

MEETING DATE: December 10, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: Allocation of Funds for the 2013 Performing Arts Grant Program
as Recommended by the Cultural Affairs Commission.

ATTACHMENTS

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ATTACHMENT 1

Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program 2013 Grant Applications Complete Summary

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Discipline</u>	<u>2013 Grant Request</u>	<u>2013 Panel Total Score</u>	<u>2013 Grant Amount Recommended by Panel</u>	<u>2013 Grant Amount Recommended By Ad Hoc Subcommittee</u>	<u>2013 Grant Amount Recommended by CAC</u>
The Actors' Gang	Theatre	\$ 5,000.00	94.60	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Collage Dance Theatre dba Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre	Dance	\$ 5,000.00	94.50	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Culver City Public Theatre	Theatre	\$ 4,974.00	79.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
CC Symphony Orchestra	Music	\$ 5,000.00	83.40	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00
Dancescence aka Donna Sternberg & Dancers	Dance	\$ 5,000.00	84.40	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00
The Definiens Project	Music	\$ 2,600.00	69.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Festival of New American Musicals	Theatre	\$ 3,500.00	42.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Jazz Bakery Performance Space	Music	\$ 5,000.00	91.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Lineage Dance Company	Dance	\$ 5,000.00	75.40	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00
LA Doctors Symph. Orch.	Music	\$ 3,700.00	73.60	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
LA Women's Theatre Festival	Theatre	\$ 2,500.00	78.20	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Rogue Artists Ensemble	Theatre	\$ 5,000.00	90.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
The Shakespeare Center of LA	Theatre	\$ 3,000.00	90.60	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Society for the Activation of Social Space Through Art and Sound (SASSAS)	Music	\$ 5,000.00	87.60	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00
Vox Femina Los Angeles	Music	\$ 5,000.00	90.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
We Tell Stories	Theatre	\$ 5,000.00	90.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
		\$ 70,274.00		\$ 43,750.00	# \$ 44,100.00	# \$ 44,100.00

ATTACHMENT 2

Due to the nature of Attachment 2, a binder of completed Performing Arts Grant applications is available at the City Clerk's office or by contacting Susan Obrow in Cultural Affairs: (310)253-6628 or susan.obrow@culvercity.org.

2013 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

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

The Actors' Gang

Proposed Project:	<i>Twelfth Night: The Superhero Edition</i> – free performances featuring an original adaptation of Shakespeare's <i>Twelfth Night</i> produced for The Actors' Gang Family Theater Summer Program
Performance Venue:	Media Park
Proposed Dates:	Saturdays and Sundays in August 2013
Panel Score:	94.6
Grant Request \$5,000	Recommended Award \$5,000

Panelists noted how consistently high the production values were of this Culver City-based, critically acclaimed theatre company under the artistic direction of Tim Robbins. The panel remarked on how inventive the re-imaginings of Shakespeare's plays have been for young audiences. They praised the local promotion and outreach to Culver City residents and remarked on the benefits of presenting in Media Park since it could accommodate a large audience.

Collage Dance Theatre / Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre

Proposed Project:	<i>FEEDBACK</i> a new, free, traveling dance performance inspired by the West Coast's food truck phenomenon
Performance Venue:	Veterans Park
Proposed Dates:	May or June 2013
Panel Score:	94.5
Grant Request \$5,000	Recommended Award \$5,000

Members of the panel commented on the continued excitement generated by this dance company. They praised this proposal in which the company plans to park an airstream trailer at Veterans Memorial Park and open it to "feed" the audience dances there. Members of the panel felt that this was an excellent idea for an enjoyable community gathering. They also complimented the company on its continued innovation and for its plan to tour the performance throughout the Los Angeles area.

Jazz Bakery Performance Space

Proposed Project: Concert featuring NEA Master and Grammy winner Hubert Laws, legendary guitarist Larry Koonse and three-time Grammy nominee Tierney Sutton.

Performance Venue: Kirk Douglas Theatre

Proposed Date: June 22, 2013

Panel Score: 91

Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$4,000

The panel commented on how respected the organization is and on its efforts to open a performance space in Culver City. Panelists remarked on how the company consistently attracts distinguished artists and how the proposal provides the opportunity to see these particular artists locally. They were impressed with the organization's dynamic effort to maintain a regular performance schedule, through its *Movable Feast* series, despite the lack of a permanent space.

The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles

Proposed Project: *Cry Havoc: Will and War Part One* – a world premiere solo performance, featuring Shakespearean monologues and the personal stories of veterans, presented as part of the Veterans in Art Program

Performance Venue: Veterans Memorial Building – Rotunda Room

Proposed Date: May 18-20, 2013

Panel Score: 90.6

Grant Request \$3,000 **Recommended Award by Panel** \$2,400

Recommended Award by CAC Ad Hoc Subcommittee \$3,000

The panel noted that this was a long-established Los Angeles theatre company dedicated to presenting contemporary versions of William Shakespeare's plays. They commended the organization on broadening its vision to develop a Veterans in Art Program and to present performances in new venues. The panel remarked on the significance and relevance of the project and that the company would be offering pay-what-you-can performances. They encouraged the company to build relationships in Culver City and develop a local promotional campaign.

Subsequent to the panel meeting, the CAC Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommended providing the full funding request for The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles noting the company's efforts to expand its programming to Culver City and demonstrating support for more performances at Veterans Memorial Building.

Rogue Artists Ensemble

Proposed Project: *HYPERBOLE: bard* – an original family-friendly performance recreating Shakespeare's most famous scenes through clowning, movement, puppets and original music

Performance Venue: Sid Kronenthal Park

Proposed Dates: Two performances on July 15, 2013

Panel Score: 90

Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$4,000

Panelists commented on the ongoing excitement and energy generated by this unique theatre company. The organization plans to present a family-friendly performance in Sid Kronenthal Park which will serve residents on the eastern side of Culver City. Members of the panel remarked on how engaging the performance would be, how donations would be accepted in lieu of paid tickets, and how the performance could be enjoyed by a large audience. Panelists recommended that the company contact the Culver City Unified School District, before the school year ends, as part of its local outreach plan.

Vox Femina Los Angeles

Proposed Project: *Celebrating Women...Celebrating Music* - a free women's choral performance featuring compositions and songs for and by women

Performance Venue: Culver City Presbyterian Church

Proposed Date: April 28, 2013

Panel Score: 90

Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$4,000

The excellent and unique quality of this all-women's choral group was praised by the panel. They found the proposal to be thoughtful and well organized. Panelists remarked on the benefits of this approach to the music and they noted that this company is a cultural gem in the Culver City community. They recommended that the organization focus on audience outreach and continue to develop relationships in the community to build audiences.

We Tell Stories

Proposed Project: Free performances of seven 45-minute story-plays for the Library's free Summer Reading Program *Reading is so Delicious*

Performance Venue: Culver City Julian Dixon Library

Proposed Dates: Wednesdays in June, July and August 2013

Panel Score: 90

Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$3,600

The panel remarked on how this well-regarded company customizes shows from its repertoire each summer to serve the library's summer reading theme. The interactive performances attract young and diverse audiences and members of the panel complimented the founder on his deft ability to work with children. It was also noted that the Wednesday afternoon performances would provide mid-week cultural programming for families. The request was for more than fifty per cent of the total costs of the production; however, the grant recommendation was based on exactly fifty percent of the total request.

Society for the Activation of Social Space Through Art and Sound

Proposed Project: A free concert by internationally recognized trio MURAL and Los Angeles and Culver City area musicians

Performance Venue: Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook

Proposed Dates: May 2013

Panel Score: 87.60

Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$3,250

This organization proposed a performance of a new composition by the trio MURAL, featuring Australian and Norwegian musicians, as well as fifteen local musicians. Panelists commended the organization on its efforts to develop new audiences for experimental music. Members of the panel observed that audiences enjoy performances at the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook and that this concert should be a wild and entertaining aural experience. Panelists encouraged the organization to contact the Culver City Unified School District as part of its local publicity campaign.

Donna Sternberg & Dancers (DanceSence)

Proposed Project: *In the Dark* – the premiere of a free dance performance exploring dark energy
Performance Venue: Veterans Memorial Building - Rotunda Room and Plaza
Proposed Dates: November 3, 2013
Panel Score: 84.4
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$3,250

Panelists remarked on the company's creative use of Veterans Memorial Building by using the Rotunda Room and outside front plaza. Members of the panel observed that the founder's choreography is often inspired by science and adeptly translated into stimulating visual experiences. Questions arose on how the idea of dark energy would be translated in this performance and the panel recommended that the company provide some detail in its promotional materials. Panelists praised the idea of an open rehearsal to build community interest.

Culver City Symphony Orchestra

Proposed Project: A concert exploring the African musical influence on American composers – part of the orchestra's *American Beat* series
Performance Venue: Veterans Memorial Auditorium
Proposed Date: June 8, 2013
Panel Score: 83.4
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$3,250

Panelists expressed interest in the proposed program and noted the orchestra's commitment to paying its musicians. They encouraged the organization to seek professional assistance for its outreach efforts and to plan specific outreach to the African American community. Also, the panel noted that the organization's official name is The Westchester Symphony Society but that it uses various names, including the Culver City Symphony Orchestra, throughout the year. The panel suggested that using only the official name may stimulate better branding of the orchestra which may result in more crossover audiences.

Culver City Public Theatre

Proposed Project: Annual summer season of 3 free theatre productions for children and adults
Performance Venue: Dr. Paul Carlson Memorial Park
Proposed Dates: Saturdays and Sundays in July and August, 2013
Panel Score: 79.

Grant Request \$4,974 **Recommended Award** \$1,500

This Culver City community theatre garnered praise from the panelists for its enduring summer series. Members of the panel commented on how impressed they were with how much the company could produce with so little funding. The panel noted that the season had not been set yet. They recommended that the company prepare a detailed, targeted outreach plan for the upcoming summer, research new grant opportunities and creative partnerships, and explore the possibility of deepening its arts education component .

Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival

Proposed Project: *Celebration!* The 20th Anniversary Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival – performances of select solo performers from their annual Theatre Festival.
Performance Venue: Ivy Substation
Proposed Dates: March 28, 2013
Panel Score: 78.20
Grant Request \$2,500 **Recommended Award** \$1,500

This company, which is celebrating a milestone anniversary, presents solo dance, music and theatre performances by women. Panelists were supportive of the application and noted that the vision was broad and original. The performance would occur mid-week at the Ivy Substation and panelists recommended that the company develop a focused, outreach plan to attract an audience from Culver City.

Lineage Dance Company

Proposed Project: *Ceiling in the Floor* - A multimedia dance concert focusing on the issue of suicide designed to increase public awareness

Performance Venue: Ivy Substation

Proposed Dates: August 10, 2013

Panel Score: 75.4

Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$1,500

Recommended Award by Ad Hoc Subcommittee \$1,250

The panel noted that this performance was designed to facilitate an open conversation on the topic of suicide. The panel praised the efforts of the company to develop artistic work based on this social issue; however, they felt that the application lacked a viable publicity plan to engage the Culver City community beyond the participation of the Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center. Panelists urged the company to develop a broader promotional plan to attract audiences to this performance including outreach to Culver City High School.

The CAC Ad Hoc Subcommittee reviewed the panel comments and recommended slightly reducing the amount of funding for Lineage Dance Company noting the limited focus of the proposed project and the challenge of attracting an audience from the Culver City community with the proposed publicity plan.

Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra

Proposed Project: A concert version of an opera or another opera-related program

Performance Venue: Veterans Memorial Auditorium

Proposed Dates: November 17, 2013

Panel Score: 73.6

Grant Request \$3,700 **Recommended Award** \$1,500

This community orchestra proposes to produce a concert version of a contemporary opera or an opera-related concert featuring vocal soloists. Members of the panel expressed interest in the proposal but noted that performance rights had not been secured yet. Panelists commented that there are opera audiences interested in such concerts and that this performance may be appealing to the Culver City community. They recommended that the orchestra develop a targeted promotional campaign and urged them to consider partnering with other cultural organizations for mutual benefit.

The Definiens Project

Proposed Project: Four *Musical Adventures* - interactive, musical stories for children
Performance Venue: Culver City Julian Dixon Library
Proposed Dates: April, May, October, November, 2013
Panel Score: 69.20
Grant Request \$2,600 **Recommended Award** \$0

Panelists commended the organization on its goal of making chamber music more interactive, exciting and accessible. They recommended that the group submit a DVD rather than a CD as the artistic sample in future applications so that panels could better review the performance elements. They felt that the submitted CD focused more on storytelling and less on music and encouraged the company to consider increasing the musical elements of the program. Further, they recommended that the organization continue to develop the arts education elements of the program. The panel found the proposal vague, with insufficient information regarding the participating artists or the craft-making project and its collaborator. They noted that there was no mention of contacting the Culver City Unified School District to attract pre-school and Kindergarten audiences from the Culver City community.

Festival of New American Musicals

Proposed Project: *FutureFest* – a production featuring high school and college students performing songs from new American musicals
Performance Venue: Kirk Douglas Theatre
Proposed Dates: June 18, 2013
Panel Score: 42
Grant Request \$3,500 **Recommended Award** \$0

The panel noted that one of the company's missions is to foster and cultivate the next generation of artists in the musical theatre. The panel felt that this application did not sufficiently provide information regarding the artists involved, the selection of the material or the selection of the students. Further, the panel noted that the Culver City High School Academy of the Visual and Performing Arts had not been contacted at the time of the application's submission and it was unknown whether AVPA could or would participate in the production. The panel expressed concern that without the involvement of local students, the performance may not be able to adequately attract the Culver City community to the production.