

FY 2020 GRANT REVIEW PANEL MEETING MINUTES

Grant Type: Arts Stabilization Fund

Panel Meeting Date: May 8, 2019

Panel Members Present: Jerry Bilton, Wilmington
Julia Dougherty, Wilmington
John Moore, Wilmington
Thomas Summers, Dover

Panel Members Absent: None

Panel Chair: Tina Betz, Wilmington, Delaware State Arts Council

Staff Members Present: Paul Weagraff, Division Director
Gwen Henderson, Administrative Specialist
Sheila Dean Ross, Program Officer
Dana Wise, Administrative Specialist

Location: Dover Public Library, Dover

Meeting Started: 2:00 p.m.

The grant review panel convened to evaluate applications for funding from the organizations listed below, based on pre-established criteria and scoring rubrics. Applications are for funding to help nonprofit arts organizations with improvements to facilities owned and operated (or under long-term lease) by the organization. Arts Stabilization grants are funded through the Division of the Arts' participation in the Arts Consortium of Delaware, Inc. (ArtCo) endowment. The grant panel, made up of citizens from around the state, reviewed the applications in advance. At the meeting, the panel chair asked panelists to provide an objective and consistent evaluation of each applicant's project/program and to measure each application against the criteria in the grant application guidelines.

Panelists recused from discussion of applications due to a conflict of interest: None

Number of Grant Applications Reviewed: 6

Applications: (in order of review)

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Biggs Museum of American Art | <i>Office and workspace expansion</i> |
| 2. Center for the Creative Arts | <i>HVAC replacement (studio)</i> |
| 3. The Delaware Contemporary | <i>HVAC repairs</i> |
| 4. Delaware Dance Company | <i>Replace flooring in common areas</i> |
| 5. Kent County Theatre Guild | <i>Roof and gutter replacement</i> |
| 6. Wilmington Drama League | <i>Roof repairs</i> |

The Division Director facilitated a general discussion at the conclusion of application review regarding the results of the ranking. After discussion, panelists agreed that all organizations should receive some level of funding, with the amount of the grant being reduced commensurate with the rankings. It was recommended that two organizations receive reduced funding due based on the actual need and/or effectiveness of the proposed remediation of the problem. In the case of one long-term lease, the panel recommended that the Division investigate the organization's lease status and their obligations to ensure that they intend to stay in their current location. Panelists were satisfied with the new smARTDE review portal.

The Division Director announced that grant awards will be posted on the Division website at <https://arts.delaware.gov/> after the Delaware State Arts Council makes final funding recommendations and the FY2020 budget is adopted by the General Assembly. Panel comments for each of the applications will be available once grant awards are announced.

Panel Chair thanked the panelists for their time and preparation.

Meeting adjourned: 4:00 p.m.