**Cultural Service Grant Program**

* Seeking board approval for 2018-2019 Cultural Service Grant awards as recommended by CSGP Committee (handout)
* This fall, written surveys of Cultural Service Grantees and the CSGP Committee will be conducted and staff will convene a small task force to review surveys and help develop recommendations for proposed changes, if any.
* CSGP Contract with COJ – City has our signed contract and related documentation; approval of CSG awards will be confirmed following today’s board meeting; contract now requires Mayor’s signature. First quarter funding will follow.
* Board members are invited to attend a CSGP Appreciation Mixer, 4:30-6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 29 at the Cultural Council

**Statewide Advocacy – LAAs for DCA funding**

* Funding to arts and cultural organizations in the state of Florida through the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Cultural Affairs (DCA) has decreased dramatically over the past few years (handout)
	+ (i.e. Cultural Council awarded $150,000 four years ago; this FY award is $10,000)
* Grant requests for 2019-2020 from 26 Duval County organization alone total $2,738,064
* Local Arts Agencies across the state have banded together for an advocacy push to create awareness of decrease and promote an increase in arts funding; the Cultural Council is supporting and participating in these efforts.

**Federal Arts and Culture Funding Update**

* Federal funding for the arts is faring better and shows clear bipartisan support. Congress recently approved level or increased funding for four arts and humanities-related agencies and programs despite a presidential recommendation to eliminate funding. These include: the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Assistance for Arts Education, and Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants.
* The National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities are operating under a continuing resolution until Dec. 7, 2018, but appear to have support for funding increases.
* Board Chair Ann Carey recently visited with Congressman John Rutherford, who sits on the committee making these determinations. Following her visit, his aide made four local arts and cultural program visits.
* Board members can sign up for Action Alerts from Americans for the Arts to stay up-to-date on federal advocacy efforts: <https://www.americansforthearts.org/advocate>