

November 28, 2023
MCC Meeting
Zoom 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

In Attendance: Jason Webb, Elizabeth Bouchard, Jim Bracciale, Sara Brookner, Sarah Bolha, Lily Kaufman, Jenne Rayburn, Leah Mallozzi, Nick Gleason

Elizabeth L. updated the group that the woman from “Her Majesty”’s budget was actually \$450 total. Her request of \$225 is 50% of the total cost of her project.

Jason W. suggested people give updates on the questions that were outstanding last week.

Jim B talked to Kristin Taylor at the Beethoven project. They will raise \$1500 will go toward programming and and additional \$1500 will go towards scholarship. They’ve requested \$2000 from us to make up the difference. Jim told her that they will not get the full amount and suggested other places to get grant money.

Jason reached out to Tarek (World Music Concert) because they had requested the full amount. He did not hear back. He also reached out to the Wakefield bank, who will not be able to give any funding. They are excellent musicians, but if we feel like there are other things that are higher value, we could make that choice. Wakefield seemed not interested in giving any funding for 2023 or 24.

Sarah Bolha heard back from Create and Play; they do not have solid funding from other sources, just possibilities. No firm numbers. It sounds like if we did not fund it, it wouldn’t happen.

Elizabeth B. Folk Art Center update; spoke with Marci. She said the interest is always really great but when it comes down to the actual day, she doesn’t expect more than 50 people or so. She thinks the space she has in mind will be adequate. Regarding the budget, she doesn’t really have additional funds. This might be the kind of project that Messina would fund. Elizabeth will suggest that to her. Question about whether in-kind donations are considered part of the budget. Additional questions Late Sunday morning in late March or April. Very adaptable program—she’s clearly very experienced. She has lived in Melrose for 25 years and does this everywhere except her own community, and would love to do this. She’s currently hoping to offer this as a free program, but is willing to ask for donations if necessary.

Discussion on the bottom ones:

Breakheart Festival—really great, but not in Melrose. It’s the kind of event that can very easily get funding from places like local banks. Sara Brookner is less inclined to support them. Jenne Rayburn agrees. Being able to give more funding to things like the High School’s program would encourage the public to

Create & Play v. Franklin School—Create & Play is open to everyone.

Jim B is concerned about the number of grants actually being significantly fewer than last year. (24 last year) He does not want the number of our grants to go down.

Sarah Brooker talked about quality v. quantity. Also, audience reach still might be greater this year than last year. This may be a talking point with city hall. We are not able to fund any of our favorites at the full level.

Jason W—we need to talk about each one individually, because the amount makes more difference for some than others.

Lily—Agree with Breakheart and Create & Play, but would not want to see all of the high school projects not get funding.

DISCUSSION:

Start from the top

Opening Doors

Consistently the favorite. Last year funded it fully. Strong support, however, 1/8 of the budget is a lot. Tentative \$2000.

Student Art Show at FYA

Jenne is surprised that this one is so high up. They have a big board and an ability to fundraise, and is a pretty narrow audience. They are getting multiple streams of funding. Tentative \$500.

Marquez May Pops

\$800 seems appropriate

Porchfest

Tremendous public value, although there are some fundamental flaws in their application. It's too late for this year, but they could get different additional funding next year. \$900

World Culture Night

Salaries and fees for the artists is \$500. We could just fund that. We might come back to it if there is money left over.

Mothers of Rock

They have the capacity to raise more money. Will come back if others need more money. \$1500

Beethoven Society

They could not mount their season without some funding from us. \$1500

Nissitissit

\$675

Coming Together 2

\$900

Sidenote—It's about half music; should we fund more kinds of arts? Sara Brookner said that the survey said that people wanted more music. However, valid point.

July 4

\$500 Great community event

Ticket subsidies

\$1000

Create & Play

\$1000

2024 World Music Concert Series

Haven't gotten any feedback about other sources of funding. We know the artistry is really wonderful, but they're lacking in a lot of important logistics, which is how we tend to evaluate a lot of these projects. \$0 for now.

Kindness Day

\$750

Musical Theater

\$1500

Melrose Community Dancing

\$750

Her Majesty

\$225 This one (and others) need to be asked to resubmit their budget

Elizabeth L brought up the high school public art project, and after discussion it seems like it should stay off the list.

With \$600 left, **Little Groove** was added back in for \$500.

Several groups will need to be followed up with about the need to have a lower request amount than total budget. Restated budget

- Sarah Bolha will follow up with Create & Play.
- Jason Webb will ask Laura to follow-up with Kindness Day
- Elizabeth Bouchard will follow up with Melrose Community Dancing

- Elizabeth Lohnes will forward her email exchange regarding Her Majesty

VOTE

The group voted on the following allocations for funding:

Opening Doors Project - 2 Spring Concerts	\$2,000.00
Student Art Show at the FYACS Gallery	\$750.00
Márquez - Danzón No. 2 (May Pops)	\$800.00
Melrose Porchfest	\$1,000.00
World Culture Night	\$750.00
Mothers of Rock	\$1,500.00
Beethoven Society of Melrose's 97th Concert Season	\$1,500.00
European Cruise with the Nissitissit String Quartet	\$675.00.00
Coming Together 2	\$900.00
July 4th Concert	\$500.00
Ticket subsidy for the Elderly and Students	\$1,000.00
Create & Play	\$1,000.00
Kindness Day Community Mural	\$750.00
Musical Theater Community Collaboration	\$1,600.00
Melrose Community Dancing	\$750.00
Her Majesty	\$225.00
Little Groove at the Franklin School	\$500.00

Jim Bracciale thanked Lily for all the time she spent building the spreadsheet organizing this!

NEXT STEPS

Rejection letters need to be sent by December 30. There is then a 15 day period for applicants to submit a reconsideration request. Jim and Jason will get together to discuss

NEXT MEETING

The second Thursday would be January 11. This is tentative our next meeting date.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Follow-up on 4 documentation needs
- Jim and Jason will sound out denials. Most denials are for lack of community benefit.
- After 15 days we will get together and let people know they've been awarded.

Idea: we could host something to bring our grantees together and have some Facetime with them.

8:46 PM Meeting adjourned