

## **Newton Cultural Council**

**12/18/23**

Present: Paula Gannon, Robert Linsky, Chris Pitts, Susan Friedman, Emily O’Neil, Sam Belisle, Cheryl Weber, Clara Chan, Glenda Fishman, Anne Marie Stein

### **Adjudication**

#### **Emily O’Neil Presented**

##### **67123** Non-Event, Inc. A Waterworks 2024 Festival of Experimental Sound

Request is \$1500 of 20k budget for a 2 day festival in spring, 2024 meant to appeal to audiences ages 14 – 70. Ticket prices are \$10-\$20 prices and some free events. This event took place last year with support from the MCC, Brookline, Boston Foundation. Recommended for funding. Unanimously in favor.

##### **70249** Maitreyee Chakraborty

Request for an event on May 11 at the War Memorial. Event is a musical performance based on work by Indian Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. The request is for \$6150, the full budget. Open to all but of particular interest to Bengali diaspora. Unanimously in favor.

##### **56361** Photo exhibit of Cutler Park and Charles River Valley

Exhibit of photos that will be in an office park in Needham. Not recommended due to limited appeal in a location not generally easily accessible. Unanimously declined.

##### **66621** ArtReach: Mosesian Arts Storytime and Story Explorers Project

Request is for a story time with some hands-on art making and drama. Site is not confirmed, and the library does some programming like this already. The Mosesian Center said that is a marketing effort for them for Newton to become acquainted with their programming. They did not credit the NCC for last year’s program the NCC supported for ASL. Good effort but due to redundancy with library programming and unconfirmed dates not recommended. Unanimously declined.

##### **65332** Suzuki School of Newton

Request is for their Multicultural Festival and Art Show, a free event on May 11. They are asking for \$1500 out of \$2840 budget. Emily researched the performers, who were fabulous. Unanimously in favor.

##### **61438** Music Mondays at Scandinavian Center

Clara Chan recused herself. Project is to hold ten concerts between Nov 2023 and Oct 2024, free and open to the public, with donations encouraged. Request is for \$2k of \$4700 budget. Clara is the programmer: mixed programming—classical, folk, jazz, etc. They post online documentation of performances that gets a lot of views. Cheryl has attended. Unanimously in favor.

##### **62137** Pro Arte: All in the Family.

They are requesting 3k for subsidized tickets for one concert at War Memorial geared specifically as a family event. They are a professional and well-known group, with four concerts this season, and a total budget of almost \$40k. Emily will contact them to get more information about how they would promote the tickets and make sure they get used. Unanimously in favor to pass through to funding round.

**68924** Jonathan Russell: Music for A Troubled Time

This request is for a Jan 6 performance at Grace Episcopal Church in memory of the Capitol Insurrection. They are asking \$3200 of \$6200. The event is in January and up Eventbrite but not on the Newton Arts Calendar or on the church's website as the application had stated. Unanimously in favor to pass to funding round.

**61629** Mimouna

Update on program that Livia had presented. This is a celebration of part of the Jewish diaspora. Some concern about how political the organization may be. However, the request is sharing a cultural aspect of Judaism that takes place on the last day of Passover, and is not necessarily widely known. Unanimously in favor although vote has already taken place.

**Cheryl Weber Presented**

**66572** October 2024 Indigenous Peoples Day.

This will take place In Albemarle Park. They are asking for \$31k out of 37k+ budget. Cheryl went last year and recommends the event. They brought members of different NE tribes. Newton's celebration has become one of the largest in the area. Unanimously in favor.

**65738** Winter Festival

Emily recused herself. The festival takes place in locations around Newton, including the New Art Center. They are asking for \$2500 of 11k budget. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year and is fun and family oriented. They prioritize using Newton artists. Unanimously in favor.

**56614** 2024 Lunar New Year Traditional Celebration.

Request is for \$3500 of \$7k for the event, which brings attention to Chinese culture and targeted to low income Chinese seniors. It is held by the Newton Housing Authority. Unanimously in favor

**58016** Newton Piano Summit

Chris Pitts recused himself. This has been funded through the Council in the past. Next year the event is moving from May to March. Request is for \$5k of 16k budget. Cheryl recommends. Unanimously in favor.

**63963** Timeless Talk Caravan Puppets

This is a request for \$500 for an artist fee to hold an event at Boston College at a school for students with disabilities. The event would serve 35 people. It serves an important population, but is a closed event. Unanimously declined.

**71432** Fence Art

Fence Art prints work by Newton artists on banners that are displayed around the city in five different outdoor locations on both city and private properties. The initiative is eight years old, runs around the year except winter and they estimate that they reach 10,000 people They are requesting \$2600 of \$3400 budget. This year they will present the work of 20 professional artists working in a range of genres, rotating banners every ten weeks. Seven in favor, one against.

**61581** Spring 2024 Highland Glee Club Concert

The Highland Glee Club is one of the oldest men's choirs in Massachusetts, and a third of their membership lives in Newton, They are asking for support for a concert that will take place on Mar 16 at the War Memorial. Request is for 2k of \$10,600 budget. Unanimously in favor.

**66081** Aston Magna

Aston Magna is well known, professional organization based in Great Barrington with the director coming from Newton. They ask for nominal support for a concert every year that takes place at Brandeis. The request is for \$500 out of \$135,000 budget. One in favor eight opposed.

**69267** New Philharmonia

New Philharmonia is based in Newton, and they are requesting support for a concert with Livingston Taylor celebrating their anniversary. It will be a free outdoor event at the Hyde Center on Sept 14, 2024. Unanimously in favor.

**71853** Newton Baroque

The group is requesting support for their 24<sup>th</sup> season, presenting eight concerts between October and May at the Second Church in Newton. The dollar request is for 2k of \$13,600 budget. They bring highly qualified performers. Unanimously in favor.

**Other Business**

Discussion about next meeting to determine funding allocations. 58 proposals have moved on to the funding round. One suggestion is to give everyone equal funding at \$1000. Due to concerns about using the scoring system, Chris asked that everyone go back to their submitted scores and adjust them post-discussion.

Next meeting Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.