DC COMMISSION ON
THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

FY26 CP GRANT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Grant Program Name: FY26 (Small) Capital Projects

Grant Manager: Terrance Brown

Grant Program Description:
The (Small) Capital Projects (CP) grant supports organizations that own or rent facilities; intend to own facilities; or seek capital project support for permanent property, technology, equipment, or digital assets designed for the training, management, production, or presentation of performances or exhibitions of the arts or humanities.

FY26 CP applicants proposing projects greater than $100,000 must provide a 1:1 award match for any CAH award funds over that amount. Applicants included this funding structure within their applications.

Recommended Award Allocation:

FY2026:	**$4,475,416 (71 awarded; 82% of applicants)**
FY2025:	$4,785,014 (67 awarded; 71% of applicants)
FY2024:	$6,271,805 (67 awarded; 68% of applicants)
FY2023:	$4,911,300 (56 awarded)
FY2022:	$4,302,134 (48 awarded)
FY2021:	$2,899,647 (28 awarded)

Number of Panels: Five (5)

- FY26 received 7 fewer applicants than FY25 (a 7% decrease)
- We required two (2) fewer review panels this year compared to last year.
- **The average request increased by $4012.89 since last year.**

Eligible Applicants:	87 paneled applications (FY25: 94)
New Applicants to CAH:	13
New Applicants for CP:	8
Withdrawn applicants:	0
Ineligible applicants:	4

- Three (3) applicants were not 501c3 organizations for at least a year at the time of application deadline.
- One (1) Applicant did not have the necessary space for their project type.

FY26 CP Program Notes/Updates:

- Total Program Budget **decreased by $309,598.00** from FY25.
    - We are continuing to see a decrease in the program's budget in the past 3 fiscal year cycles. Demand has remained relatively the same.

- The top 4 scoring applicants were able to receive an increase of **increase** in their funding request this year compared to last year due to lower number of applications.
- FY26, we saw an increase in short-term capital projects **(34 to 40**) and a decrease in long term capital projects **(37 to 25).**
    - Compared to last year, we are seeing fewer long-term capital project applications**.**

Allocation of Funds:
An applicant's raw score determined their percentile ranking within their review cohort. Award recommendations use that ranking according to the following:

CP Funding Formula	
Percentile Minimum within each panel	**Percentage of their request awarded**
Top Score	80%
Ranked 2nd	73%
Ranked 3rd	70%
Ranked 4th	67%
Ranked 5th	63%
Ranked 6th	60%
Ranked 7th	57%
(Continued)	(3%) difference

Applicants whose total score were less than <22% of the variance average did not receive funding. Grantees can adjust their projects to reflect lower than expected award amounts.

Funding and Application Future Program Balance
In FY26, the Small Capital Projects Program reached a more balanced rate between total applicants and available funding. A total of **87 eligible applications** were received, compared to **94 in FY25**, representing a **7% decrease**. Despite the reduced number of submissions, funding distribution remained equitable across wards, and the smaller applicant pool helped maintain program stability amid broader fiscal constraints.

The program's budget has decreased significantly over the past three years—from **$6.2 million in FY24** to **$4.7 million in FY25**, and now **$4.4 million in FY26**. While this represents a continued decline in available funds, the impact has been partially offset by fewer applications submitted during a period of rising property costs, construction expenses, and vendor pricing. These economic pressures may have discouraged some organizations from pursuing capital projects, particularly those with limited administrative capacity or cash flow flexibility.

It is important to note that this equilibrium may shift in future cycles. An increase in application volume, growing community demand for facility improvements, or further escalation in **construction materials,**

labor, and permitting costs could quickly strain the program's budget long term. These factors may affect CAH's ability to sustain current award levels and ensure equitable capital investment across all wards.