

Newton Cultural Council  
11/13/23

Present: Liv Aber, Emily O'Neil, Susan Friedman, Robert Linsky, Cheryl Weber, Chris Pitts, Paula Gannon, Sam Belisle, Clara Chan

### **Approval of Minutes**

A question was raised about whether there was a decision for Newton Public School programs. The feeling has been that since public school programs are only open to students and not the broader public, that has made them ineligible.

Discussion continued about the adjudication form. It was agreed that both of these items should be moved to the January meeting after funding decisions and should be at the top of the agenda.

Cheryl motioned to approve the minutes. Sam seconded. Unanimously approved. Robert and Susan abstained since they weren't there.

### **Adjudication Form and Funding Discussion**

- Robert suggested having the form follow the application to make it easier to score.
- Single versus multiple events—discussion about what it means. The intent is about building community, but we are getting many one-off events in the context of ongoing programming at different venues. Chris suggested zeroing out the question about multiple events.
- Appropriateness of level of request was raised and how money finally gets allocated based on the level of request.
- Discussion around the question of whether or not other sources have been sought. How is that scored?
- Accessibility—it is not on the grant form so we don't know. It is assumed because of eligibility.
- Marketing—Susan suggested for discussion a requirement that projects market specifically in Newton. Seeing applications where people are marketing to their own groups but not marketing to Newton.
- Exclusions
  - Food and Beverage-- Funding should not pay for food and beverage although they are sometimes linked to cultural events. Liv has some applications that include items that are supposed to be excluded. Exclusions can be stipulated in award letters. Okay to stipulate in award letter.
  - School venues—while projects in the schools are excluded, projects using a school venue can be funded if open to the public.
- Venue Requirement. Previously, if a project did not have a confirmed venue it disqualified the grant. Since Covid this hasn't been a requirement. Confirmed venue does impact scoring in the form.

### **Conflicts of interest and change in presenters**

Sam will review Matt York—songs of Johnny Cash  
Liv is reviewing Vespers.

Meeting adjourned. 7:04