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Cultural Service Grant Program

OVERVIEW

PURPOSE OF GRANT PROGRAM: To provide public support to arts and cultural organizations that contribute to the quality of life of Jacksonville’s residents.

HISTORY: Since 1979, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville has served as the official regranting and administrative agency for City of Jacksonville funding to arts and cultural organizations. In 1990, the Cultural Service Grant Program (CSGP) was developed from the former Miscellaneous Appropriations for the Arts. CSGP is governed by Chapter 118, Part 6, of the Ordinance Code for the City of Jacksonville, which uniquely empowers and requires the Cultural Council to seek and regrant public funds.

SOURCE OF GRANT FUNDS: The source of CSGP funds is ad valorem (real estate) taxes. The Cultural Council submits an annual appropriation request for all cultural organizations based on information provided by eligible organizations in Letters of Intent. This request includes relevant information regarding cultural services to be provided to the community as a result of the funding, and will reflect a lump sum appropriation to be indicated in the annual city budget as “Cultural Service Grant Program.”

The request is submitted to the Mayor for review by the Mayor’s Budget Review Committee, which recommends a lump sum appropriation to be included in the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Cultural Council is responsible for documenting the validity of the request to the Mayor’s Budget Review Committee, the City Council Finance Committee and City Council throughout the budgeting process. With the approval of City Council, a lump sum appropriation is officially committed to the Cultural Council in the City’s annual budget. The Cultural Council has the responsibility of regranting these monies through CSGP. The Cultural Council’s grants allocation decision is not subject to further review by any executive or administrative official of the City.

GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE: The Cultural Service Grant Program Committee is comprised of a cross-section of members from Jacksonville’s diverse communities representing racial/ethnic, gender, geographic and age diversity, who express an interest in the impact of culture in the community and a willingness to participate fully in the grantmaking process. Members serve 3-year terms, which are renewable for an additional term.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: Evaluation criteria are described in the Jacksonville city ordinance governing CSGP. Organizations applying for CSGP funds must demonstrate the following:

* Quality of programs
* Exploration of innovative ideas and programming
* Community impact
* Need for the organization in the community
* Community outreach and service to culturally diverse populations
* Management capability of board and staff

Evaluation is intended to address the merits of the organization’s application as supplemented by the on-site and during the hearing process. Financial need is not a criterion under the ordinance that governs CSGP.

CULTURE DEFINED: The city ordinance governing CSGP defines “culture” as presenting, sponsoring, exhibiting or otherwise offering for public consumption programs or activities in any one or combination of the following disciplines: historic preservation/restoration, arts in education, music, dance, folk arts, humanities, literature, film/video/media, theater and musical theater, visual arts, or collections or exhibits of historical, archeological, scientific or ethnic artifacts, handiwork or objects.