

ATTACHMENT 2

2018 PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY PEER REVIEW PANEL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION'S 2018 AD HOC CULVER CITY PERFORMING ARTS GRANT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE

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

Jazz Bakery Performance Space

Proposed Project: Guitarist Ron Escheté Trio – Concert plus free Masterclass for Culver City High School Academy of Visual Performing Arts
Performance Venue: Kirk Douglas Theatre
Proposed Date: June 8, 2018
Panel Score: 100
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award:** \$5,000

Comments:

Panel members praised the organization for its fine work and its commitment to paying artists appropriately. They remarked on the opportunities for students which include a masterclass and discounts to the performance. Further, they expressed support for the Jazz Bakery's efforts to keep itself visible in Culver City while the funding was completed for the new building. Panelists felt that the budget was realistic for the performance and they were impressed with the addition of the organ and a professional publicist. There was a recommendation for the organization to continue its efforts to diversify its audiences and build on the audience base developed for this year's Poncho Sanchez performance at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

The Actors' Gang

Proposed Project: 12th Annual Free Shakespeare-in-the-Park for Families
Performance Venue: Media Park
Proposed Dates: August 4-26, 2018 (Saturdays and Sundays)
Panel Score: 97
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$5,000

Comments:

Panelists noted the high quality of this annual summer production in Media Park and how inventive the adaptations are. Some remarked on how the excellent video sample was indicative of that quality. The past performances were praised as well as the grant writing for the application this year. Discussion ensued about how the performances draw diverse audiences for families with young children from Culver City and beyond. Panel comments included a recommendation to enhance the narrative in the application by including more details on the audience demographics.

Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre

Proposed Project:	EBB AND FLOW: CULVER CITY (a free public community festival of local artists)		
Performance Venue:	Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook		
Proposed Dates:	TBD 2018		
Panel Score:	96.2		
Grant Request	\$5,000	Recommended Award	\$5,000

Comments:

Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre proposes another dance performance utilizing the 15-foot steel FishEyes structure. The new piece would feature this company as well as other local artists. Culver City High School’s Academy of Visual and Performing Arts students would be invited to participate in workshops and festival activities. Panelists found this idea exciting and noted that the Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre was very well known for site specific work. They responded well to the artistic sample and noted how the work was enhanced by using live music. There was discussion on the general thoughtful, exploratory elements of past performances and the importance of the dancers’ improvisation in developing new pieces. Panel Members had questions regarding the use of the fish structure and noted that the application included a plan to invite the Culver City Fire Department’s Assistant Fire Marshal to serve on a festival advisory committee for the production. Further, panel members recommended that the company provide more details regarding marketing costs and maintenance for the sculpture in future grant applications.

Culver City Symphony Orchestra

Proposed Project:	Varied Program of Classical Music		
Performance Venue:	Kirk Douglas Theatre		
Proposed Dates:	June 9, 2018		
Panel Score:	95.6		
Grant Request	\$5,000	Recommended Award	\$5,000

Comments:

Although the proposed program was not described in detail, there was much support and encouragement for the orchestra from the panel. Panelists found the organization to be stalwart and recognized the addition of high level principals and other musicians in the artistic sample. They found the financial notes reasonable and thought that the project budget was realistic. They observed that the orchestra has a mostly traditional outreach and publicity plan and that they have drawn substantial audiences in the past.

Symphonic Jazz Orchestra

Proposed Project: *Family Jazz Hour - Free Concert*
Performance Venue: El Rincon Elementary School
Proposed Dates: April 17, 2018
Panel Score: 95
Grant Request \$1,370 **Recommended Award** \$1,370

Comments:

This free family jazz concert would be presented at a local elementary school and open to the public. The event would provide the young audience members with an opportunity to hear professionals from the orchestra perform and to learn more about jazz. Panel members noted how frustrating high no-show rates can be, even when reservations are required for free performances. They encouraged the orchestra to continue exploring more publicity strategies to counteract that problem. There was praise for the ingenuity of the event and the quality of performers as indicated in the artistic sample. However, the panel recommended using a different sample which would be more similar to the proposed project.

SASSAS

Proposed Project: A cappella vocal works by three LA Composers (Petra Haden, Odeya Nini and Laura Steenberge).
Performance Venue: Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook
Proposed Dates: Spring 2018
Panel Score: 94.2
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$5,000

Comments:

The inventiveness and experimentation by the Society for the Activation of Social Space were admired by panel members. Some members of the panel commented on how these type of performances nurture the growth of this art form. Panelists were attracted to the project and especially the idea of presenting local sound artists. They observed that the organization has an active online following and that outreach to independent record stores and local art galleries could be beneficial. The budget seemed reasonable for the project. Also, although the panel appreciated viewing the work of the proposed artists, they recommended that SASSAS include a video from the proposed performance site in future applications.

Vox Femina Los Angeles

Proposed Project:	<i>A Taste of Season 21 – A Choral Concert</i>
Performance Venue:	Culver City Presbyterian Church
Proposed Date:	April 15, 2018
Panel Score:	94
Grant Request \$5,000	Recommended Award \$5,000

Comments:

The organization was complimented for its stellar artistic quality including its pristine pitch in the artistic sample. Some remarked that the longer the chorus is together, the better they sound. Further, panel members were impressed at how well the group has met its goals listed in their mission statement and commended it on its diversity and outreach efforts. Overall, the panel found that the grant application was an excellent example for others.

Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra

Proposed Project:	Performance of Glazunov’s Violin Concerto and Brahms’s 4 th Symphony (TBC)
Performance Venue:	Veterans Memorial Auditorium
Proposed Dates:	June 17, 2018
Panel Score:	92.8
Grant Request \$5,000	Recommended Award \$5,000

Comments:

The artistic sample for this community orchestra was noted for its quality, especially since many of the artists are not full time musicians. Panelists found the thrust of the organization and its programming to be unique. They appreciated how

well written and thorough the grant application was. They found the budget straightforward and noted that the in-kind donations were included appropriately. They reviewed the straightforward outreach plan; however, they encouraged the orchestra to make stronger connections to the local college, high school and middle school music classes.

Center Theatre Group of Los Angeles

Proposed Project: *Block Party* – a series of recently-produced plays by theatre companies in the Los Angeles region
Performance Venue: Kirk Douglas Theatre
Proposed Dates: March 29-May 20, 2018
Panel Score: 91.8
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$5,000

Comments:

Center Theatre Group’s consistent artistic excellence was lauded by the panel. The theatre company was also praised for developing the “block party” idea to nurture smaller theatre companies. Panelists supported the project and offered observations on how the Culver City Performing Arts Grant could best serve the Culver City community. The panel recommended using the City funding to initiate a possible *Block Party* discount program for Culver City residents.

Los Angeles Choreographers and Dancers

Proposed Project: *A Jewish Child’s Story* -
An autobiographical dance multimedia work
Performance Venue: Culver City Senior Center
Proposed Dates: February 11, 2018
Panel Score: 91.6
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$5,000

Comments:

Los Angeles Choreographers and Dancers is a group with longevity in the Los Angeles area. The panel surmised that the proposal, which is an autobiographical piece conceived by Director Louise Reichlin, would be successful at the Culver City Senior Center which has a large, diverse membership. Panelists noted that the application’s budget did not include monies for marketing the performance. While the dance company does have an electronic mailing list and the Senior Center will promote the performance, the panel recommended that the group seek out other promotional opportunities to draw an audience.

Donna Sternberg & Dancers

Proposed Project: *Stoneview*
Site specific performance examining Stoneview’s plants and animals
Performance Venue: Stoneview Nature Center
Proposed Date: Fall 2018
Panel Score: 89.8
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$5,000

Comments:

The panel responded well to the artistic sample provided by the company. Panelists remarked on the fluid movements of the dancers and the interesting use of the bodies of water in the video. They found the proposal to perform a free dance concert at the Stoneview Nature Center very engaging. Further, they observed that the choice of this outdoor space related well to the company’s mission to bring discovery and science to audiences through dance. They noted that the City funding would be allocated for the development of this new piece which could heighten an interest in the environment.

Kontrapunktus Neo-Baroque Orchestra

Proposed Project: Classical concert featuring Baroque music
Performance Venue: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Proposed Date: March 31, 2018
Panel Score: 89.4
Grant Request \$2,500 **Recommended Award** \$2,360

Comments:

Kontrapunktus Neo-Baroque Orchestra is a first time applicant to the Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program. Some on the panel thought that the artistic sample indicated an orchestra presenting music at the highest caliber. Others noted that it was the only Baroque music that was proposed in this grant cycle. The group is comprised of young, diverse and talented musicians. The panel recommended that the group focus attention on its promotional plan for the Culver City community. Further, they suggested that the organization seek professional assistance for their future grant applications so that they could refine their mission statement, marketing plans, and application requirements. Kontrapunktus Neo-Baroque Orchestra requested slightly more than 50% of the full project budget. The panel supported an adjustment to the lower, accurate amount.

Benita Bike's DanceArt

Proposed Project: Interactive dance performance
Performance Venue: Culver City Senior Center
Proposed Dates: June 3, 2018
Panel Score: 88.6
Grant Request \$2,000 **Recommended Award** \$2,000

Comments:

Benita Bike's DanceArt has submitted a proposal to return to the Culver City Senior Center to present an interactive dance concert featuring new and current works. The panelists found the dancers to be proficient and the choreography interesting in the artistic sample. A panel member commented on the lecture demonstration style and observed that this was the only application that would offer that experience. They commented on the value of the educational goals in the application and determined that the budget plan was reasonable for the project. The panel suggested that it might be challenging to attract audiences beyond the Senior Center.

Culver City Chamber Orchestra

Proposed Project: *Cello Mania* concert
8 cellists plus percussion
Performance Venue: Culver Palms United Methodist Church
Proposed Dates: May 6, 2018
Panel Score: 88.2
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$3,000

Comments:

Panelists discussed how exciting it would be to attend a chamber music concert featuring multiple cellos. Discussion ensued about how the cello approximates the human voice, how great the acoustics are in the Culver Palms United Methodist Church, and how beneficial it would be to offer discounted tickets to local students. A recommendation was made to encourage the group to plan a special celebration for a fifth anniversary of *Cello Mania*. Panel members expressed support for the group's efforts to promote the concert through KUSC; however, they suggested that a robust social media campaign was essential to be competitive. Most concerns focused on the deficiencies of the budget pages in the grant application and the panel recommended that the group review those instructions carefully for future applications.

Culver City Public Theatre

Proposed Project: 20th Anniversary season of free outdoor theatre for children and adults
Performance Venue: Carlson Park
Proposed Dates: Sat/Sun matinees, July 14-August 5, 2018
Panel Score: 88.2
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$3,000

Comments:

The panel embraced the Culver City Public Theatre as very representative of the community theatre model. While the artistic quality of the performances in the sample was not as high as other applicants, the panelists remarked on the success and benefit of the free Popcorn Theatre family performances and the twenty year milestone. There was encouragement for the company to examine its choice of material, especially in relationship to the park surroundings. The panel encouraged the company to provide more topical material for its children’s programming to remain competitive with other companies. Also, there was a recommendation for the organization to promote its performances through the local library and schools this summer.

Los Angeles Women’s Theatre Festival

Proposed Project: LAWTF encore performances
Performance Venue: Ivy Substation
Proposed Dates: June 24, 2018
Panel Score: 87.6
Grant Request \$4,000 **Recommended Award** \$3,000

Comments:

The company’s longevity was noted as well as its current growth spurt. Although panelists observed that there were varying degrees of artistic quality presented in the video sample, they surmised that audiences could find relatable stories in the production. Questions arose about how the festival is curated, how the demographics stated in the application were determined, and the viability of the minimal fundraising plan. While panelists supported the organization and the proposed performance, they still searched for more connectivity between the festival and the community.

Kairos Dance Company

Proposed Project: Dance and multimedia performance
Performance Venue: Ivy Substation
Proposed Dates: June 23, 2018
Panel Score: 83.6
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$0

Comments:

The idea of social media, and its effects in society, as a theme for a dance performance interested the panelists and they remarked on the fine quality of the dancers in the artistic sample. However, there was concern that the event may seem to be more of a social service presentation. The grant application was problematic for the panelists because of this issue. Panelists expressed doubts about the success of the proposed outreach plan to bring a general audience to the performance. Further, there were discrepancies between the project budget and the funding request. Cultural Affairs staff will offer more guidance to the organization regarding the City's performing arts grant application.

Brockus Project Dance Company

Proposed Project: *Taste of Dance* – A free outdoor dance festival
Performance Venue: A Culver City park (TBD)
Proposed Dates: May 2018
Panel Score: 81.4
Grant Request 5,000 **Recommended Award** \$0

Comments:

Brockus Project Dance Company submitted a proposal to create a one-day dance festival, featuring multiple dance companies, in a local park. Panel members were engaged by the idea and its presentation of professional and youth performers. The panel remarked on the fine fluidity of movement and dramatic elements in the Brockus Project Dance Company video sample; however, the panelists observed that the sample did not correlate well to the proposal of a dance festival. Panelists struggled to determine the details for how the festival would be programmed, what groups were being considered, whether the general plan for promotion to the Culver City community would work, and the company's dependence on City funding to execute the project. Further, it was noted that the grant request was more than 50% of the project budget. Cultural Affairs staff will offer more guidance to the organization regarding the City's performing arts grant application.

Allegro Music Foundation

Proposed Project: Concert of classical music and film scores
Performance Venue: Park Century School, Culver City
Proposed Dates: March 24 and May 26, 2018
Panel Score: 77.8
Grant Request \$5,000 **Recommended Award** \$0

Comments:

While panel members stated their support for the mission of this youth-centric music organization, the group's grant application was difficult to review. The proposed performance was similar to one presented by the organization this year, the requested funding was almost 100% of the project cost, the project budget was inaccurate, and the grant request was for the Professional Coaching Program instead of the performances. Cultural Affairs staff will offer more guidance to the organization regarding the City's performing arts grant application.

Monarch Theatre Guild

Proposed Project: *Step Right Up!* A New Musical
Performance Venue: Rotunda Room, Veterans Memorial Building
Proposed Dates: November 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 2018
Panel Score: 44.2
Grant Request \$4,000 **Recommended Award** \$0

Comments:

Step Right Up! is a new musical developed and produced by Monarch Theatre Guild. A traveling medicine show treks to San Francisco in 1899, entertaining and selling patent medicine. The cast of eight would sing live to a recorded instrumental score. The panel felt that the artistic quality of the video sample did not serve the group well. Also, panelists would have benefited from more specific articulation in the grant application of the group's organizational goals and how it determines its production choices. They were uncertain what the audience would be for the proposed musical and whether the marketing plan would be effective. Also, they recommended that the organization diversify its funding sources. The Cultural Affairs staff will offer more guidance to the organization regarding the City's performing arts grant application.