

ATTACHMENT 2

2016 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM PEER REVIEW PANEL SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is an overview of the nineteen applicants (ranked from highest to lowest) with panel summary comments:

The Jazz Bakery Performance Space

Proposed Project:	Jazz performance featuring the Clayton Brothers Band with special guest, Ernie Andrews
Performance Venue:	Kirk Douglas Theatre
Proposed Date:	June 25, 2016
Panel Score:	97.6
Grant Request \$5,000	Recommended Award \$5,000

Comments: Panelists praised the organization's mission and the proposal to present acclaimed Southern Californian jazz artists at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. Also, The Jazz Bakery was commended on its plan to present a workshop for Culver City High School students and to offer them a limited number of complimentary tickets. Panelists felt that the performance would be popular and encouraged the organization to provide more details on their outreach to the Culver City Community.

Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre (Collage Dance Theatre)

Proposed Project:	<i>Parts & Labor</i> featuring a 1970s Cadillac
Performance Venue:	Helms Bakery District
Proposed Dates:	Fall 2016
Panel Score:	95
Grant Request \$5,000	Recommended Award \$5,000

Comments: Panel members discussed the high artistic quality of the company, their well-known, site-specific work and their audience appeal. Panel members were intrigued by the proposal to feature a vintage Cadillac in the performance. The company was complimented on their commitment to pay artists, their promotional materials and their past programs with the Culver City Unified School District.

The Actors' Gang

Proposed Project: The 10th annual free Shakespeare-in-the-Park Production
Performance Venue: Media Park
Proposed Dates: Saturdays and Sundays August 2016
Panel Score: 93.4
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$5,000

Comments: The panel expressed confidence in this proposal, praised the longevity of the theatre group, and the excellent artistic quality and ingenuity of past performances. There were comments regarding the lack of clarity in the completed application. Although there were questions regarding the budget, it was deemed achievable and realistic for this proposal.

We Tell Stories

Proposed Project: Seven free, 45-minute performances for family audiences presented in conjunction with the County's summer reading program
Performance Venue: Culver City Julian Dixon Library
Proposed Dates: June 22, and 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27 & August 3, 2016
Panel Score: 92
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$4,500

Comments: Panelists familiar with this established organization described how well attended the performances are each year by families with young children. Also, they praised the quality of the acting. It was noted that the program is booked by the Culver City Julian Dixon Library and that the Library is responsible for the promotional campaign. Panel members expressed concern regarding the composition of the Board of Directors and encouraged more Board development in the future.

Vox Femina Los Angeles

Proposed Project: Concert of choral works
Performance Venue: Culver City Presbyterian Church
Proposed Date: April 24, 2016
Panel Score: 90.4
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$5,000

Comments: The panel remarked on the fine quality of the organization's artistic work and how respected the choral group is in the region. Members of the panel found the organization stable and well-funded. They praised Vox Femina Los

Angeles for expanding its repertoire and supported the company's decision to charge admission for the proposed concert.

Benita Bike's DanceArt Company

Proposed Project:	Interactive performance designed to awaken people to the value of dance
Performance Venue:	Culver City Senior Center
Proposed Dates:	June 5, 2016
Panel Score:	88.2
Grant Request \$2,000	Recommended Award \$2,000

Comments: The proposal was well received by the panelists who found the artistic work clean and effectively produced. The budget and funding were evaluated as realistic for the proposal and the panel felt that the marketing was based on the organization's experience in Culver City. Panelists encouraged the company to focus on developing a broader audience for this proposed performance at the Senior Center.

Society for the Activation of Social Space through Art and Sound

Proposed Project:	Site-specific work by choreographer Simone Forti, cornetist/composer Dan Clucas and experimental guitarist Bob Bruno
Performance Venue:	Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook
Proposed Dates:	September 2016
Panel Score:	87.8
Grant Request \$5,000	Recommended Award \$4,500

Comments: The panel discussed the importance of experimental music, supporting those musicians and composers, and growing the audience for experimental music. Other comments focused on the experience of discovery during these types of performances, the value of public support for experimental music, and some concerns about the limited budget of the organization.

Critical Mass Dance Company

Proposed Project:	<i>Ama Terra</i> , a new black light dance production
Performance Venue:	Ivy Substation
Proposed Dates:	June 25, 2016
Panel Score:	87
Grant Request \$5,000	Recommended Award \$4,500

Comments: The proposal from this dance company, which uses black light in its productions, interested the panelists. They felt that the piece, featuring Mother Nature and butterfly imagery, would be entertaining and captivating to audiences of all ages. They expressed confidence that it would draw an audience in Culver City, and beyond, if the proposed publicity plan is carried through. Further, panel members found the budget to be realistic for the project.

Culver City Public Theatre, Inc.

Proposed Project:	Free summer theatre performances for children and adults
Performance Venue:	Dr. Paul Carlson Memorial Park
Proposed Date:	Saturdays and Sundays, July 17-August 21, 2016
Panel Score:	86.6
Grant Request \$5,000	Recommended Award \$4,500

Comments: The company's longevity, success and connection to the community was noted by the panel. They remarked on the theatre's robust outreach plan, creative publicity ideas, and realistic production budget. The panel encouraged the company to leverage more sources for contributions and to consider enhancing their costumes for the productions.

Culver City Symphony Orchestra

Proposed Project:	A varied program of music
Performance Venue:	Kirk Douglas Theatre
Proposed Dates:	June 18, 2016
Panel Score:	86.6
Grant Request \$5,000	Recommended Award \$4,500

Comments: Although a specific program was not submitted, panelists did commend the orchestra for its quality, its commitment to support young musicians and its interest in progressive programming. Panel members remarked on the importance of having an orchestra in a community but they expressed concern about the lack of vision and direction for the orchestra as well as its attendance numbers. The panel supported the proposal to utilize the Kirk Douglas Theatre and recommended that the musical programming be suitable for the venue. The panel encouraged the company to continue marketing the performances to the Culver City community, hire a professional grant writer, and diversify its funding sources.

Donna Sternberg & Dancers (Dancesence, Inc.)

Proposed Project: *Water*, a site-specific performance with live dancers, musicians and recorded soundscape
Performance Venue: Helms Bakery complex, near the water feature
Proposed Dates: Fall 2016 (tentatively November 6)
Panel Score: 86
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$4,500

Comments: There were comments regarding the timeliness of this proposal, the company's longtime interest in scientific subjects, and its commitment to exposing audiences to dance concerts in public sites. Panel members discussed the consistent quality of the work and remarked on how successful the performance could be in the popular Helms Bakery District. The panel expressed concern regarding the company's financial structure and encouraged the company to increase and diversify its funding sources.

Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra

Proposed Project: A concert featuring dance music
Performance Venue: Veterans Memorial Building - Auditorium
Proposed Dates: November 20, 2016
Panel Score: 84.8
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$3,500

Comments: Panel members remarked on the pleasant and accessible program proposal. They noted that the orchestra members are volunteers and that the grant would support paid musicians for the program. Panelists found the overall artistic level to be proficient. They felt that the outreach plan primarily employed basic methods that had been effective for the orchestra in the past. The panel commended the orchestra for being well run by the volunteers and financially responsible.

Antics Performance

Proposed Project: *Sneaker Suites*, a collaboration between Antics and spoken word poet Mark Gonzales
Performance Venue: Ivy Substation
Proposed Dates: July 7, 8 and 9, 2016
Panel Score: 83.75
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$3,500

Comments: The panel was impressed by the artistic sample and by the group's commitment to paying dancers well. The panel members agreed that the

performances would be produced effectively and that there would be an appetite for this dance style in Culver City. There were concerns for the overall financial structure of the company but considered the project budget to be acceptable. The panel remarked on the importance of a successful marketing plan for this community and questioned whether or not the free dance workshops for Culver City students would result in ticket sales.

Contra-Tiempo Urban Latin DanceTheater

Proposed Project:	<i>I Dream America</i> , a 40-minute movement opera performed by the Contra-Tiempo Futuro Jr. Company
Performance Venue:	Ivy Substation
Proposed Dates:	June 23, 2016
Panel Score:	82.6
Grant Request \$5,000	Recommended Award \$3,500

Comments: The panel praised the quality of the organization's work and its continued artistic success. They commended the group on initiating a junior company and for preparing them for a professional performance. Questions arose regarding the budget including the costs for a proposed reception, ticket prices and the proposed production deficit. Panel members expressed confidence that the junior company would draw an audience but felt that the application offered limited information on a targeted marketing plan for Culver City.

Culver City Chamber Orchestra

Proposed Project:	A concert for families featuring soloists and the west coast premiere from a local composer
Performance Venue:	Culver Palms United Methodist Church
Proposed Date:	April 10, 2016
Panel Score:	82.4
Grant Request \$5,000	Recommended Award \$3,500

Comments: The panel observed that the orchestra had past success with similar concerts and complimented it on its commitment to family programming and the presentation of young soloists. Panel members noted that the proposed music program was progressive. They found it difficult to ascertain the quality of the artistic sample and recommended that the group invest in new ones that are representative of project proposals. Some concerns were expressed regarding the administrative strength of the organization. Members of the panel encouraged the orchestra to engage a grant writer and continue its outreach through social media.

Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival

Proposed Project: *From the Best of the Fest*, an evening of multi-disciplined and ethnically diverse solo artists
Performance Venue: Ivy Substation
Proposed Dates: July 9, 2016
Panel Score: 81
Grant Request \$3,000 **Recommended Award** \$1,500

Comments: Panel members discussed the strong outreach plan and the realistic budget for the performance at the Ivy Substation. They noted a lack of information in the application regarding the artistic leadership and selection process for the Festival. Panelists recommended that the company engage a professional consultant to review best practices for their organizational structure and board composition.

No Limits Theater Group, Inc.

Proposed Project: *Silent No More*, a theatrical documentary featuring the life stories about hearing loss
Performance Venue: Kirk Douglas Theatre
Proposed Dates: June 17, 2016
Panel Score: 80
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$500

Comments: The panel acknowledged the overall efforts of No Limits Theater Group which is a professional theatre program that teaches children with hearing loss how to speak. They reviewed the artistic sample closely and the concept of a theatrical documentary. The panel noted that the request was for a third version of *Silent No More*, which had been funded previously through the grant program, and that this version would feature the personal stories of parents of children who have suffered hearing loss. Panelists concluded that while theatrical conventions were employed in the project, it more closely resembled a presentation by a human services organization. The panel was concerned about the ability of the organization to draw a general audience for the production within the Culver City community. The panel recommended only a limited amount of funding to demonstrate support for the efforts of the organization and to provide access to the Kirk Douglas Theatre. Further, it was recommended that the organization should explore the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's new Community Impact Arts Grants for nonprofit organizations that use the arts to support their mission while primarily providing a wider range of services and programs.

Lineage Dance Company

Proposed Project: *The Brain in Motion*, a show combining dance, theatre, music and visual projection to tell the story of Right Brain and Left Brain

Performance Venue: Ivy Substation

Proposed Dates: TBD

Panel Score: 78.6

Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$0

Comments: Panelists found that the concept was interesting and that the contemporary dance work was fairly strong. Members of the panel were apprised of the low audience attendance for the 2015 grant performance and they carefully reviewed the outreach plan to determine the company's capability to draw a Culver City audience. They found that the outreach plan had some positive qualities but that, overall, it was not effectively written. They acknowledged that the dance field was competitive this year and encouraged the company to apply again in the future.

Brockus Project Dance Company

Proposed Project: *Quest: Mankind's Journey*, a piece about human migration with a family oriented multidisciplinary workshop gathering participants' personal histories

Performance Venue: Veterans Memorial Complex

Proposed Dates: May 21 and June 10, 2016

Panel Score: 76

Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$0

Comments: The panel reviewed the concept of including the Culver City community in a paid workshop and then utilizing the participants' work in the subsequent performance. They were doubtful that the workshop would draw participants. Although they noted positive elements in the marketing plan, there were questions raised regarding how realistic the project budget was. Panelists recommended that the group prepare new promotional materials and follow best practices by not having the Artistic Director serve as the Board President too. They acknowledged that the dance field was competitive this year and encouraged the company to apply again in the future.