

Cultural Arts Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Laura Ward, Scott Miller

Staff: Jennifer Soliz, Shelby MacNab

11-8-2024

Meeting 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Meeting Agenda– review draft EAAC grant guidelines and comments received.

A. Staff Updates

1. Staff discussed a meeting that staff had with Fresno Arts Council held on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

B. Discussion Items

The Subcommittee discussed the following topics:

1. Questions about the process, legal review and comments.
2. 501(c)(3) requirements at the time of application. Clarification was provided that the service agreement does not require 501(c)(3) status until award.
3. Proof of previous work – basis for 2 years.
4. Non-profit fiscal sponsors, and alignment of sponsored project with the nonprofit purpose of the sponsoring organization.
5. \$50k threshold requirements in draft guidelines for emerging organizations
6. Transparency
 - Scoring and ranking rubric
 - Available funding
 - Grant purpose
 - Evaluation committee – identifying the expertise of adjudicators.
7. NTEE requirements and additional methods of demonstrating recognized arts and/or cultural purpose of organization.
8. Reviewed language on the definition of a nonprofit organization Measure P – Sec. 7-1507(n).
9. Appeals
10. Reviewed 1/3 language in draft documents.

C. Subcommittee Recommendations

1. Commissioners recommended removing and replacing 2-year language within the documents with language that indicates the arts and/or culture work is consistent with their non-profit purpose.
2. Commissioners recommended providing options to demonstrate that operational support applicants identify with federal and/or state agencies as an arts and cultural organization through other recognized ways as an alternative to NTEE requirement.

3. Rephrase language related to 1/3rd goal to ensure that awards are reflective of the cultural, demographic and geographic diversity of Fresno.
4. Commissioners support further refinement of the scoring rubric to add clarity and increase transparency and make it readily understandable so applicants know where they will land. PARCS staff to provide examples as discussed, including from the NEA, ATP, etc.
5. Commissioners recommend expanding the way that scoring committee members in the guidelines may be identified by expertise, for example practicing artist, nonprofit administrator (from another field), and disadvantaged community residents in addition to the existing categories, to increase transparency.
6. Update a typo that was identified under review panel section of guidelines.
7. Consider incorporating a question about scalability in grant awards, meaning that applicants could apply and indicate if they are open to accepting less funds than requested.
8. Consider adding total amount of funding available for this solicitation to increase transparency.
9. Adding an action item to the November 18th PRAC meeting to recommend guidelines if they are ready by that time.