

Dcember 10, 2018 Swampscott Cultural Council (SCC) Meeting Minutes, 7-9:30PM

In attendance:

Sara Ewing, Houda Amoakuh, Sara Hepburn, Erin Ryan, Beth Balliro, Debra Lakind, Amy Faeskorn, Jason Baletsa,

Absent:

Jessica Bombardier, Carolina Velasquez, Barbara Eldridge

1. Outsanding Grant Funds from 2018 Swampscott Cultural Council (SCC) Grant Awards

- The following 2018 grant recipients did not claim funds from the 2018 SCC Grant Award Cycle for various reasons:
 - Big Blue Band
 - Music at Hadley
 - REACH ARTS
- The SCC voted to extend the timeframe for Big Blue Band and Music at Hadley to claim and use their funds given circumstances that delayed the execution of their proposed project, it is expected that both of these programs will be completed as originally proposed
- REACH ARTS requested the funds they were awarded in 2018 to extend into 2019 for the purpose of extending their open mic nights. The grant program that was funded as part of the 2018 SCC Grant Cycle was an afterschool “Art Sanctuary” program for youth.
 - SCC members agreed to return to REACH ARTS’ request for extension of 2018 funds into 2019 for purposes other than youth arts programing until after the 2019 applications have been reviewed.

2. Review of 2019 SCC Grant Applications

- The SCC received more applications for funding than in recent years, which SCC members were excited to see. Individually members evaluated each application using a rubric as guidance to measure:
 - The level of planning and detail of each proposed program,
 - The amount of community benefit each program would offer, and
 - If the programming that aligned with the SCC priorities to promote diversity .
- SCC members began review of the grant applications for 2019 SCC Grant cycle.
 - To more efficiently review applications, the SCC decided to begin the process with a conversation on the applications that members felt were in receipt of the lowest rubric scores, it was recommended that these programs not receive funding for 2019.
 - The SCC eliminated projects that did not clearly promote diverse cultural programming or that would provide a limited community benefit, the SCC continued with review on remaining applicants.

- The SCC also eliminated applications because they displayed limited planning and limited evidence of community support, as well as applications that were outside of the parameters of the MCC guidelines.
- The SCC continued with in depth review of each application and how the proposed programs aligned with the priorities of the SCC. While some projects received unanimous or near unanimous support, others received support for partial funding.
- Over the course of conversation, members agreed that it would be worthwhile to revisit the idea of hosting a MCC workshop in the future to assist applicants in completing their applications, better understanding what the SCC is looking for when reviewing an application, and to cultivate new applicants.
 - It was also mentioned, that it may be beneficial to have the rubric that is used to assess the applications readily available for applicants to reference while completing their grant applications
- Following review of each application and determination on which programs would and would not receive funding, members of the SCC divided up tasks as to who would outreach which applicants to inform them of the outcome of their grant application.
 - In-line with suggestions from earlier in the year, members would act as the SCC liaison for these program going forward and attend the programming if possible.
- A local SCC email address was set up so members could notify applicants of their application status via email, without using a number of personal email addresses. It was requested that all denials be sent to applicants by December 21, 2018 to give enough time for applicants to appeal before giving notice of award to the grant recipients.

3. Extended funding fro REACH ARTS

- Members agreed to extend the time period for REACH ARTS to use \$500 of the 2018 Grant funds awarded to provide youth programming that is consistent with the spirit of last year's application.

Upcoming Meetings:

TBD

9:30PM Adjourned