Newton Cultural Council

March 18, 2021

Minutes

Attendees: Rakashi Chand, Patrick Costello, Jane Feigenson, Rich Frost, Paula Gagnon, Kathy Hassinger, Grey Held, Jen Kaplan, Lakshmi Kadambi, Amelia LeClair, Danielle Moriarty, Emily O’Neil, Chris Pitts, Rebika Shaw, Robin Stein, Kathleen Wright.

The meeting began at 9:05A

Minutes from the February 25, 2021 meeting were approved and then voted to table as a few people did receive them. They will be revoted on next meeting.

Treasurer Report:

* Kathleen reported that about 25% of new grantee contracts are in hand.
* Monies from the MCC are expected in 4-8 weeks.
* The process will be that all paper work will be submitted once a month and the controller will then review with 2 members of the council. A check will then be cut and mailed to each grantee.
* There was discussion on sending checks out faster. A vote was taken and approved to start sending monies out.
* All paperwork must be mailed in as stated in the approval letter.
* To date there is $11,000 in the NCC account.

Adjudication Committee:

* Going forward the council will change the email address or subject line to say Newton. This may help in any confusion or mail going into spam.
* The Adjudication Committee will make notes of all items and discuss going forward.
* Jane suggested listing all approved Grantees on the website.
* Amy suggested that all “deep divers” should attend their grantees events and follow up with them to make sure they have received their paperwork.
* Patrick will be meeting with the adjudication sub committee to review scoring and align with the MCC. In turn the MCC will also work to improve their process.
* Kathy H, suggested when financial allocations are discussed that involves council members that they leave the room.
* Emily suggested that those who do not have a conflict should be involved in the financials of each grantee. That way there is no conflict or awkwardness.
* Zoom has made this past years process very challenging.

Survey:

* Forty responses have been submitted.
* A link to the responses will be sent to the council for review.
* Going forward the council will set a target goal for the number of responses.
* Lakshmi suggested a summer intern to assist with the survey and outreach.
* The council agreed to end the survey now as its end date.

Outreach:

* Robin suggested we bring awareness to targeted groups especially as it relates to a more diverse population.

Diversity:

* Kathy stated that the committee has met and has engaged three very talented people from outside the council.
* The Diversity Committee will develop a form and process for new prospects.
* The council can have up to 22 members.
* August will mark the end of many council members terms.
* Kathleen Wright will not return as her term is ending.

Reception:

* Emily reported the reception will take place on September 23rd , 6:30P to 8:00P.
* Chris will create a video of past events.
* Depending on Covid, it may or may not be in person.

The next meeting will be April 15 @ 9:00A via Zoom. Following the council will then meet the 3rd Thursday of every other month.

The meeting ended at 10:48A