



**REPORT TO ARTS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015**

SUBJECT **The Project Grant program terms of eligibility**

ISSUE

Organizations with ongoing programming expenses are currently ineligible for support under Project Grants

BACKGROUND

The current Project Grant guidelines do not allow for support of projects or organizations that reflect ongoing annual programming expenses. In recent years, several project grant applications have been received that reflect business models resembling annual operations that under normal conditions would not be eligible for support under the current guidelines.

The Arts Advisory Council was tasked with examining the issue and to develop a proposal that would identify the need and conditions under which Project Grants could provide “small operating” for organizations.

A subcommittee and staff met to consider this topic. Staff provided a brief history of the program and reviewed the changes implemented in the last review of the program in 2004.

The ensuing discussion noted the following points:

- The Arts Committee’s direction to work with the current project grant allocation.
- That the number of organizations reflecting the need for "small operating" represents a small but notable gap in the current programs.
- Proscriptive conditions limiting flexibility and increasing complexity were best avoided.

The following revision to the Statement of Purpose for Project Grants was proposed by the subcommittee and ratified by the Council:

Current

CRD Project Grants provide support for emerging or established arts organizations that produce or present on a project to project basis i.e. do not have ongoing annual programming expenses. Project grants support recurring, one-time, or developmental projects and are not available to organizations receiving annual CRD operating assistance.

Proposed

CRD Project Grants provide support for emerging or established arts organizations to produce or present one-time, recurring, unique or developmental projects. Project grants are not available to organizations receiving assistance through the CRD Operating Grant program.

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By removing the restriction against “ongoing annual programming expenses” the revised Statement of Purpose would accomplish the following objectives: broaden the scope of the program; accommodate current changes and future growth in smaller organizations; increase flexibility in the range and scale of programming supported and in the adjudication process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The allocation to Project Grants would be unaffected by the proposed revision. It is not expected to result in an undue increase in applications to the program. The allocation to project grants should be monitored and adjusted appropriately as the development of the target group requires.

SUMMARY

The removal of the prohibition of support for ongoing operational expenses in the Project Grant program will increase the ability of the program to support a wider range of organizational models while maintaining flexibility within the existing program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Arts Committee approve the following recommended change:

The first paragraph of the current “Project Grants - Statement of Purpose” be replaced by:

CRD Project Grants provide support for emerging or established arts organizations to produce or present one-time, recurring, unique or developmental projects. Project grants are not available to organizations receiving assistance through the CRD Operating Grant program.



James Lam, Manager
Arts Development Service