

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT

The Arts Commission requests Council approval of the 2017 Guidelines for Eastside Arts Partnerships and Special Projects funding programs.

FISCAL IMPACT

If Council approves these guidelines, staff will move forward with advertising a call for applications for funding from the Eastside Arts Partnerships (EAP) and Special Projects funding programs. This action does not obligate the City to expend funds. Since 2001, the annual budget for these grant programs has been \$110,000 within the Planning & Community Development Department's General Fund budget and continued funding has been requested for the 2017-2018 Biennium. Allocation recommendations from the Arts Commission will be developed in line with the 2017-2018 Operating Budget when approved by Council. The Arts Commission will return to Council in late 2016 to recommend allocations supporting applications for funding based on the guidelines proposed for adoption at this meeting and the final budget figure as approved by Council.

STAFF CONTACTS

Dan Stroh, Acting Director, 452-5255

James Henderson, Director of Economic Development, 452-7910

Joshua Heim, Arts Program Manager, 452-4105

Department of Planning and Community Development

POLICY CONSIDERATION

Tonight, Council is asked to approve grant guidelines for funding to artists and organizations. These guidelines come to Council annually for approval. There are revisions to the guidelines as described below.

Comprehensive Plan

Goals and policies in Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan that support City funding for artists and arts organizations include:

- Goal 8 of the Urban Design Element "To encourage and support the arts as a vital part of community life."
- POLICY UD-36 "Encourage development, display, and performance opportunities for a wide range of artistic expression throughout the City."
- POLICY ED-17 of the Economic Development Element "Recognize the economic development benefits of city and private sector investments in urban amenities like arts and culture, open space and recreational facilities, and high quality urban design. Strengthen the City's assets in these areas as an explicit component of the City's economic development strategy."

Cultural Compass

The Cultural Compass, a functional planning document for the Comprehensive Plan, contains goals and objectives supporting City funding for arts organizations:

- Goal 1, “Strengthen Bellevue’s arts and cultural organizations and opportunities for artists, both professional and avocational.”
- Goal 7, “Develop a mix of stable and sustainable public and private sector funding and support mechanisms to strengthen Bellevue’s arts and cultural sector.”
- Objective 7.1, “Confirm and build the City’s leadership role in supporting arts and culture.”

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

 X Action

BACKGROUND

The EAP and Special Projects funding programs serve to bring greater benefit to Bellevue residents by supporting the work of artists and arts groups in two different ways. Eastside Arts Partnerships supports the operations of proven arts, cultural and heritage *programs* that deliver high quality programs and services and significant public benefit to Bellevue residents year after year. The emphasis for application review and funding allocation are on creative engagement, public access and benefits, and organizational capacity and sustainability. Special Projects encourage onetime arts, cultural and heritage *projects* that fill in service gaps, particularly for under-served groups in Bellevue. The emphasis for application review and funding allocation are on artistic innovation, public access and benefit, and project feasibility.

At Council’s direction, guidelines for these two arts funding programs are presented to Council annually for feedback and approval. In an effort to better align the funding program to the City’s Budget One process as well as reduce barriers for cultural groups, the Arts Commission recommends changes to the criteria and as well as changes to the application form to streamline the application and review process. A summary of the proposed changes include:

- Adding more explicit language to the criteria found in the guidelines.
- Consolidating the many forms into one (from three) for Special Projects and two (from six) for Eastside Partnerships.
- Reducing the number of required organizational attachments and instead relying on the IRS form 990.
- Replacing the questions that ask applicants to draw connections to the Cultural Compass to questions that ask applicants to explain how their proposed programs advance their missions, create public access and benefit and produce performance-based results.
- Placing funding limits of two years per project and generally limiting awards to \$3,000 for Special Projects to accommodate the significant rise in requests.
- Adding a fast-track “Project Renewal” application for current Special Projects grantees to request a second year of funding.

Since 2001, the annual budget for these grant programs has been \$110,000 generated by the general fund. Additional “pass-through” funding from an annual grant from King County 4Culture provides an additional \$13,000 used primarily for Special Projects. Roughly 80% of the funds are directed towards EAP and 20% towards Special Projects. These guidelines exist solely to guide how this funding is allocated.

Next Steps

If Council approves these guidelines they will be published with a call for applications. An applicants' clinic will be held in September, pending approval of these guidelines. In addition, Arts Program staff work individually with applicants requesting assistance up to the application due date. The Arts Commission will develop its recommendations in November and bring them forward to Council in December of this year so that applicants may incorporate the allocations decisions in their 2017 budgets.

EFFECTIVE DATE

If approved, this motion becomes effective immediately upon Council adoption.

OPTIONS

1. Motion to approve the Eastside Arts Partnership funding guidelines and the Special Projects funding guidelines for 2017 and direct the Arts Commission and staff to proceed with developing funding recommendations for Council approval.
2. Provide staff with revisions to Eastside Arts Partnership funding guidelines and/or Special Projects funding guidelines for 2017 and direct Arts Commission and staff to proceed with implementation.
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

MOTION

Move to approve the Eastside Arts Partnership funding guidelines and the Special Projects funding guidelines for 2017 and direct the Arts Commission and staff to proceed with developing funding recommendations for Council approval.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2017 Guidelines for Eastside Arts Partnerships Funding Program.
2. 2017 Guidelines for Special Projects Funding Program.

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

N/A