

**CULTURAL COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS - GRANT REPORT**

**APRIL 16, 2020**

**PILOT – 2019-2020 CULTURAL SERVICE PROGRAM GRANT**

Due to the Safer at Home order and the Governor’s temporary suspension of in-person quorum requirements for public meetings, the program grant hearing is rescheduled as a video-conference on Tuesday, April 14, 10 a.m-noon. The CSGP Committee, which has reviewed the applications, will finalize their scores, following brief applicant presentations and Q&As, and determine award recommendations.

The board will be asked to approve the CSGP Committee’s recommendation s for program grant awards

The total amount of eligible grant requests fell short of the $25,000 allocated to the pilot program. The Board will also be asked to approve a CSGP Committee recommendation for reallocation of unused funds.

Eligible program grant applicants include:

* Avant - Familial Thread
* Jacksonville Arts & Music School (JAMS) - Jazz at JAMS: Summer Concert Series
* Riverside Avondale Preservation - Children’s Mural Days at RAM
* San Marco Chamber Music Society - Woodwind Showcase Concert
* Stage Aurora - Main Stage Production
* The 5 & Dime, A Theatre Company - 2nd Annual Short Attention Span Theatre Festival

**COVID-19 and CSGs**

The coronavirus pandemic has been incredibly hard on the Cultural Service Grantees. All have had to either close their doors or cancel shows, but their creativity is in evidence with online, digital and virtual offerings taking the place of in-person programming.

The Cultural Council has responded to the crisis by:

* Convening weekly teleconferences with leaders of Cultural Service Grantee organizations
* Guests and topics on the calls have (and will) include:
	+ C.M. Michael Boylan - City of Jax/VyStar small business loan program (open to nonprofits)
	+ Florida Cultural Alliance President & CEO Jennifer Jones - State of Florida pandemic response; funding updates from Florida Dept. of State, Division of Cultural Affairs
	+ Americans for the Arts (AFTA) Senior Director of Local Arts Advancement Ruby Lopez Harper - Federal funding update; united arts funds overview
* Hosting a lunchtime roundtable for the smaller CSGs to discuss issues and share ideas
* Preparing numerous ad hoc communications for the CSGs in an effort to cull through and summarize the most relevant of the vast amount of information and resources available for navigating the crisis and taking advantage of relief funding
* Developing a COVID-19 webpage, which is continually being updated
* Extending Q2 grant reporting deadlines by 15 days to accommodate staff of CSGS, most of whom are now working remotely

**THE FUND FOR ARTS & CULTURE – Fill the Void: Artist Relief Funding Campaign**

In an effort to support local artists who’ve lost work during the coronavirus pandemic, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville has created the FUND FOR ARTS AND CULTURE. The Fund will raise support through individual donations and in partnership with social entrepreneurs, corporations, and local businesses. Secure online donations to the fund are currently being accepted: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/tffac>

The first initiative for the Fund is the Fill the Void: Artist Relief Funding Campaign, generously sponsored by Void Magazine and locally-based clothing brand Strata, which will help seed the Fund through sales of a limited-edition "Void This Virus" T-shirt.

The Coronavirus pandemic represents a sudden, unanticipated work stoppage for many individual artists. The Fill the Void: Artist Relief Funding Campaign will provide funds directly to Duval County-based artists of all disciplines whose livelihoods in the arts have been negatively impacted by the crisis.

Applicants must demonstrate three things:

1. that they are professional artists;
2. that they have lost work in their artistic field specifically due to the closures, cancellations and shutdown of businesses created by the pandemic;
3. and that they have a need for financial support due to the crisis.

Grants of up to $250 – to be used for living expenses – will be awarded. Awards will be made based on urgency, need, impact, and availability of grant funds.

Deadline to submit applications to the Fill the Void: Artist Relief Funding Campaign is Thursday, April 16, 2020 (11:59 p.m., online).

**GRANT SEEKING UPDATES:**

* State of Florida

The Florida Legislature included a modest increase for arts and culture grant programs administered by the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Cultural Affairs (DCA) in the FY2021 budget. This includes the Cultural Council’s 2020-2021 General Program Support for Local Arts Agencies grant award from the DCA is in the amount of $46,500.

* City of Jax

The Cultural Council submitted its annual funding requests to the City of Jacksonville for the Cultural Service Grant Program and Art in Public Places just prior to the pandemic announcement. The request included an additional 10 percent for CSGP, which would restart the capital grant program with $100,000 devoted to accessibility improvements; continue the program grant being piloted in 2019-2020; and increase funding for general operating support grants. The request also included prescient language that would enable the Cultural Council to pivot in a different direction due to the coronavirus crisis.

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