



Newton Cultural Council
August 28, 2023 | Meeting Minutes

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Call to Order 5:30 PM

Present:

Chris Pitts, Robert Linsky, Emily O’Neil, Glenda Fishman, Susan Friedman, Sam Belisle, Anne Marie Stein, Marie Longo, Paula Gannon

Funding, Survey Results and Community Input

We have twice as many responses as last year—150 or so—but still not statistically relevant. Respondents skew older in relation to demographics of the city. Funding and priorities in line with survey results.

Chris made a pie chart showing distribution of funding and applications, which are generally aligned.

Guidelines

Discussion and editing of guidelines and goals.

Eligibility issues

Applicants must be a Massachusetts resident or organization

Project must directly benefit Newton residents.

Discussion about requiring people to provide revised budgets if not awarded amount requested. Agreed that we would not include language about requiring revised budgets

Discussion about not allowing retroactive grant funding with a deadlocked straw vote of 4 - 4. The decision was made to let it go as is and do an assessment of it during the adjudication.

Work Samples—need to have language encouraging work samples

Priorities

No public schools

Preference for projects with a confirmed venue

No home business start-ups

Projects with clear promotional or marketing strategy

Robert moved that we accept edits and changes as discussed and recorded by Chris. Anne Marie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Unanimous vote to accept guidelines as revised and recorded by Chris.

Marketing Grant Availability

Susan rewrote materials to share for announcing the grant. Paula has a banner that was done for last year—it’s the same date so no new materials necessary.

Reception

Need to finalize guest list and send out invitations this week. The invitation is happening in a month. Pianist confirmed. Jamal also confirmed for giving remarks.

Minutes from last meeting unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned.