RALEIGH ARTS GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

raleigh arts COMMISSION

FUNDING HISTORY

In September 1988, City Council established $3.00 per capita (population-based) funding for Raleigh's external arts organizations, with the first per capita funding year commencing in 1989-1990. (City Councilors expected funding for the arts to increase and accommodate the growth of the arts.) In 1993, City Council raised the per capita amount to $3.50 as a minimum guide for the Raleigh Arts Grant Program (commencing in 1994-1995). They also determined, at that time, to decide at a later date the best method for increasing arts funding to keep up with inflation. Since that year, City Council has increased the per capita rate three more times in 2007, 2008 and, most recently, in 2013. For the 2013-2014 fiscal year Arts Grant funding stands at $5.00 per capita.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Raleigh Arts Grant Program has been critical to the development and ongoing sustenance of many of Raleigh's cultural organizations, bringing stability to our city's arts community and providing leverage for groups to seek business, foundation, and other agency matching grants. Subject to eligibility requirements, any nonprofit, tax-exempt organization whose corporate headquarters is located within the limits of the City of Raleigh may apply for a grant.

The Raleigh Arts Grant Program enriches the lives of residents and visitors, providing support for a diverse range of opportunities including city arts festivals, live theatre, dance, and music performances, visual arts exhibitions, and youth arts programs. The program is dedicated to funding organizations and programs of every size and arts discipline. Over the past 25 years, more than $25 million dollars have been distributed to Raleigh's cultural groups.

The Raleigh Arts Grant program is critical to ensuring:

- Fair and equitable distribution of city funding for the arts through an approved and transparent public process;
- Standards of artistic quality through established criteria and careful evaluation process;
- Fiscal responsibility through financial reporting requirements and yearly review of agency audits;
- Ongoing support for Raleigh arts organizations through the 'General Operating Support' category.

GRANTS PROCESS

The Raleigh Arts Grants Program is managed by the Raleigh Arts Commission through an approved city process consisting of the following key steps:

1. Distribution of established guidelines and written criteria for organizations applying for funding;
2. Yearly grant workshop open to any organization interested in learning more about the Raleigh Arts Grant Program;
3. City Controller internal review of organization annual audits and/or financial reports for compliance with city financial requirements;
4. Application review process conducted by an appointed grants panel comprised of both representatives from the community as well as Arts Commission members (all meetings open to the public);
5. Grants panel funding recommendations to the Raleigh Arts Commission based on established criteria and standards;
6. Raleigh Arts Commission presentation to City Council of annual recommendations for per capita for the arts funding;
7. Accountability through monthly reimbursement pay-out system, as well as required organization interim and final reports pertaining to use of grant funds.

SUMMARY

The Raleigh Arts Grant Program has enabled the growth and stability of local arts organizations, and provided a fair and carefully vetted process for distribution of city funds. The grant program is a success story – well-respected throughout the state of North Carolina and contributing significantly to a strong artistic and economic foundation for the Arts in Raleigh.

For more information on the Raleigh Arts Grant Program, visit **www.raleighnc.gov/arts** or call the Arts Commission's Arts Grants Coordinator at **919-996-4686**.