



City of Grand Forks Staff Report

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council
12/19/2016
Maureen Storstad
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City Auditor

Committee of the Whole – December 12, 2016
City Council – December 19, 2016

Agenda Item: Arts Regrant Program

Submitted By: Andy Conlon, Community Development Specialist

Staff Recommended Action: Authorize disbursement of 2017 funds as described below

Committee Recommended Action: Refer to City Council with the recommendation to approve.

Council Action:

BACKGROUND:

The Mayor’s Arts and Events Vibrancy Initiative submitted its final report and recommendations to City Council on September 12. One of those recommendations was for the City to administer the Arts Regrant Program on an *interim basis* (at least through the 2017 funding cycle). This was made in recognition of the transitional state of the Grand Forks’ arts community and the regrant funds’ vitality to local arts groups. In the interest of providing continuity and some level of funding predictability for these groups, City staff presented and was authorized by City Council on November 7 to move forward with an application and allocation process based on historical funding patterns. The table below illustrates those historical 5-year averages and the resultant proposed allocation amounts.

Organization Name	Average Grant Award 2012-16	2016 Award	Proposed 2017 Allocation
ArtWise	\$10,486	\$11,100	\$10,632
Empire Arts Center	\$15,564	\$19,600	\$15,781
Fire Hall/GF Community Theatre	\$13,903	\$15,060	\$14,096
Grand Cities Children's Choir	\$5,052	\$11,068	\$5,122
Grand Forks Master Chorale	\$4,756	\$0*	\$4,822
Greater Grand Forks Symphony	\$10,066	\$9,440	\$10,206
ND Met District Opera Auditions	\$3,953	\$4,502	\$4,008
North Dakota Ballet Company	\$10,418	\$10,956	\$10,562
North Dakota Museum of Art	\$15,456	\$14,600	\$15,671
North Valley Youth Orchestras	\$6,731	\$8,700	\$6,825
SPA	\$9,014	\$8,014	\$9,140
UND English/Writers Conference	\$1,987	\$1,800	\$2,014
NoVAC**	\$17,989	\$19,068	\$18,239
TOTAL	\$125,375	\$133,908***	\$127,118

* No funds requested in 2016 due to staff changes

** Available to NoVAC/PAC merged entity

*** Included unexpended 2015 funds

On November 8, staff sent application materials to the above arts organizations (who had received funding in at least 3 of the past 5 years), requiring information on the organizations' missions, proposed usage of funds, and proof of nonprofit status. By the application deadline, December 2, all 13 organizations had submitted applications. A brief summary of their proposed uses of funding is below.

Organization:	Proposed Use:
Artwise	Put toward funding elementary ArtWise Art Show, Artists in the Classroom, and building high quality outreach programs
Empire Arts Center	To support production of 5 shows in the 2017-18 season and compensate local artists for their work.
Grand Cities Childrens' Choir	To offset costs associated with the production of 3 concerts, including venue rental, printed music, recording, and other concert supplies.
GF Master Chorale	To support the production 2017 Masterwork Concert
Greater GF Community Theater	To fund a variety of organizational functions including production of 5 shows, children workshops, puppet programs, and senior/late night theater programs.
Greater GF Symphony Orchestra	Put toward producing professional caliber live orchestral performances
ND Ballet Company	To assist with costs for various productions through the year including facility rental, costumes, workshops, promotion, etc.
ND Met District Opera Auditions	To fund production of a free-to-the-public concert/competition and other public events (past events have included master classes, seminars, etc.)
ND Museum of Art	Put towards funding their exhibition program, including artist fees, insurance, shipping/crating, and promotion costs.
Northern Valley Youth Orchestras	\$2000 toward rental of performance/office space, remainder toward administrative costs
NoVAC	To support operational & programmatic expenses associated with PAC (i.e. retain staff to implement key programs/services such as networking services, manage and develop events like Art & Wine Walk, etc.)
SPA	Will be combined with other funding sources to continue providing a wide array of educational and arts programs to GF youth
UND Writers' Conference	Defraying costs of the conference and bringing in a prominent author

Should approval be received, staff would disburse funds, as detailed above, in January 2017. It again must be emphasized that this is meant to be an *interim* approach designed to provide sustainability and predictability to existing arts organizations until such a time that a redesigned grant process – acceptable to both City Council and the arts community – is approved.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

- Historical grant data was analyzed and various metrics were calculated in determining the best approach to funding allocation. The 5-year average was chosen as it is a very understandable and representative metric. Under this method, eligible organizations are slated to receive funding that is approximately 1% higher than their respective 5-year averages.
- Unlike previous years administrative and operating costs were deemed to be eligible uses of funds.