



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

## GRANTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Gretchen Wharton, Committee Chair

August 21, 2023

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### FY24 Grant Panel Cycle

The Grants team is in the midst of the FY24 Summer Panel Cycle, which also includes reviewing and updating guidelines, securing artist and art practitioner peer reviewers, and providing panelist orientations.

The Grants department has made significant efforts to connect, inspire, and support applicants and future grantees this summer.

- They hosted 26 workshops to provide information about the grants program and how to apply.
- They introduced virtual office hours on weekends to make it more convenient for applicants to get needed support.
- They proactively reached out to past grantees to provide guidance on any changes to the grants program.

These efforts have paid off. The number of applications in FY24 saw a significant increase over FY23, leading to 10 additional panels to be created. This is a testament to the dedication of the grant managers and their commitment to helping all applicants succeed.

The Grants department alone will conduct a total of 50 panels this summer in the following areas:

- **Grant Program Name: Arts and Humanities Fellowship Program (AHFP)**  
**Cohorts and Panels (29):** Dance: 1 | Design: 1 | Go-Go: 1 | Humanities: 5  
Interdisciplinary: 2 | Media: 2 | Music: 5 | Teaching Artists: 2 | Theater: Visual Arts: 7
- **Grant Program Name: Projects, Events Festivals Project Grant (PEF)**  
**Cohorts and Panels (9):** Individuals: 4 Organizations: 5
- **Grant Program Name: Arts and Humanities Educations Project Grant (AHEP)**  
**Panels (3)**
- **Grant Program Name: East Arts Grant Program (EA)**  
**Panels (2)**
- **Grant Program Name: Field Trip Experiences Grant Program (FTE)**  
**Panels (2)**

- **Grant Program Name: Capitol Projects Grant Program (CP)** (Formally known as FAB) Panels (5)

**TOTAL Panels for FY24 Cycle: 50**

### **FY24 General Operating Support Grant Program (GOS)**

- The Grants Department is in the process of formulating funding recommendations for all eligible GOS applicants. For FY24 we received 173 applications verses that of FY23 with 161. The funding rational was approved by the grants committee during the grants committee meeting held on Friday, August 18, 2023. The grants team will present funding recommendations to the grant committee at its September meeting and then will move for a vote by the entire commission during the September commissioners meeting.
- **GOS Budget Support Legislation introduced by Council**  
In this year's Budget Support Act (BSA) legislation, Council further nuanced how we are to determine awards moving forward:
  - (i) Organizations < \$115,000 are not restricted in the size of their award.
  - (ii) Organizations > \$115,000 may not receive an award that is more than 50% of their budget.
  - (iii) Organization size is based on the Total District-based arts and humanities cash expenses, less any sources of District government grants or contracts.

### **Other Considerations**

- **Donut Hole:** Because of the new BSA legislation, we anticipate some of our grantees may see a decrease in their overall award from FY23 to FY24.
- **Guard Rails:** There are some fluctuations to organizations' budgets as they emerge from the pandemic, so sticking rigidly to the ranking formula may cause a sharp decrease or increase in funding. We recommend capping any decrease or increase on FY24 awards to \$10,000 of current year awards (with the exception of those organizations restricted by the BSA).

### **FY24 Capital Projects Grant Program (CP) formerly known as Facilities and Buildings**

- The Capital Projects Grant Program launched on Friday July 13, 2023, and is set to close today Monday, August 21, 2023, at 10pm ET. At the time of this report there are currently 111 submitted applications which is an increase from 76 applications in FY23. The grant is currently scheduled to hold 5 panels, but we anticipate this number increasing due to the additional applicants. New this year was the creation of weekly office hours dedicated to the CP Grant. Panels will run throughout the months of September and October with budget recommendations submitted to the

commission in November 2023. The Capital Projects grant manager Kevin Hasser will be online to support any questions about grant submissions and can be reached at [kevin.hasser@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.hasser@dc.gov).