

MEETING DATE 12/05/2005

AGENDA ITEM Consideration of 2006 Performing Arts Grant Awards as
Recommended by the Cultural Affairs Commission

ATTACHMENTS

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About Productions

Culver City High School Academy of Visual and Performing Arts

The Culver City Playhouse

The Definiens Project

Henry Mancini Institute

Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra

Vox Femina Los Angeles

We Tell Stories

Westchester Symphony Society, Inc (Culver City Symphony Orchestra)

2006 Performing Arts Grant Applicants Prior Year Funding History

APPLICANTS	FY 1994 - 1995			FY 1995 - 1996			FY 1996 - 1997			FY 1997 - 1998		
	CY 1995			CY 1996			CY 1997			CY 1998		
	Requested	Granted	Fee Waiver	Requested	Granted	Fee Waiver	Requested	Granted	Fee Waiver	Requested	Granted	Fee Waiver
About Productions												
Culver City High School Academy of Visual & Performing Arts												
Culver City Playhouse The							\$7 000	\$2 665		\$3 600	\$1 000	
Definiens Project The												
Henry Mancini Institute The												
Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra				\$2 300	\$1 000		\$2 500	\$1 000		\$1 000	\$1 000	\$1 400
Vox Femina Los Angeles												
We Tell Stones Inc	\$5 000	\$0		\$1 629	\$1 629		\$1 607	\$1 000		\$2 500	\$2 500	
Westchester Symphony Society Inc The												
TOTAL	\$5 000	\$0	\$0	\$3 929	\$2 629	\$0	\$11 107	\$4 665	\$0	\$7 100	\$4 500	\$1 400

APPLICANTS	FY 1998 - 1999			FY 1999 - 2000			FY 2000 - 2001			FY 2001 - 2002		
	CY 1999			CY 2000			CY 2001			CY 2002		
	Requested	Granted	Fee Waiver	Requested	Granted	Fee Waiver	Requested	Granted	Fee Waiver	Requested	Granted	Fee Waiver
About Productions												
Culver City High School Academy of Visual & Performing Arts	\$4 100	\$0		\$1 500	\$979	\$1 025	\$900	\$900	\$1 025	\$1 500	\$1 000	\$1 400
Culver City Playhouse The												
Definiens Project, The												
Henry Mancini Institute The												
Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra	\$1 000	\$1 000	\$1 619	\$2 500	\$1 529	\$2 250	\$4 500	\$1 500	\$1 794	\$1 500	\$900	\$2 990
Vox Femina Los Angeles												
We Tell Stones Inc	\$5 000	\$2 000		\$5 000	\$1 479							
Westchester Symphony Society Inc The	\$6 000	\$2 000	\$5 050	\$4 000	\$2 459	\$5 200	\$4 000	\$2 375	\$5 150	\$4 000	\$1 400	\$5 575
TOTAL	\$16 100	\$5 000	\$6 669	\$13 000	\$6 446	\$8 475	\$9 400	\$4 775	\$7 969	\$7 000	\$3 300	\$9 965

APPLICANTS	FY 2002 - 2003			FY 2003 - 2004			FY 2004 - 2005			FY 2005 - 2006				Total Granted (cash + in kind)
	CY 2003			CY 2004			CY 2005			CY 2006				
	Requested	Granted	Fee Waiver	Requested	Granted	Fee Waiver	Requested	Granted	Fee Waiver	Requested (Cash)	Requested (Fee Waiver)	Granted (Cash)	Granted (Fee Waiver)	
About Productions				\$5 200	\$2 500		\$5 200	\$5 200	--	\$7 500				\$7 700
Culver City High School Academy of Visual & Performing Arts				\$2 500	\$2 000		\$3 500	\$3 500	\$1 800	\$4 000				\$17 294
Culver City Playhouse The										\$10 000	\$900			\$0
Defimens Project, The				\$1 500	\$1 000		--			\$2 500				\$1 000
Henry Mancini Institute The				\$2 000	\$1 500		\$3 500	\$2 500		\$5 500	\$842			\$4 000
Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra	\$2,660	\$1 500	\$1 398	\$3 000	\$50	\$1 679	\$4 000	\$20	\$2 400	\$2 500	\$2 400			\$25 029
Vox Femina Los Angeles	\$1 500	\$1 000		\$2 500	\$1 000		\$2 500	\$2 500		\$2 500				\$4 500
We Tell Stones Inc				\$7 000	\$3 000		\$4 000	\$4 000		\$7 000				\$15 608
Westchester Symphony Society Inc The				\$4 000	\$4 000	\$3 470	\$5 000	\$4 000	\$3 470	\$7 500	\$2 190			\$44 149
TOTAL	\$4 160	\$2 500	\$1 398	\$27 700	\$15 050	\$5 149	\$27 700	\$21 720	\$7 670	\$49 000	\$6 332	\$0	\$0	\$119 280

Culver CITY

Applicant _____

Panelist _____

Applications will be reviewed and scored according to how well the application demonstrates the applicant's ability to meet the following criteria

Possible Points	Scored Points	
40	_____	<u>ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE OF PROPOSED PROJECT</u> How strong is the artistic quality of the proposed project? Please evaluate the project as it is described as well as the artist(s) involved Comments _____ _____
25	_____	<u>REALISTIC BUDGET AND DIVERSIFIED FUNDING BASE</u> Does the proposed project budget appear realistic and accurate? Does the overall organization budget appear realistic and accurate? Comments _____ _____
25	_____	<u>OUTREACH PROGRAMS TO THE CULVER CITY COMMUNITY</u> Which audience does this applicant wish to target and how? Comments _____ _____
10	_____	<u>PERFORMANCE HISTORY IN THE CULVER CITY COMMUNITY</u> If this is an established organization, what has been its performance history in Culver City? Comments _____ _____
100	_____	Total Points Scored

**THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY
THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**EXCERPT OF MINUTES FROM THE
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 8 2005
CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

PRESIDING CHAIR JAYNE

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**Item #A 1
7 07 p m**

**Consideration of the 2006 Performing Arts Grant Awards
as Recommended by the Cultural Affairs Commission
Grants and Artists Services Subcommittee**

Ms Obrow presented the staff report

Chair Jayne entertained comments from audience members who submitted speaker cards

Janet Weber Vox Femina Board of Directors Member complimented the Commission for their continued support of the arts and for recommending that Vox Femina receive the full amount of funding requested She expressed gratitude for the positive comments made on their behalf saying they were very much appreciated

Commissioner Smashey reported that the review panel commented it was unfortunate that Vox Femina did not have a larger facility to enable more people to enjoy their performances She inquired whether or not they had considered having more than one performance

Ms Weber explained their rationale has been that once they develop a larger audience they would move to a larger venue She indicated that they have a very close relationship with the church where they put on their productions saying that the church would like to continue to support them until they have actually outgrown the facility She agreed that including another performance is a very good idea and indicated she would take the suggestion back to the other board members She advised that they are currently considering different venues throughout Los Angeles for their 10th anniversary which will occur in the 2007-2008 season

Matthew Hetz President and Principal Bassist of the Culver City Symphony Orchestra thanked the Commission for their award recommendation and distributed flyers for an upcoming performance at Veterans Auditorium

Carter Dewberry Director of The Definiens Project thanked the Commission as well as Ms Byers and Ms Obrow for all their assistance She opined that the evaluation criterion that examines performance history in Culver City holds great value explaining that part of The Definiens Project's mission is to form a grassroots presence in the communities which they serve She stated

they have been extremely fortunate in being able to collaborate with Culver City over the last few years. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to maintain this relationship saying she looks forward to continued collaborations with the City.

Chair Jayne asked for Commissioners' comments.

Commissioner Henderson advised that he and Commissioner Deen spent many hours reviewing the information submitted by the applicants. He indicated that their analysis was not done in a cavalier manner but in an organized and thoughtful way to verify that the highest quality performances would be presented to the citizens of Culver City.

He remarked that Culver City has a limited amount of funds to dedicate to this endeavor saying he is very pleased to report that Sony Pictures Entertainment has graciously supplemented the Performing Arts Grant program. He expressed great appreciation to the peer review panel saying he was extremely gratified to have such distinguished panelists providing their professional and artistic input.

Commissioner Henderson noted that artistic excellence was given the most weight of the criteria used to evaluate each application followed by budget, community outreach, and performance history in Culver City. He opined that the performance history criterion should be reexamined when modifications are contemplated since it creates a tendency to favor organizations with a longer performance record over those newer groups who do not have the same historical advantage. He indicated that ten points had been granted to all applicants to compensate for the performance history score and to ensure that that factor did not serve as a detriment to any application.

Commissioner Henderson advised that Commissioner Deen had forwarded comments to him with a request that he present them for the record in her absence. He read her comments which in summary indicated that the peer review panel was a wonderful experience, that the panelists were bright, articulate, and diverse yet all reached the same conclusions, that she and Dr. Henderson discussed and concurred with the findings and recommendations of the panel, and that she was very grateful to the panelists and staff for a very productive day.

Commissioner Henderson noted the review panel recommended that The Culver City Playhouse receive a \$500 'seed' grant in addition to an in-kind grant (Fee Waiver) of \$900 for nine readings at the Veterans' Auditorium and questioned whether they would actually be performing nine readings.

Ms. Obrow advised that the application from the Culver City Playhouse stated they would be prepared to go ahead with their productions by raising necessary funds in the event they received a smaller grant than they had requested or were denied funding altogether. She inquired if there were any representatives from the organization in attendance to clarify the matter.

There were none.

Since no one was available from The Culver City Playhouse to address the issue, Commissioner Henderson suggested amending this particular item to indicate that the in-kind grant request would be for approximately \$100 per reading, not to exceed nine readings total.

Ms. Obrow advised that staff would follow up with The Culver City Playhouse on the matter.

Commissioner Henderson reported that the review panel spent quite a bit of time reviewing each of the applications, saying their affirmative response to the in-kind fee waiver and recommendation of a \$500 cash award was intended to encourage The Culver City Playhouse, who are a new organization to Culver City.

Commissioner Henderson advocated that the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission recommend to the City Council that the grant awards be allocated with his amendment.

Commissioner Smashey thanked the peer review panel, saying she was a panelist the preceding year so she is well aware that the task is incredibly difficult and that a great amount of time is required to review all the information provided. She remarked that she is very excited about the upcoming performances and looks forward to filling her calendar with many wonderful events.

She spoke specifically to The Definiens Project's application, noting that their program notes were very clever and creative, and to the Culver City Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, saying she is curious to know what plans they have for their performing arts center.

Commissioner Smashey advised that she did have some recommendations for the upcoming grant year. She commented that the scoring process seems fairly subjective, saying she would be more comfortable if there were established funding guidelines prior to review of the applications. She indicated she would also prefer more of a graduated system in which perhaps 90 percent of a request might be granted in one particular range and 40 percent in another or some similar type of rating system. She noted it would also be helpful if the review process provided a breakdown of the rationale behind scoring, i.e., was an 85 percent score given because documentation was incomplete or because of the quality of the performance.

Chair Jayne suggested that applying a graduated system might create the unintended consequence of encouraging prospective recipients to request greater amounts than they actually need, saying it will certainly make for a lively discussion to decide the best mechanism for determining percentages and what amounts should be granted.

Commissioner Hanami expressed gratitude to Commissioners Deen and Henderson for devoting so much of their time, and to Ms. Byers and Ms.

Obrow for creating such well organized and packets. He remarked that peer review panels are critical to the success of these types of grants saying the group selected was stellar and represented a great deal of diversity with each member providing a special component to enhance the decision making process. He expressed satisfaction with all the decisions and their acknowledgment of the artistic talent presented.

Commissioner Hanami proposed that the Commission explore ways to introduce a greater diversity of voices to Culver City. He noted that while he certainly believes the quality of the programs is excellent it does represent a particular slant and he would like to find a mechanism to provide a more comprehensive artistic palette in the future.

Commissioner Henderson presented a brief overview of the NOFA guidelines and noted that while there are very concrete objective criteria making determinations regarding artistic quality is a very subjective process. He indicated that the review panel allows an exchange of input from individuals who are renowned in their particular disciplines and areas of expertise and lends credibility and as much fairness to the process as possible. He opined that the dollars being awarded are being well spent.

Chair Jayne reiterated much of what her fellow Commissioners expressed regarding the panel adding that they had wonderful credentials and did an amazing job. She commended staff and the subcommittee for their hard work and remarked that the applicants all presented a very high level of quality.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HENDERSON SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HANAMI AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE CULVER CITY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT THE NOFA GRANT AWARDS BE ALLOCATED AS AMENDED THAT AMENDMENT BEING TO ENSURE THAT THE IN KIND ALLOCATION TO THE CULVER CITY PLAYHOUSE IS FOR \$100 PER USE OF THE VETERANS AUDITORIUM AND THAT IT NOT EXCEED \$900.

Chair Jayne congratulated the NOFA grant recipients and encouraged all those who did not submit applications to do so when they become available in the coming year.