

MEETING MINUTES

Metro Arts Commission [Grants & Funding Committee](#)

Monday, October 14, 2024, 12:30-1:30PM

Metro Southeast Facility

[Meeting video](#)

Attendance at Meeting:

Commissioners: Tim Jester (chair), Leah Dupree Love, Dawana Wade

Metro Arts Staff: Interim Director Dr. Paulette Coleman, Sydnie Davis, & Vivian Foxx

Not present:

Commissioner Carol McCoy

Action Items

- ☐ Provide legal review comments to arts staff.
- ☐ Resend legal review comments to arts staff.
- ☐ Respond to legal review comments.
- ☐ Schedule a meeting with arts organizations for community engagement regarding the FY25 grant criteria.

Meeting summary

The Metro Arts Commission Grants and Funding Committee discussed the approval of grant criteria for the 2025 fiscal year. The committee acknowledged the need to expedite grant disbursements to support arts organizations. Dr. Paulette Coleman and Sydney Davis outlined the grant categories and funding amounts, emphasizing the importance of spreading limited resources. The committee approved the motion to recommend the grant criteria to the full commission, despite pending legal review and community engagement concerns. The timeline for grant disbursement is January 2025 to June 15, 2025. The committee emphasized the urgency and the need for thorough review before final approval.

Agenda and notes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

- **Speaker:** Commissioner Timothy Jester
- **Action:** The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.
- **Land Acknowledgement:** Commissioner Jester recognized Indigenous Peoples Day and acknowledged the land on which the meeting was held, honoring the indigenous peoples and their heritage.

2. Public Comment

- A. **Councilwoman Joy Styles** addressed the committee, providing updates on new legislation that requires grant processes to be approved by the council annually. She stressed the importance of staying aligned with budget requests to avoid budget cuts and commended Metro Arts staff for stabilizing staffing and improving processes.

3. Approval of Minutes

- A. The committee reviewed the minutes from the August 12, 2024, meeting. Commissioner Dupree Love moved to approve the minutes, and Commissioner Wade seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. **Exploration of FY25 Grant Criteria (12:30 - 1:45)**

A. Grants Committee Report

- **Speaker:** Dr. Paulette Coleman, Interim Executive Director
- **Action:** Dr. Coleman provided an overview of the Grants and Funding Committee's work regarding the approval of grant criteria for FY25.
- **Discussion Highlights:**
 - Dr. Coleman and Sydney Davis discussed the urgency of expediting grant disbursements for arts organizations and the need to allocate limited resources equitably.
 - The committee outlined the proposed grant categories: micro, small, medium, mid-sized, and large institutions, each with specific revenue ranges and eligibility criteria.
 - Dr. Coleman stressed that grants would be used for allowable expenses such as artist fees, salaries, and marketing, while political lobbying and capital improvements were ineligible.
 - The proposed grant disbursement period is from **January to June 15, 2025**.

B. Legal and Community Engagement Concerns

- **Speaker:** Tessa Ortiz-Marsh, Legal Counsel
- **Action:** Ortiz-Marsh raised concerns about the legal sufficiency of the current draft of the grant criteria, particularly around community engagement and the need for a formal Community Engagement Plan.
 - **Next Steps:** Legal review will be conducted, and the draft will be revisited with arts staff. Additional time will be required for review and refinement of the criteria.
 - **Chair's Response:** Commissioner Jester emphasized the urgency of completing the grant review process to meet council deadlines.

C. Grant Timeline and Recommendations

- **Action:** The Grants Committee recommended advancing the draft criteria to the full commission for further discussion, contingent upon final legal review and community engagement plans.
 - **Motion:** Commissioner Leah Dupree Love motioned to recommend the grant criteria to the full commission with the understanding that legal and community engagement concerns would be addressed before final approval.
 - **Seconded:** Commissioner Dawana Wade
 - **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously