



PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 14, 2019
TO: ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION
FROM: ROCHELLE BRANCH, CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIVISION MANAGER
SUBJECT: Approval of \$7,000 from the Cultural Trust Fund for Fall 2019 ArtNight Mini-grant Award Program Awards

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Arts & Culture Commission approve \$7,000 from the Cultural Trust Fund in support fourteen Mini-grant Program awards to qualifying arts and or cultural organizations or individual artists/performers for Fall 2019 ArtNight.

BACKGROUND:

ArtNight

The ArtNight Mini-grant Program was established in 2006 to provide expanded access for small arts and culture organizations, that typically do not have their own venues, and to diversify the primarily visual ArtNight programming. In past years, Mini-grantees have also included independent non-commercial galleries, ensembles and frequently include individual artists.

Developed to encourage smaller organizations to participate in ArtNight, the Mini-grant program provides links to host organizations that allows for increased visibility to the thousands of audience members that visit each venue. The program provides up to \$500 in compensation to each Mini-grantee which supplements artist fees and subsidizes equipment rental and marketing expenses.

In the years since the Mini-grant program was introduced at least ten individual artists and group participants each ArtNight resulting in an expanded repertoire that provides more artistic variety to event programming and increased audience diversity. Mini-grantees consistently report on the positive residual effects of their ArtNight collaborations, including on-going relationships with their host sites, increased membership, higher public visibility and broadened exposure to new audiences.

The inclusion of small arts and culture organizations, individual artists and individual artists in ArtNight programming is aligned with the Principles and Policies of the Cultural Nexus Master Plan and with the focus of the Commission's Cultural Access and Equity Standards. The emphasis on expanded and equitable access to the arts and increased facilitation for participation remains a goal throughout all ArtNight programming and is particularly relevant to the goals of the Mini-grant Program awards.

Past performances have included a variety of media such as Bayou Shakedown at City Hall, classical guitarist Connie Sheu, Crown Symphony, Reiyukai America, Latin music by El Rios, Hip Hop Dance by Garraway Performing Arts Center youth, artist Bill Real and his interactive Robobee, JazzZone, and student performances, among others. Mini-grantees are listed in the ArtNight brochure (both in print and on-line) and a press release is distributed to generate additional exposure and interest for their performances at the ArtNight event.

REVIEW PROCESS:

The application process for the Mini-grants Program requires the submission of a one-page organizational description, bios for senior administrative and artistic personnel, project description, and letter of confirmation from a host venue. Staff will review all applications for ArtNight based on 1) appropriateness of program, 2) confirmation of host site, and 3) ability to produce the proposed project during the 4-hour timeline.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of this action will be \$7,000. Funding for this action will be addressed by utilization of FY 2019-2020 budgeted appropriations from the Cultural Trust Fund account.

Respectfully Submitted,



ROCHELLE BRANCH
Cultural Affairs Division Manager
Planning & Community Development
Department