

Newton Cultural Council Meeting

December 11, 2023

Present: Robert, Chris, Livia, Cheryl, Susan, Anne Marie, Glenda, Emily, Paula, Clara

Adjudication

Susan Friedman presented

68732 Linda Plaut Newton Festival of the Arts. Emily and Chris recused themselves. Request is \$1500 of 10k budget. The festival is in its 9th year, and the NCC has funded each year. They want to add music, and dance, as well as visual arts. 7 in favor,

Robert Linsky presented

65702 Goodnight Moon. Music event by Skylark. 2k request of \$24,975. Date and venue confirmed. Three concerts in three cities. The budget for Newton only. Robert recommended for funding. Unanimously in favor.

Glenda Fishman presented

60675 UpCycle, Recycle, Go and Go.

This is an event where people can bring clothing. With equipment bought by grant, clothing can be recycled or upcycled. Great goal but issues with the way the funds are used. Unanimously declined.

68033 A Faure Requiem

Request for \$1700 of \$6723 budget. This is a known group that does concerts like this. This requiem is a fully staged production of music that is seldom done in this way. Glenda recommended for funding. Unanimously in favor.

57122 The Monolog Project: Voices of the Neurodiversity Community in Newton.

\$2k request of \$5750. It will take place at St. John Episcopal's Church. Project of the Newton Theater Company. Unanimously in favor.

57964 Louisa's Girls. Applicant is Delvena Theater Company from Lynn. Girls refers to Louisa May Alcott's women. The request is for \$635 for a performance at the Senior Center. 5 in favor, 4 opposed to move to the funding round.

59485 BKBX in Newton 2024!.

Mime theater. The group performed last year at New Art Center. Emily reported that they worked with youth and were a big hit. Request is \$2,240 of \$4,440. They have 200 for meals in budget which NCC funding should not pay for. Unanimously in favor.

61083 Sullivan Rep Inaugural Season, Production #1: Steel Pier.

This is a new theater company and their inaugural season, starting with a production of Steel Pier which has been on Broadway. They have ambitious goals. The application asks for money just for the music director. Asking \$1500 out of \$51k budget. Nine in favor.

63947 Broken Bindings

This will be a theater piece about family rifts. Grey Held is the applicant, requesting \$2k of \$3500 budget. Unanimously in favor.

70247 Library Lion

Adam Theater is requesting \$10k of a \$177k budget for a theater project for young audiences, created around the Library Lions Book. It will take place at BPL. The Council was concerned about the impact on Newton. Unanimously opposed.

Sam Belisle presented

There is an outstanding grant from last year's cycle with a change request: Observation/Transformation. The project is interactive multidisciplinary drawing classes. Health issues in his family have precluded the performance as planned. Sam and Anne Marie approved an extension.

66036 The Beat Generation—A Cultural Review Through Music

The project uses live music and audio clips to explore the 1950s through music. The request is for \$325 out of a budget of \$350 for the artist's fee. There is no venue—probably for senior center but not confirmed. Unanimously opposed.

64754 Sharing the Love Pop Up Concerts.

Chris recused himself. Project presents music in venues that have not been solidified. Takes place leading up to festival of the arts, using performers from the festival. They have gotten other funding. 5k budget. Unanimously approved.

69094 Roland Hays Tribute.

Cool music project done by the Newton Cultural Alliance at the Allen House that has already taken place. It features music sung by Roland Hays, one of the first black singers to perform with BSO. Done with the Cherry Street Players. They charged for tickets, and since the event is over, they don't necessarily need the funding. It got great reviews and there were interviews. 6 in favor, 4 opposed.

68729 Bus Stop Art

Newton Arts Association is requesting \$900 of \$2500 budget. This is a continuation of a project from last year. Emerging artists work at the bus station. Only caveat is how they select the artists. Unanimously in favor.

56788 Interactive music concert for children and families.

Request is for 430\$ for a concert at the Newton Free Library. The concerts are designed to help children with emotional, physical, language, cognitive and social development. Good project but question is whether it falls in our purview. Not sure from research about experience of working with these communities. Also not necessarily needing our funding. 13 other performances between now and end of year. 8 in favor, 2 opposed.

67177 Concert Ritual and Dance

Charles River Wind Ensemble is requesting \$875 for an event on Mar 24th that will take place at 300 Hammond Parkway. Unanimously in favor.

The facility is owned by Boston College and Chris is going to take a look at the following day if anyone wants to join.

59914 Songs and Stories Johnny Cash

This does not have solidified venue. Unanimously declined

70499 Tasty Sounds and Sonic Flavors

Dinosaur Annex is requesting 1k of a \$7750 budget for an interdisciplinary project with sound and food. It will take place at the Waterworks. 9 in favor. 1 opposed.

56963 Learn Quest

Festival showcasing Indian classical music and dance which will take place in Weston. Applied to Weston, Wellesley and Waltham cultural councils. Nothing specifically tying it to Newton. 5k request of a total budget \$100k. 7 in favor, 3 opposed.

Livia Aber presented

72064 Musical Café Ukrainian Style.

Request is 2k of 10k budget. 7th year for this interdisciplinary event. Relevant due to what is happening in Ukraine. They have secured in kind support. Unanimously in favor.

72077 Chess federation

Lecture and exhibit. Request for \$300—entire budget. Livia recommends. Six in favor, two opposed.

72271 Travel through the art and history of the silk road.

Presentation and experience activities not specified. How different ethnic groups have worked together. Was supposed to happen in Sudbury. Asking for whole budget. 2 in favor. 7 opposed.

58590 Author Panel celebrating Pride Month and Childrens' books.

Requesting \$800 of \$1100. June 1 Zoom. Focused on children. Serving approximately 100. Authors have not yet been identified. 8 in favor. 1 opposed. Livia will do a deep dive to find out about venue, that it is a public event and greater details.