



Newton Cultural Council Meeting

October 30, 2023

Present:

NCC Members: Glenda Fishman, Clara Chan, Emily O’Neil, Livia Aber, Cheryl Weber, Christopher Pitts, Paula Gannon, Anne Marie Stein, Sam Belisle

Meryl Kessler, Newton Community Pride, Lisa Rucinski, Newton Cultural Development, Stacey Moriarty, Newton Public Schools

Approval of Minutes

September minutes unanimously approved.

Discussion with Stacey Moriarty, Creative Arts and Sciences Newton Public Schools

Performing arts programs were brought into Newton for K-8 and have been taking place since 1960. Funding has historically come from PTOs, however, because of rising cost and other needs, the PTOs can no longer fully support these efforts. Prior to PTO support, the MA Cultural Council provided funding and then stopped, suggesting that school districts ask their local cultural councils.

In Newton there have consistently been approximately 42 performances across the district, but that has become untenable. PTOs will only provide \$3 per student. Creative Arts and Sciences is actively looking for other partners or opportunities and also works to negotiate contracts with performing artists. Programs reach 7500 – 8500 students.

A discussion about eligibility and LCC guidelines followed. Given the budget for the schools in relation to arts dollars, the bigger question is the need for more arts support.

Treasury Report: Glenda Fishman

Glenda sent out a document earlier about the final calculation regarding monies available. Calculation is done with the city treasurer. Glenda walked through the process and form for how the amount is calculated.

The MCC allows up to 5% of state funding which is what Glenda has currently put aside \$1,350.00. The council unanimously voted to approve. If the amount is not spent, it will also carry over to next fiscal year.

Clara moved to accept the budget as outlined. Unanimously approved.

Adjudication Form

Sam, Emily and Anne Marie met and put together a proposed adjudication form for 2023. They reviewed the previous adjudication form, guidelines and the MA Cultural Council's suggested adjudication form. The proposed form is shorter: a number of the questions previously on the form were covered in eligibility criteria. There were suggestions for changes in language regarding technical support criteria which Chris edited during the meeting. Sam made a motion to accept the form. Clara seconded. Unanimously approved with the changes. The form is in Google Sheets in the shared folder. Anne Marie will amend the Google doc to conform with the spreadsheet for people to use.

Adjudication Process

Suggested that we all read and score proposals and then determine whether any deep dives are needed. We could also then consider funding proposals that score a certain amount.

Proposal Assignments

Questions of conflict of interests were discussed and whether there are any changes to assignments.

Conflict of interest forms are available on the MCC website and should a council member wish to complete the form, they should do so independently and forward directly to Amalia Timbers Atimbers@newtonma.gov for filing.

Some changes to the grant assignments as follows:

Clara Chan	New Art Center
Anne Marie Stein	Allen Art Center
Susan Friedman	Newton Open Studios
Cheryl Weber	Fence Art will go to Cheryl

The panel book is in the folder. Chris will keep track of any other change of assignments.

Adjudication schedule

Agreed to have a next meeting in two weeks, November 13th at 5:30. The next two meetings will be hybrid—on site at Paula's Office.

Meeting Adjourned