

Cultural Arts Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Commissioners Laura Ward and Scott Miller

Absent: Commissioner Jon Dohlin

Staff: Dr. Lilia Gonzalez Chavez of the Fresno Arts Council

09-03-2025

Meeting 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Meeting Agenda– review proposed funding allocation for EAAC grant awards and discuss review process.

A. FAC Staff Updates

1. FAC Staff reported EEAC grant review panels met 7/28/25 to 8/13/25. Following the panel scoring, the scores for each applicant with zip codes/areas served, funding requested, and proposed funding allocations were sent to Cultural Arts Subcommittee members on 8/29/25.

B. Discussion Items

The Subcommittee discussed the following topics:

1. Proposed funding allocations, with applicants scored at an average of 6 (exemplary) at 90%, scored between 5 (strong) and 6 at 60%, and scored between 4 (good) and 5 at 30% across all grant application categories. Earned interest and forfeited amounts from prior EEAC award cycle increased available funding from approximately \$6.2 Million to the \$6,307,496.66 proposed to be awarded.
2. Zip codes and areas served by applicants were reviewed to ensure that awards proposed to be funded in these allocations are reflective of the cultural, demographic and geographic diversity of Fresno through funding 134 of the 195 applicants (68.7%).
3. Questions and concerns about how to improve the EAAC grant application review process in future years, to address bias, conflicts of interest, and scoring rubric were discussed. Community feedback will help inform process improvements.
4. Timeline for recommendation of grant award allocations and appeals was discussed, to be confirmed with PRAC Chair.

C. Subcommittee Recommendations

1. Commissioners support the proposed EEAC grant funding allocations.
2. Commissioners recommend implementing implicit bias training for staff and review panelists as a part of required training and will solicit community feedback on additional process improvements to develop additional recommendations.
3. Commissioners support timeline, with PRAC Chair confirmation: Notify all EEAC grant applicants of Intent to Award on 9/5/25, appeals received by FAC in writing by 9/15/25 for timely review, and EEAC Grant Award funding recommendations brought by subcommittee to PRAC as an action item at the 9/29/25 commission meeting.