

## MEETING MINUTES

### Metro Arts Commission

December 5, 2024, 12:00pm-2:00pm

1417 Murfreesboro Pike, Green Hills Conference Room

### Meeting video

Present.Commissioners: Chair Campbell West, Vice Chair Tre Hardin, Secretary Heather Lefkowitz, Commissioner Tim Jester, Commissioner Jilah Khalil, Commissioner Janet Kurtz, Commissioner Carole McCoy, Commissioner Jessie Rosenblum, Commissioner Dawana Wade, Commissioner Mayra Yu

Absent.Commissioners: Commissioner Evan Brown, Commissioner Leah Dupree Love, Commissioner Arlene Nicholas-Phillips, Commissioner Shawn Knight, Commissioner Beverly Watts

Staff.™.Others.Present: Dr. Paulette Coleman (Interim Executive Director, ex-officio), Tessa Ortiz-Marsh (Metro Legal), Vivian Foxx (Staff), Rev. Davie Tucker (MHRC)

#### A. Call to Order, Welcome, and Land Acknowledgement

Chair Campbell West called the meeting to order and delivered the land acknowledgement.

#### B. Public Comment

Three members of the public provided comments:

1. Terry Davis (speaking on behalf of Elisheba Israel Mrozik)
2. Alan Fey (Nashville Philharmonic)
3. Mark Slicker (Friends of William Edmondson Home Site):

#### C. Approval of Minutes: October 17, 2024

1. Metro Arts Legal Counsel Tessa Ortiz-Marsh provided an important update regarding the Commission's legal obligations under the conciliation agreement. Key points included:
  - a. Emphasized commissioners' responsibility to understand and comply with the agreement
  - b. Clarified the distinction between commission and staff responsibilities

- c. Stressed the importance of directing staff appropriately to meet legal obligations
- 2. The October minutes were then reviewed and approved:
  - a. Motion made (Commissioner Hardin) and seconded (Commissioner Lefkowitz)
  - b. Vote Result: Approved unanimously

#### D. Action Items/Discussion

- 1. Grants Guidelines Review & Consideration
  - a. Operating Support Grants
    - i. Criteria Review and Consideration
      - 1. Extensive discussion about maintaining existing criteria from December 2022:
        - a. Commissioners noted these criteria resulted from extensive community engagement
        - b. Discussion of alignment with conciliation agreement requirements
        - c. Emphasis on maintaining consistency with previous community input
        - d. Motion passed (9 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain)
    - ii. Guidelines Review and Consideration
      - 1. Discussion confirmed that guidelines align with approved criteria and conciliation agreement requirements.
        - a. Motion passed unanimously.
    - iii. Consideration of Funding Scenario Proposals
      - 1. Detailed discussion of two options:
        - a. Staff and Committee Proposal:
          - i. Structured funding by organizational size categories
          - ii. Specific allocation amounts for each tier
          - iii. Concerns raised about limited number of funded organizations
        - b. Commissioner Lefkowitz Proposal (Option B):
          - i. Based on December 2022 guidelines
          - ii. Scaled funding approach
          - iii. Supported by historical community engagement
          - iv. More organizations funded at varying levels
        - c. Option B approved: 9 YES, 1 Abstain
  - b. Thrive-Like Grants
    - i. Extensive discussion of funding model and implementation:
      - 1. Debate over \$10,000 flat funding vs. scaled approach

2. Analysis of impact on project budgets and implementation timeline
3. Consideration of council district representation
4. Detailed discussion of tiebreaker mechanisms
5. Examination of fiscal agent requirements and audit limits
- ii. Key concerns addressed:
  1. Timeline for project execution
  2. Capacity of organizations to complete projects
  3. Equity in distribution across council districts
  4. Process for handling tied scores
  5. Role of fiscal agents
- iii. Final approved framework included comprehensive scoring and distribution mechanism with priority for underrepresented districts.
- iv. Motion approved: 9 YES, none opposed
- c. Panelist Criteria for Review and Consideration
  - i. Discussion included:
    1. Compensation structure for panelists
    2. Timeline for review process
    3. Number of panelists needed (approximately 35)
    4. Conflict of interest requirements
    5. In-person vs. remote review considerations
- d. Allocation of Funds Recommendation Review and Consideration
  - i. Discussion centered on the allocation split between Thrive and Operating Support grants:
    1. Initial staff recommendation was \$900,000 for Thrive and \$2,363,000 for Operating Support
    2. Commissioner Lefkowitz proposed considering percentage-based allocations instead of flat amounts
    3. Multiple funding scenarios were discussed:
      - a. 70/30 split (\$978,000 for Thrive)
      - b. 60/40 split (\$1.3M for Thrive)
      - c. 50/50 split (\$1.6M for both programs)
    4. Commissioners discussed the implications of increased Thrive applications (doubled from previous year)
    5. Concerns raised about impacts on both programs and implementation timeline
  - ii. Final motion by Commissioner Lefkowitz for 60/40 split was approved: 7 YES, 1 Abstention.

#### E. New/Old Business

No business discussed due to loss of quorum

#### F. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting ended at approximately 2:27 PM due to loss of quorum.

#### Next Steps Required:

- ☐ Finalize and publish grant policies by January 6, 2025
- ☐ File criteria, guidelines and allocations with Metro Council
- ☐ Develop implementation strategy for approved funding mechanisms
- ☐ Initiate panelist recruitment process
- ☐ Create detailed scoring rubrics incorporating approved criteria