



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
**DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE
& CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

**San Antonio Arts Commission
Arts Funding Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Monday, April 4, 2016

5:45 pm

Municipal Plaza Building, C Room

114 W. Commerce

San Antonio, TX 78205

Members Present

Nettie Hinton-D2

Susana Segura-D4

Henry Brun-D7 (Vice-Chair)

Margaret Kanyusik-D8

Mark Rogers-D10

Members absent

Larry Lapaglia-D6

Staff

Lori Houston, ACM

Debbie Racca-Sittre

Diana Hidalgo

Laura Nunn

Sarah Yates

Lisa Biediger

Nina Brooks

Meeting called to order at 5:46 pm by Henry Brun.

Roll Call taken by Sarah Yates.

Approval of minutes:

a. Motion: Mark Rogers set forth a motion to approve the Arts Funding Committee meeting minutes from the meeting held on January 11, 2016. Nettie Hinton seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion approved.

DCCD Staff Introductions

Assistant City Manager, Lori Houston shared the update on DCCD Staffing changes that included Felix's retirement after serving the City of San Antonio for 21 years and the introduction of new Interim

Director Debbie Racca-Sittre and new Interim Contract Administrator, Diana Hidalgo. Ms. Houston shared some information on Ms. Racca-Sittre's background with the 15 years she has served the City including her strengths in contract management and monitoring, training abilities and city process knowledge. Ms. Houston then shared more information about Ms. Hidalgo's new role as an Interim Contract Administrator from her previous role as a Cultural Affairs Administrator.

Ms. Houston also added that she is looking forward to going through a great funding process this year and that things started off well when she briefed City Council at B Session with several Commission members present.

Ms. Hinton shared her concerns about that B Session when some Council Members began discussing setting caps for organizations to receive funding and hopes that funding to major institutions such as the San Antonio Symphony would continue. Ms. Houston responded to Ms. Hinton's concerns stating that B Session is a chance to educate the City Council on matters concerning arts funding such as the issue that our donor community isn't as strong in San Antonio but the education needs to include that the success of our arts organizations and community is the success of the city as well.

Margaret Kanyusik also shared her concerns about the B Session when Council was briefed on the process when comments were made about increase in staff becoming a determination of success in these arts agencies. Ms. Kanyusik stated that staff increase was not always a determining factor especially if the agency is still fulfilling their missions without additional staff.

Mr. Brun stated he thought more information on the economic impact of the arts being shown in presentations to City Council would be beneficial.

Ms. Racca-Sittre shared more information on her background as a San Antonio native and her education and work experience.

Mr. Brun then asked the audience to introduce themselves to the new DCCD staff to familiarize them with those who are actively engaged.

Update on FY 2017 Arts Funding Process

Laura Nunn introduces Nina Brooks who has served as a consultant to DCCD in regards to various projects but more recently has been instrumental in the transition to the new electronic application for arts funding.

Ms. Nunn went on to update the Committee that the application had closed last Friday, April 1st and that 82 total applications were submitted. Ms. Nunn let the Committee know that the panel review meetings would be held on May 20th – 22nd and that more details on the panels would be posted on the DCCD website. Ms. Nunn informed the members that the June Committee and Commission meetings would both be reviewing and making recommendations on arts funding matters.

Mr. Brun asked for a breakdown of the applications submitted by category.

Ms. Nunn provided that 25 applications were received under stART Place, 9 in Festivals and Community Celebrations, 15 in Community Based Organizations, 8 in Museums, 24 in Live Performance and 1 in Artist Regranting.

Announcements and Reports

Ms. Hinton shared her concerns about smaller organizations that don't have the resources for grant writing and if there was a way for DCCD to assist them.

Nina Brooks responded that she understands there are a lot of smaller organizations that have trouble telling their story or translating that story in to a digitized grant application. Ms. Brooks informed the Committee that a workshop was held at the Library to specifically have staff available to provide assistance with providing that sort of technical assistance and only 5 applicants attended.

Mr. Brun talked about a program called Creative Capital that was available to individual artists in previous years to help them with professional development and understand the business of the arts. Mr. Brun also reminded the Committee of the Technical Assistance funding available for the purpose of professional development that is available throughout the year.

Elaine Leahy of Blue Star from the audience also shared that the San Antonio Area Foundation offers workshops and classes on grant writing and other professional development for non-profits.

Graciela Sanchez of Esperanza from the audience also shared that with the Technical Assistance program, requests are not always given in full but sometimes a portion and that can make it difficult for smaller organizations to use.

Citizens to be Heard

John Toohey, Arts San Antonio

Elaine Leahy, Blue Star

Graciela Sanchez, Esperanza

George Cisneros, Urban 15

David Zamoras-Casas (individual artist)

Mr. Brun asked DCCD staff if a document could be created for Council members to show a breakdown of currently funded agencies organized by Council District to help show the Council members who from their District is involved in the arts funding process and if they see an organization missing to encourage them to apply.

Adjournment:

Ms. Hinton shared that she was very pleased with the 2016 City of San Antonio Official Fiesta Medal and was very pleased to have been a part of the *Open Hand, Open Mind, Open Heart* by artist Douglas Kornfeld public art project located at the Pittman Sullivan Park.

Motion: Susana Segura set forth a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rogers seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm