination of the applications resulted in recommendations for the full request amount for each application.

The adjudication committee made several suggestions in regards to the format of the assessment form. Suggestions to consider in a review of the IDEA grant program itself include:

- developing a set of definitions or parameters to guide the assessment of various criteria e.g. how different does a "one-time opportunity" need to be in order to be funded again
- increasing the advertising budget in subsequent years of the pilot
- a consideration of whether the maximum grant amount should be increased
- consideration of whether a capacity building component should be considered to replace the support previously offered through ArtsPOD

To reiterate a comment from the March IDEA grant report, it would now be appropriate to assess the successes and failures of the first year of the program: to consider whether the objectives of the program are being met, and to consider changes to the program if necessary.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A maximum of \$50,000 was allocated from reserve for each of three years of this pilot program.

\$7,250 was distributed as a result of the March 2011 IDEA grants. If the June recommendations are approved by the Arts Committee, a further \$6,000 will be distributed for a total of disbursement of

\$13,250 in the first year of the program.

CONCLUSION

Six applications were received in the second intake of the IDEA grant program. Although lower-than-expected, there was unanimous agreement by the adjudication committee that compared to the initial intake, the applications received at this deadline more closely reflected the published aims and objectives of the IDEA grant program. It was felt that additional advertising should be dedicated for the second year of the program.

It would be timely to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the program and to implement appropriate changes for year two of the program commencing March 2012.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the IDEA grant recommendations be approved and forwarded to the Arts committee for review and ratification.
2. That the Arts committee provide direction to the Arts Advisory Council for a review of the IDEA grant program with a report containing recommendations to be provided no later than January 2012.



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