

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



October 24, 2011

James Gooch, Board Chair
Nashville Symphony Association
1 Symphony Place
Nashville, TN 37201

Dear Mr. Gooch:

Please find attached the Monitoring Report of the Nashville Symphony Association relating to the contract it had with the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County Community Enhancement Fund and the Metro Nashville Arts Commission Basic Support award for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011.

The Office of Financial Accountability is charged with the responsibility of monitoring grant funds, including Direct Appropriations, from Metropolitan Nashville Government to any nonprofit organization. The OFA also reviews a select number of Arts Commission Basic Support grants based on a defined criteria. Staff from the Office of Financial Accountability conducted the review on October 18, 2011.

We appreciate the assistance provided by your agency during the course of the review. If you have any questions, please call me at 615-880-1035.

Sincerely,

Fred Adom, CPA
Director

cc: Richard M. Riebeling, Director of Finance, Metro Nashville
Alan Valentine, CEO – Nashville Symphony Association
Michael Kirby, CFO - Nashville Symphony Association
Jennifer Cole, Metro Nashville Arts Commission
Talia Lomax-O'dneal, Deputy Director of Finance
Kim McDoniel, Chief of Accounts
Mark Swann, Internal Audit
Ian Myers, CFO – Metro Nashville Arts Commission
Kevin Brown, Office of Financial Accountability
Essie Robertson, Office of Financial Accountability
Brad Thompson, Office of Financial Accountability



Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

NASHVILLE SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

◆ Monitoring Report ◆

Conducted by



Office of Financial Accountability

October 24, 2011

MONITORING REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The Office of Financial Accountability (hereinafter referred to as “OFA”) has completed a monitoring review of Nashville Symphony Association. A monitoring review is substantially less in scope than an audit. The OFA did not audit the financial statements and, accordingly, does not express an opinion or any assurances regarding the financial statements of the Nashville Symphony Association or any of its component units. The OFA is responsible for the internal monitoring of Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (hereinafter referred to as “Metro”) agencies that receive federal and state financial assistance, including cooperative agreements and non-profit organizations that receive Direct Appropriations and Community Enhancement Funds from Metro government. In summary, any agreement(s) that imposes performance and/or financial requirements on Metro government is subject to review by the OFA.

The purpose of this review was to assess the agency’s compliance with contractual requirements set forth in the following contract with Metro Government:

Contract	Type	Amount	Contact Term	
L-2449	Community Enhancement Funds	\$15,000	July 1, 2010	June 30, 2011
11-B1-07	Basic Operating Support I	\$150,000	July 1, 2010	June 30, 2011

Agency Background

The Nashville Symphony is dedicated to achieving the highest standard for excellence in musical performance and educational programs, while engaging the community, enriching audiences and shaping cultural life. The Symphony is housed in the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in downtown Nashville, which opened on September 9, 2006. Highlights of the Symphony Center include a 1,844-seat concert hall and a 3,000 square-foot Music Education Hall. The new venue has had a significant artistic, social and economic impact on the city. Music education has also been identified as a top priority for the Nashville Symphony. In April 2007, the agency announced a new initiative called Music Education City, to help mobilize local school systems, community leaders and area residents to increase music education opportunities in Nashville.

OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The objectives of our review were:

- 1) To determine whether the agency had the resources and capacity to administer the grant funds.
- 2) To determine if costs and services were allowable and eligible.
- 3) To verify that program objectives were met.
- 4) To test the reliability of the financial and programmatic reporting.
- 5) To verify contractual compliance.

The scope of our review was limited to the contract term July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Audit procedures included meeting with agency management and staff, reviewing the design of internal controls as a basis for establishing our testwork, reviewing board minutes and obtaining written representations from management. In addition, we examined certain financial records and supporting documentation necessary to ensure compliance with contractual requirements set forth in CEF contract L-2449 and the Arts Commission Basic Support contract 11-B1-07. Specific procedures included:

- Interviewing the employees responsible for grant management, financial reporting, and accountability.
- Reviewing supporting documentation of expenditures for allowability, necessity and reasonableness.
- Reviewing the agency's general ledger and verifying the accuracy of all invoices submitted to Metro.
- Reviewing documentation to determine that funds were used for intended beneficiaries and expended in accordance with the spending plan of the contract.
- Reviewing documentation to support program activities for consistency with grant requirements.
- Assessing the financial stability of the agency and its ability to continue to administer the grant program funded by Metro.

RESULTS OF REVIEW

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Criteria	Yes	No
Sufficient Resources and Capacity to Administer Funds?	✓	
Costs and Services Allowable and Eligible?	✓	
Program Objectives Met?	✓	
Reporting Requirements Met?	✓	
Sufficient Internal Control Environment?	✓	
Compliance with Civil Rights Requirements?	✓	

RESULTS OF REVIEW

The overall results of the monitoring review are provided in this section. Results are based on testwork performed and include conclusions regarding specific review objectives and, if applicable, recommendations for improvement and an action plan for implementation. Where applicable, the Findings and Recommendations section of this report provides more insight into any issues identified below.

1. Sufficient Resources and Capacity to Administer Grant Funds

Our review of the agency's accounting system and the qualifications of the individuals assigned to manage the accounting records indicate that the agency possesses the necessary resources and professional expertise to effectively administer the grant funds.

2. Allowable and Eligible Costs and Services

Our review covered all of the core compliance areas identified by OMB Circular A- 133: *Audit of States, Local Government, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Costs incurred by the agency complied with applicable guidelines stated in OMB Circular A-122.

Additionally, the Metro Grants Manual requires separate accounting of the Metropolitan Nashville Government grant funds to prevent co-mingling of Metro Funds with other sources of funding. The agency was in compliance with this requirement. Different revenue classes as well as expenditure classes have been established to separately track the sources and amounts of funding. Also, the agency can easily and accurately report their expenses supported by the Metro grant. OFA reviewed supporting documentation for the CEF grant.

We also reviewed the expenses and supporting records for the Basic Support grant. The expenses for the grant were for salaries of artists. Our review of the payroll records and other supporting documentation for the grant indicate the expenses were proper, consistent with the grant requirements and eligible. The Symphony also met the "one-to-one dollar match" requirement.

Based on our test work, we conclude the costs and services for both grants during the period were allowable and eligible.

RESULTS OF REVIEW

3. Program and Performance Objectives

The contract stipulated that the Nashville Symphony grant funds should be used to provide the following outcomes:

- **Metro’s Grant L-2449** will be used to provide 87,000 Davidson County children and adults access to eight (8) full free Community Concerts, including summertime performances in various Metro Parks, the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration “Let Freedom Sing!” and a free “Day of Music” event at Schermerhorn Symphony Center.
- **The Arts’ Commission Grant 10-B1-07** was to be used to cover salaries of artistic personnel as part of basic administrative support for the operations of the Nashville Symphony.

Based on our review of program documentation and discussions with staff, program performance objectives were met and the agency was in compliance with contractual program objectives.

4. Reliability of Financial and Programmatic Reporting

The contract requires submission of an annual audit report performed by a Certified Public Accountant. The contract also requires the agency to submit to Metro year end reports of the program outcome and a final expenditures report, no more than 45 days after the close of the contract.

We reviewed all applicable financial and programmatic reports required by the contract, including audited financial statements. Based on our review, the agency complied with all financial and programmatic reporting requirements.

5. Internal Control Environment

In order to determine the adequacy of the design of internal controls, we obtained and reviewed an independent auditor’s report on internal control over financial reporting and/or a completed internal control questionnaire. This audit procedure was performed solely as a basis for determining our test work and to assist us in

RESULTS OF REVIEW

making suggestions for improvement to management. We did not evaluate the operating effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting.

Our review of the design of the agency's internal controls did not reveal any control deficiencies. Further, nothing came to our attention that would necessitate suggestions for improvement in internal control activities to management.

6. Civil Rights Requirements

Our review did not reveal anything to indicate that the agency was noncompliant with civil rights requirements. The agency also has necessary written policies and procedures relating to civil rights. The agency has not received any complaints regarding any form of discrimination. Further, civil rights and ADA postings are publicly displayed.