

## **Newton Cultural Council**

**November 27, 2023**

Present:

Robert Linsky, Cheryl Weber, Susan Friedman, Glenda Fishman, Anne Marie Stein, Liv Aber, Chris Pitts, Sam Belisle, Clara Chan, Emily O'Neil

Robert asked that the minutes reflect the votes for each project. Initially, the process is to determine whether or not the projects should move into a group for potential funding.

### **Adjudication**

Anne Marie Stein presented:

#### **58165 Boston Jewish Film Festival**

The festival is requesting \$2500 out of an \$82,100 budget for their 35<sup>th</sup> annual festival, which has already taken place. Strong festival founded by Newton filmmaker. They did not credit the NCC. 8 in favor, 2 against

#### **65724 Belmont World Film Festival**

Family festival with strong programming that addresses diverse topics through films from around the world. Screenings take place at the West Newton amongst other venues. Request is for \$1,000 out of \$24,250 budget presented. Unanimously in favor.

#### **63892 HEARTplay**

This is a program to support people process grief through theater. There is no public presentation. The work is important but the project is not competitive in relation to the priorities of the Council. They are requesting \$2500 out of a budget of \$173,000 budget. Question as to whether the project is eligible. Unanimously declined.

#### **63620 I AM...**

This is a request by and for a motivational speaker, Scott Maloney, without a clear commitment for a venue. The request is \$600 for the full budget, for the speaker fee. Unanimously declined.

#### **63693 Juneteenth**

Request is for a city celebration of Juneteenth, organized and presented by a citywide coalition. Important celebration and great community event. Request is for \$1500 of \$5,000 budget. Unanimously in favor.

#### **66456 Allen House Mural**

Questions about how public the venue is, and the decision-making process for determining what the mural should be. Grey Held, the applicant, has another pending application and with limited dollars, it might be more of interest to support the other project. Request is for \$1800 of \$2300 budget. 3 in favor 7 against

#### **68783 Freylekh!**

Request for concert with Nat Seelen and Improbable Beasts. Request \$3600 of \$6100 budget. 7 in favor, 3 opposed

**71973** Everybody Signs

This is for programming in ASL, including classes and events at libraries. Discussion about whether it aligns with guidelines and priorities. The ABC Stories are in line and it serves an underserved and important constituency. Requesting \$2k of \$7k budget. Unanimously in favor.

**64693** Open Door Connections

This request is from the Acton Museum for their free events and tickets for low income families. Discussion about impact on Newton—they track attendance and have significant amount of visitors from Newton. Dollar request is small-- \$400 of \$4200. They also get small support from many metro west communities and credit us on their website. Unanimously in favor.

**69478** Tribute to Women in Jazz

Request is for full budget, \$2,000, for a jazz concert of music by women from around the world. The musicians are accomplished and diverse and the programming features underrepresented music. Unanimously in favor.

**Clara Chan presented**

**58087** Siren Songs

Request from Christina Gallo for an operatic voice recital exploring humankind's relationship with climate change, for which she will act as producer as soprano soloist. Music will premiere works by diverse composers. Request is for \$1500 of \$7500 budget. Workshop and concert to take place at Grace Church and War Memorial respectively. Unanimously in favor

**59848** Into the Light Ensemble

Request for \$1000 for a concert of new music to take place at Brigham House in August, 2024. Unanimously in favor.

**61869** New Art Center Community Celebrations

Request is for free community multicultural programming, asking for \$3500 out of a budget of \$25885. Emily and Liv recused themselves. 8 in favor.

**59876** Musical Baseball Show

Request from Howard Nieman, a former sportswriter who covered the Boston Red Sox for many years, for \$375 for artist's fee, to develop and perform a musical show along with storytelling at the Senior Center about baseball. Unanimously declined.

**58615** Rehearsal for Life's Freelance Players

Request for support for their activities, training youth in different communities in musical theater, ending in public performances. The project takes place at Lasell. They are requesting a small amount, \$400, of a budget of \$247,000. 9 in favor, one against

**60795** Afternoon of Brass

Request of \$500 for two concerts of a brass ensemble/orchestra from around Boston playing in Worcester and Boston. General consensus that there is little relation to or impact on Newton. Unanimously declined.

**68125 Weston Friendly Society**

Request is for \$1000 towards expenses of \$19,326 for new equipment for the Weston Friendly Society of the Performing Arts. Unanimously declined.

**Schedule for subsequent adjudication meetings**

Next week 5 – 7:30

Presenters: Robert, Chris, Glenda, Susan

Dec 11 5- 7:30

Presenters: Sam, Cheryl, Emily, Liv

December 18, 5 – 7:30

Reserved for whatever is remaining

Meeting Adjourned 7:02