



NEWPORT BEACH

City Council Staff Report

February 27, 2024
Agenda Item No. 12

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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TITLE: Cultural Arts Grants Fiscal Year 2023-24

ABSTRACT:

The sum of \$30,000 has been provided in Fiscal Year 2023-24 to fund specific cultural or artistic programs as approved by the City Council. The City Arts Commission has the responsibility to review all programs and requests for support from arts groups and make recommendations for funding to the City Council. The Commission reviewed grant funding proposals from seven local arts organizations and recommends funding for six organizations, totaling \$25,000.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly;
- b) Approve recommended recipients for Fiscal Year 2023-24 Cultural Arts Grants as selected by the City Arts Commission in accordance with City Council Policy I-10, *Financial Support for Culture and Arts*.

DISCUSSION:

City Council Policy I-10, *Financial Support for Culture and Arts* (Attachment A), recognizes the importance of promoting culture and the arts within Newport Beach. In Fiscal Year 2023-24, \$30,000 is budgeted for specific cultural or artistic programs as approved by the City Council.

The City Arts Commission (Commission) has the responsibility to review all programs and requests for support from arts groups and make recommendations for funding to the City Council for its review and approval. City Council Policy I-10 defines arts groups as those involved in visual, musical, theatre, dance, crafts, performing and literary activities. The Commission considers the following in order of preference for granting support:

1. Local arts groups located within the City of Newport Beach and offering programs to City residents;

2. Regional arts groups located in Orange County and offering programs to City residents; and
3. Arts groups located in California and performing or offering programs to City residents.

Groups not offering programs or services to local residents are not eligible for support from the City of Newport Beach.

The Commission received written grant proposals from seven organizations for funding of approximately \$33,500 in free cultural arts programming for the Newport Beach community in Fiscal Year 2023-24. Grant applicants include:

ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT
Backhausdance	\$4,000
Balboa Island Improvement Association (BIIA)	\$3,000
Baroque Music Festival, CdM	\$6,500
Laguna Playhouse	\$5,000
Pacific Chorale	\$5,000
Pacific Symphony	\$5,000
South Coast Repertory	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$33,500

The City Arts Commission considered the seven applications using the guidance defined in City Council Policy I-10. Furthermore, each arts organization was evaluated considering the following additional criteria:

Baseline Criteria:

- application and report complete and on-time
- arts organization (not individual artist)
- non-profit organization
- Newport Beach geographic focus

Selective Criteria

I. Service to the Public

- promotion and outreach
- audience development and participation
- safety and accessibility
- program diversity
- community service

II. Artistic/Programmatic Excellence

- ideas and creativity
- production

III. Managerial/Fiscal Competence

- mission and goals
- organizational management
- financial management

The Commission paid particular attention to the fiscal prudence of the applicants. After careful deliberation, the City Arts Commission approved recommending grant funding for six local arts organizations, totaling \$25,000, at its regular meeting on February 8, 2024.

The recommended grantees and funding include:

ORGANIZATION NAME	AMOUNT
Backhausdance	\$4,000
Balboa Island Improvement Association (BIIA)	\$3,000
Baroque Music Festival, CdM	\$4,500
Pacific Chorale	\$5,000
Pacific Symphony	\$3,500
South Coast Repertory	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$25,000

Backhausdance would present a dance education partnership program, *Dance Expressions: Creativity and Choreography*, at three different Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) schools - Corona del Mar Middle/High School, Back Bay High School, and Newport Harbor High School - in fall 2024. This program offers students an immersion into working with a professional dance company.

The Commission recommends grant funding for the Balboa Island Improvement Association for a ninth season of the Balboa Island Classical Concert Series, held at St. John Vianney Chapel and Balboa Park on Agate. A minimum of five classical concerts and five concerts in the park would be planned for the community.

The Baroque Music Festival funding would bring three vocal soloists and a trumpet soloist from across the country to Newport Beach for the 44th season finale, *All the Pleasures!* Funds would also be utilized as a Community Arts Partner with the NMUSD Arts Commission to facilitate yearly workshops by Baroque Music Festival musicians at local schools.

Pacific Chorale's chamber choir would present three performances at Our Lady Queen of Angels Church, featuring Handel's *Israel in Egypt* and Carols by Candlelight.

Pacific Symphony would use the grant funds for the Class Act Music Education Program at Newport Coast Elementary School. This program places union musicians into local schools where students receive the value of music learning from teaching artists.

South Coast Repertory would utilize grant funding for the Theatre for Young Audiences free school-day matinee performances of *Alice in Wonderland* for students, augmented with weekend performances for the general public.

The City Arts Commission did not recommend grant funding for the Laguna Playhouse because the organization's proposed use of grant funds was intended to serve Title 1 schools in NMUSD, none of which are located in Newport Beach.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The adopted budget includes sufficient funding for this grant program. The funds would be expensed in the City Grants account in the Cultural and Arts Division, 01060603-821006.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

NOTICING:

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A – City Council Policy I-10, *Financial Support for Culture and Arts*