



Meeting Minutes

Metro Arts Grants & Funding Committee

January 15, 2025

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Metro Southeast Building, Conference Room A

1417 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37217

Meeting Link: [recording of this meeting here](#)

Commissioners Present: Heather Lefkowitz (Chair), Tim Jester, Shawn Knight, Dawana Wade, & Jilah Kalil

Metro Arts Staff: Vivian Foxx

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **8:34 AM** by **Heather Lefkowitz** (Chair). The committee members introduced themselves.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments submitted in person or online.

IV. Review & Approval of December Minutes

- **Minutes from December** were reviewed.
- **Commissioner Jester** made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by **Commissioner Wade**.
- The minutes were approved unanimously.

V. MHRC Update

- **Ashley Bachelder** from the **Metro Human Relations Commission (MHRC)** provided an update on the **Title VI complaint** and the **conciliation agreement**.
- A slide deck was presented, detailing policies authorized at the December 5th meeting, including data on grant applications, funding allocations, and the funding formula for Thrive and general operating grants.
- Discussion on the fiscal agent requirement for Thrive applicants and the related agreements.
- Bachelder discussed two options for addressing a potential surplus in Thrive funding due to the \$10,000 cap.

VI. Review of Legislation & Supporting Documentation Filed with Metro Council

- The committee discussed policy gaps and potential edits to guidelines and criteria, specifically around the Thrive program and the \$10,000 funding cap.

- **Option 1:** Keep the \$10,000 funding cap and redistribute surplus funds among Thrive applicants.
- **Option 2:** Rescind the \$10,000 cap and adopt a new funding formula using a 75% scale and rank order scoring process.
- **Tessa Ortiz Marsh** raised concerns about the unclear policy for prioritizing funding to underrepresented council districts, suggesting a definition or rescindment of that policy.

VII. Motions Regarding Thrive Funding Formula

- **Commissioner Knight** made a motion to rescind the current funding formula, seconded by **Commissioner Wade**. The motion passed.
- **Commissioner Knight** made a motion to adopt **Option 2** as the new funding formula for FY25, seconded by **Commissioner Jester**.
 - Discussion followed, including considerations for handling ties among applicants.
 - **Commissioner Knight** amended the motion to include staff re-ranking of any tied scores, which was seconded and passed.
 - The final motion to adopt Option 2 with staff handling tied scores was approved.
- A motion to **rescind the policy on underrepresented districts** for this grant cycle was made, seconded, and passed.
- A motion to **maintain the February 18th hard deadline for applicants**, with language allowing applicants to certify completion prior to the deadline for rolling review by staff, was made, seconded, and passed.
- A motion to **adopt the revised timeline** with the revisions was made, seconded, and passed.

VIII. Operating Support Grant Policy Review

- The committee discussed the **Operating Support Grant** policies and determined no major policy gaps were found but noted that formatting and grammatical clean-up were needed.
- A motion was made for the **Grants Committee Chair** to work with staff and Tessa Ortiz Marsh to finalize and formalize the language in the most professional manner, seconded, and passed.

IX. Timeline Discussion

- The timeline for the grant cycle was reviewed, with specific attention to deadlines for resubmission, panel scoring, and community engagement.
- The committee discussed leveraging their networks for outreach and ensuring clarity on the term "fiscal agency."

X. Old Business



- Discussion of **Conciliation Agreement Terms and Compliance**: The committee reviewed ongoing compliance efforts related to the conciliation agreement.

XI. New Business

- No New Business

XII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at **10:29 AM**.