



Meeting Minutes 2/27/2023

Newton Cultural Council

Present: Paula Gannon, Susan Friedman, Robert Linsky, Candy Gold, Chris Pitts, Clara Chan, Halcyon Mancuso, Marie Longo, Sam Belisle, Emily O'Neil, Anne Marie Stein, Livia Aber

Survey regarding process

Robert Linsky presented results of survey sent to the Cultural Council. Robert suggested voting on items at the meeting. Emily raised the issue of Council guidelines and priorities are in the process of changing and perhaps we should wait.

The questions:

- 1) Deep Dives: At issue when we do applicant interviews is ensuring that it is equitable across the board. General consensus that we will keep deep dives but revisit how we do this.
- 2) Grant period: General consensus is we should eliminate retroactive grants.
- 3) Capital Expenses. Discussion about how to define what would or wouldn't be allowable. Anne Marie will come back to the group with a suggestion.
- 4) Previous grantees. The council was split on the question of whether or not people should be able to apply continuously. Discussion was in favor of not limiting applications although there was a concern about programs that are repeated. This is different than a format that allows for different content (Newton Piano Summit, Open Studios). This is something that might be better addressed during the adjudication process.
- 5) There was additional discussion about funding rounds versus giving everyone some money if they get through to the final round.

Timothea Pham from the Massachusetts Cultural Council will be attending the next meeting. Agreed that it would make sense to discuss these items with Timothea.