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By City Clerks Office at 11:31 am, Sep 03, 2025

## Apr 10, 2025 | 📅 MCC Monthly Meeting

Attendees: Nicholas Gleason Elizabeth B. Jim oren.santillo@melroseschools.com sarahbolha22@gmail.com Elizabeth Lohnes cliomooock@gmail.com lilykauf@gmail.com

Attached files: 📄 Meeting Notice 4.10.25.pdf

**March Meeting minutes were accepted.**

### Treasurer's Update

- Total we will be paying is \$31,075.00. Only thing that hasn't been paid out is \$950 from MSO. The complete number that has been paid is \$30,025. The city has been a little slow to pay out, but seems like good timing in comparison to previous years, especially considering that the city is somewhat in flux.
- **PROPOSED:** Raising our post-winter funding round balance from \$5,500 to \$6,500, which would leave us with a balance of \$1,313.62 (plus some admin funds).

#### Discussion

- Should we save some money in case there are there other things we want to accomplish throughout the year?
- In previous years we spent down to almost nothing.
- Big expenses for the Victorian Fair have already been incurred (backdrop, tablecloth, etc.)
- After the applicant reviews, we **voted to approve** additional funds up to **\$6,740** to fully fund 8 projects.

### New Member Search

- 📄 MCC New Member Applicants 2025
- 9 Candidates total—4 have applied, 2 have applied without a letter, and 3 have expressed interest.

### Arts Summit Report

- Was held Sat Mar 29. Reception was lovely!
- It was interesting to hear from the rep from Arlington chamber of commerce to hear about getting creative about spaces.
- The mayor recommitted arts money verbally for next year ("my intention"). She seemed relatively optimistic, and it was nice for her to say this in that large of a room.
- Wish that there had been a little bit more (last year there were two panels, this year there was only one).
- There were some great discussions about celebrating next year's anniversary. However, there was nothing beyond brainstorming. No plan for execution.

- Jim will contact Lauren Grymek to keep her aware of what we're doing and ask how the city is thinking about anniversary preparations.
- What would be the role of the MCC? Would we do something as a group, or since we are just a granting organization, would individuals do something as individual applicants and recuse themselves when it comes time to discuss.
- Sarah B has leftover cards **2024/25 postcards** that people can take with the grantee calendar and a business-size card with a qr card for people to become a board member.

## Second Grant Cycle

- Agree to take off **MUSIC Dance.edu**, which we have already given money to, is a closed event, and is at a very small venue. *Decline.*
- Agree to take off the **Easter egg hunt**. Yes, there is community benefit, but it seems like they already have sponsors and it will happen anyway. Little "arts and culture" connection. *Decline.*
- **Melrose Council on Aging**—This is a great organization that we want to support. This event did happen before the pandemic. After discussion on whether this is enough of an "arts and culture" event, we agreed to approve. *Fully funded.*
- **Melrose Arts and Crafts**—We have not funded them in the past, but we like the fact that they are asking for organizational expenses rather than supplies. This seems like it will build goodwill. *Fully funded.*
- **Melrose Arts Face Painting**—The Melrose Arts Festival is a marquis event. This would be taking place over two days. Vote to approve. *Fully funded.*
- **Summer Stroll**—The value in our participation is very high. They will take a huge hit with the city budget cuts. *Fully funded.*
- **Chalk Walk (Follow Your Art)**—Strong approval. We love the idea of fundraising for Arts for All. This is a good public event. *Fully funded.*
- **Broken Leg Productions**—A good program, but seems like an arbitrary financial request. Good that they offer summer internships and jobs as well. *Fully funded.*
- **YMCA of Metro North**—This is a little bit of a stretch as a cultural event. Good that it is open to the public and not just for people who attend the Y. *Fully funded.*
- Agree to take off **Body's Moving**. Serves too small of a group, seems like it is not well organized, and there is not really a Melrose connection. She did receive \$2,000 to do this in Medford this upcoming summer. *Decline.*
- Already funded the **Creative Alliance** at \$500. *Fully funded.*

Final amount is **\$6,740**. We will still have over \$1,000 left in the bank, which is plenty for the remainder of the year (mainly the Victorian Fair).

This year we have a 100% increase in the amount of events funded this year over last year. Both the number of grants and the level of grants has increased!

### Action items

- Jim will send a note to Melrose Arts tomorrow. Next week Jim will send the acceptance and decline letters and forms.
- sarahbolha22@gmail.com will send a note to the Easter Egg hunt.
- Lily Kaufman will reach out to the City finance office to notify them that we have additional grantees.
- Jim will contact Lauren Grymek
- Elizabeth Lohnes send an outline to the group about refreshing the website (rollover from last month)

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.