

*Enriching life in Northeast Florida by investing in arts and culture*

**Madame Chair and Directors: August 2020 Executive Director Report**

August highlights:

The Cultural Council has been quite successful continues to receive positive public reviews among artists, arts organizations, and the new public we are engaging through our heightened visibility.

**Expand Financial Support**

*Implement an effective development strategy that inspires more investment in the arts*

Planning for the 44<sup>th</sup> Arts Awards is well underway. Paid advertisement appeared in Arbus Magazine. Highlights of the virtual event include:

- Pre-awards “cocktail hour”
- Online Auction
- Tenikka Hughes, Action News Jax Anchor
- Co-hosted by Al Emerick, Founder, ValueMappingVideos
- Partnership with CSG – Don’t Miss A Beat
- Performance by Phillip Pan – Former Award Winner



The event will be streamed live on the Cultural Council’s Facebook page and website, as well as on WJCT’s Facebook and website. For more information about the Awards Program and the addition of the fun “Pre-Awards Cocktail Party”, go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/2984229318329249/>

Please help us with securing additional sponsorships. Already we have five award presenter sponsors secured who include the Community Foundation, VyStar, and PNC. Might your corporation be a sponsor? [Click here](#) for a link to the online materials. Attached you will find an Arts Awards Sponsorship Package

- We submitted an NEA Grant for sub-granting to the field. Pursuing this \$50,000 grant continues the CCGJ’s goal of increasing the number of grantees served.
- The FY 20-21 budget is framework was outlined and presented to the finance committee at its meeting on August 11, 2020. Carry-forward funds from the COJ Cares Act Grant and the Paycheck Protection Program will infuse the budget with approximately \$155,000 at the start of FY 21. These funds will prove critical to filling a potential budget deficit of approximately \$160,000 should the organization not meet other fundraising/development goals. It should be noted that these funds will be expensed during the first quarter of FY20.
- PNC awarded the Cultural Council a \$20,000 grant in support of an Artists grant. Many thanks to Karen Feagins for directing us to the opportunity.

- The DIA received a \$52,000 refund of funds for an incomplete DIA Phase II project “Duval Walls”. This project was conceived but not fully executed prior to the arrival of the ED and Public Art Director. DIA funds were available for refund because they were held in reserve.

## **Engage the Community**

*Expand visibility and position the CCGJ's capacity to provide leadership on key issues related to the arts.*

- CCGJ interaction with the City has been on the increase. There are several activities and initiatives as follows:
  - The FY20-21 CSGP Program budget received favorable support from City Council during its August 6 hearing. This is good news because it retains the 7% increase that we received FY20.
  - On July 21 the City Council's Finance and Rules Committees heard and approved our request for arts policy changes related to the ordinance – matching requirements, reporting, and deadline extensions. CM Boylan was been a tremendous ally and liaison to the CCGJ.
  - Several appointments have been made to the Cultural Service Grants Program Committee and the Art in Public Places Committee. The respective programs report has details about these appointments.
- Glenn Weiss and I are participating on the taskforce that is leading discussions about confederate monuments in Jacksonville.
- Joy Young was invited by the National Endowment for the Arts and LISC to present about Creative Placemaking to a national audience.
- The DuPont Fund has become a terrific partner for the Arts Awards. Their in-kind partnership equals well over \$10,000 of in-kind support for use of space, technology, and staff support.

## **Broaden Access to the Arts**

*Expand and strengthen our relationships and partnerships throughout the community.*

- Public Art Projects continue to move forward: Water Street Garage, Cuba Hunter Park, Downtown Sculpture Initiative, the Courthouse, and maintenance and conservation of public art works.
- The DuPont Fund has expressed an interest in a collaboration about community engagement and creative placemaking activities in historic African American communities. Preliminary discussions are underway with the intention of securing grant funds in FY 21.
- Every Single Artist Lounge, supported by Regions Bank, continues to provide socially distanced and virtual convening despite the pandemic. Artists have expressed sincere thanks to the CCGJ for the ways we have advocated and supported them.