



Good afternoon,

Thank you to those who participated in November conversations about funding for grants previously submitted. Your input was greatly appreciated. Metro Arts has been in the news: whether it was about staff and leadership changes or Commissioner resignations, or delays in decisions about grant funding or the Title VI discrimination complaint which found there was disparate and likely inequitable arts funding within Metro government. Together we can rectify this problem, but it will not be an overnight or short-term solution. Unfortunately, we have received much less press about Metro Arts' amazing Public Art Program. [Click here to learn more about Metro Arts – Public Art](#)

As you know, the FY 25 grants funding program for Metro Arts has been delayed. Currently, we are reviewing recommendations for the allocation of \$3,263,000 budgeted by Council for arts grant funding in FY2025. Metro Arts has two upcoming meetings to consider these recommendations. The Grants Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 AM and the Commission meeting will be held on December 5th from 12:00 PM to 2:00PM. The location for both these meetings is Metro Southeast facility at 1417 Murfreesboro Pike. These meetings are posted [here](#).

Please find included proposals for the following topics to be discussed:

Metro Arts GRC Committee Considerations (Document Title)

1. Criteria for Panelists: scoring will be onsite and will cover two days each for Thrive projects and Operating grants. Applicants apply to be panelists and are rated by staff and selected as review panelists. Selected panelists will receive a payment of \$350 for two days

Slides 8, 9, and 10

Recommended for approval.

2. Allocation of \$3,265,000 between Thrive projects and Operating grants: \$900,000 for Thrive and \$2,365,000

Slides 4, 5, and 6

Recommended for approval.

3. Funding for Operating grants
 - A. Proposal 1 is based on the number of applicants in each size category until the amount allocated is depleted. Previously referred to as Option 2 in the community engagement sessions (staff proposal)

Slides 24, 25, and 26

Recommended for approval.



Operating FY25 Proposal Final pptx/ Operating Proposal Final pptx/ Operating FY25 Proposal (Document Titles)

- B. Proposal 2 uses the percentage-based allocations in the current guidelines, scaled to the existing budget (Commissioner Heather Lefkowitz proposal)
- 4. Thrive project funding: criteria, guidelines, and funding options. Option by Metro Staff *Slides 16, 17, and 18*
 - A. *Per the Conciliation Agreement a Thrive working group was formed and charged with developing a mechanism to fund individual artists. The Thrive working group developed a framework using fiscal agents which will disburse funds to the Thrive applicants who do not have a 501c3 affiliation. Please see the fiscal agency letter of agreement template which outlines the proposed relationship between the fiscal agent and artist-applicant.*
 - B. *Metro Arts Staff is further providing criteria and guideline changes for FY25. These changes and staff justifications are outlines in the presentation. The changes for FY25 Thrive guidelines and criteria are policy decisions for the Arts Commission.*

Should you have questions or require more information, please contact me at the information below or Sydnie Davis, Strategic Initiatives and Grants Manager, arts.grants@nashville.gov

Thank you for your understanding and let us work collaboratively for the sake of more funding for Metro Arts grantmaking.

With deep appreciation,

Dr. Paulette Coleman

Interim Executive Director, Metro Arts Commission