



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Gretchen Wharton, Committee Chair

February 28, 2024

The grants committee approved expanding GOS to include a capacity building cohort on January 25th. The decision passed both the committee and full commission. The new cohort includes the following:

- The General Operating Support grant will include a third cohort, **GOS Capacity Building**. This cohort will support small arts and humanities organizations that have not previously been awarded a grant by CAH. Capacity Building needs can include but are not limited to staff training, longer organizational initiatives, sector-strengthening that increase access and awareness of programs for the DC community. The cohort will not require a previous CAH award providing a true GOS on-ramp for new and applicants not previously funded.

Beyond funding, the program offers additional features to foster connections and knowledge exchange:

- Peer mentoring: Connect with experienced arts and humanities leaders for additional guidance and support.
- Quarterly convenings: Network and share learnings with other cohort members, building a collaborative community.

GOS Multiple year funding proposal, for GOS Generalist and GOS Service organizations

To provide GOS organizations with greater stability and longer-term planning, a multiyear funding resource is being offered for fiscal years 2025 and 2026. The GOS program has long existed to provide stability to the creative sector; two-year funding better enables that mission. This means organizations meeting the criteria won't need to reapply for the second year but will receive funding based on the commission's budget and other government funding received by the organization that year. To be eligible for that option, organizations must have demonstrated a two year track record of compliance with GOS grants in two of the last five years and complete reports throughout the cycle. Additionally, all organizations will still undergo a review process, and eligible organizations have the option of opting in or out of multi-year funding. This initiative aims to streamline the application process for eligible organizations. For GOS grantees participating in two-year funding, their second-year awards will adjust according to the new agency budget and other CAH restrictions.

The purpose of the committee’s decision for multi-year Funding in FY25

Prior to the Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH) becoming independent in 2019, the DC Code didn’t explicitly allow the Commission to award multi-year grants for arts and humanities projects. This is evident in the previous version of DC Code, which simply stated that the Commission could "make grants" without specifying the duration. However, the current version of the Code explicitly authorizes the Commission to issue both "single or multi-year grants," reflecting the change that occurred with CAH's independence.

The agency's transition to independence and to a budget sourced almost exclusively from dedicated tax revenue occurred just before the onset of the pandemic. It is only now that we are coming out from under the fallout of the pandemic that we can fully realize what our independent status means for the agency. We hope that this proposed change to the GOS grant program signals positive forward momentum for the agency and speaks to the trust we have in the abilities of our grantees to utilize GOS funds well.

➤ Considerations / Decisions

- **FY25 GOS Recommendation**
Move GOS to a two-year funding cycle

New Grant Openings

- General Operating Support Friday, March 1st – Thursday, April 11th
- East Arts Friday, March 1st – Thursday, April 11th
- PEF Individuals Friday, March 1st – Thursday, April 11th
- PEF Organizations Friday, March 1st – Thursday, April 11th

The Grants Department has made significant progress in processing FY24 grants, with over 950 agreements executed. We are committed to continuing this momentum and assisting grantees with navigating the District Integrated Financial System (DIFS). If you have any outstanding documents requested by your grant manager, please return them promptly. We appreciate your continued patience and support.