

Priority: Vibrant Communities

Lead Agency: Non-Departmental - All

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Program Contact: Julie Neburka

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

County funding for arts and culture has declined more than 76% since our high funding mark of \$603,096 in FY98-99. Support from Multnomah County is vital in RACC's efforts to create vibrant communities, enhance our children's education, and fuel a thriving creative economy. Although \$250,000 was initially requested to restore some of the lost funding over the years, RACC is submitting this scaled offer of \$150,000 at the Chair's request. This investment will continue to leverage support from the City of Portland and other public and private partners while helping local arts organizations serve approximately 590,000 County residents in the year ahead.

Program Description

RACC provides vital services that support culturally diverse communities and create vibrant neighborhoods throughout Multnomah County. (1) RACC provides cash grants to artists and arts organizations that provide artistic performances and exhibits in neighborhoods, schools, community centers, and cultural facilities throughout the county. (2) RACC offers technical assistance funding and programs that make Multnomah County artists and arts organizations stronger and more productive, including a host of free printed and electronic services that are utilized by more than 4,000 Multnomah County based artists. (3) RACC provides small grants for schools to help teachers bring artists and arts organizations into classrooms. (4) RACC raises money for local arts organizations through state and federal grants, and through our workplace giving program, "Work for Art." (5) RACC administers the County's public art program, although that revenue is generated through the County's 1.33%-for-art ordinance and is not, therefore, part of this proposal.

Program Justification

Arts and culture are essential ingredients for healthy neighborhoods and a vibrant sense of community. A strong arts and culture community attracts businesses and knowledge workers. Multnomah County residents care passionately about arts and culture, accounting for more than 1,200,000 total admissions at RACC-funded events in 2006. Arts and culture also help Multnomah County children succeed in school: arts education activities are an essential part of a well-rounded education and are proven to boost student performance in other academic subjects including reading, writing, math and science. Arts and culture support a strong and thriving economy – Multnomah County's nonprofit arts and culture sector is a \$144 million industry, with an extended economic impact of \$314 million – providing jobs, household income, and tax revenue for the County. These groups support a larger creative industries sector that includes 2,365 county businesses that employed over 13,845 individuals last year.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY05-06)	Current Year Purchased (FY06-07)	Current Year Estimate (FY06-07)	Next Year Offer (FY07-08)
Output	Number of County residents served through RACC-funded events	0	0	590,000	590,000
Outcome	Number of residents employed by arts-related businesses in the County	0	0	13,845	14,000
Input	\$\$ invested as grants & services for local artists & arts organizations	75,378	78,200	78,200	79,200
Output	www.racc.org unique visits	198,000	225,000	386,000	425,000

Performance Measure - Description

RACC evaluates its programs and services on a regular basis. Over the last three years RACC has commissioned independent evaluations of our grants program, our workplace giving program, and staff salaries. In the year ahead, RACC will study whether any of its administrative and overhead costs can be reduced through new innovations and strategic partnerships, and in June of 2007, RACC will release a report on the economic impact of the Portland metropolitan region's arts and culture organizations.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

None

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2007	2007	2008	2008
Program Expenses				
Contracts	\$141,847	\$0	\$188,000	\$0
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$141,847	\$0	\$188,000	\$0
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$141,847	\$0	\$188,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$141,847		\$188,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Program Revenues				
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

This is a General Fund-supported program

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #10024, Regional Arts & Culture Council

This proposal does not address the fact that Multnomah County funding for arts and culture has declined by 76% over the past eight years, while the sector has grown by 28%. This proposal also does not help RACC take advantage of new opportunities that are being developed to provide essential arts education activities in our K-8 schools, nor does it participate in the extraordinary leveraging opportunities provided by RACC's fast-growing workplace giving program, Work for Art.

GRANTS AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS. In 2006, support from the County (\$141,847) was combined with support from the City of Portland and other sources to fund \$1,992,000 in grants to 51 Multnomah County artists and 74 Multnomah County arts organizations. These grants, along with several technical assistance and community outreach programs, supported organizations that have combined purchasing and payroll power of over \$144 million. In the year ahead, RACC will use \$72,200 of County funds and leverage an additional \$2 million to support local artists and arts organizations with cash grants and technical assistance programs, accounting for approximately 2% of local arts organizations' combined budgets. This is a step toward achieving national best practice goal of 5% local government funding for community arts organizations.

ARTS EDUCATION. At a time when our public schools have cut music, theater, dance, and art programs, RACC and our local arts organizations are working to provide arts programming. This school year, approximately 8,500 students are benefiting from RACC's Fast Track Grants that support arts activities in 34 different Multnomah County schools. In addition, more than 45,000 students in the County are being served through arts education activities conducted by the arts organizations that receive RACC funding. But some schools are not giving their students enough arts education opportunities. With funding from Multnomah County (\$18,847 this year vs. \$16,847 last year), RACC will