



**CITY OF**

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# **NEWPORT BEACH**

## **City Council Staff Report**

November 14, 2017  
Agenda Item No. 13

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Tim Hetherton, Library Services Director - 949-717-3801,  
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**PREPARED BY:** Tim Hetherton, Library Services Director,

**TITLE:** Cultural Arts Grants 2017/18

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**ABSTRACT:**

The sum of \$40,000 (Cultural and Arts, City Grants Account # 01060603-821006) is provided annually for specific cultural or artistic planning or projects 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 for final approval.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- a) Determine that the 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 it will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Approve recommended recipients for FY 2017/18 Cultural Arts Grants as selected by the City Arts Commission in accordance with City Council Policy I-10 – *Financial Support for Culture and the Arts*.

**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:**

The current adopted budget includes sufficient funding for this purchase. It will be expensed to the City Grants account in the Cultural and Arts Department, 01060603-821006.

**DISCUSSION:**

City Council Policy I-10 recognizes the importance of promoting culture and the arts within the City and establishes a Reserve Fund for Culture and Arts. The sum of \$40,000 is provided annually for specific cultural or artistic planning or projects 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 for final approval.

The Commission received written grant proposals from 14 organizations for funding of approximately \$85,500.00 in free cultural arts programming for the Newport Beach community in fiscal year 2017/18. Grant applicants include:

Balboa Island Improvement Association	\$3,000.00
Balboa Island Museum and Historical Society	\$5,000.00
Baroque Music Festival, CdM	\$6,500.00
Chuck Jones Center for Creativity	\$8,000.00
Crystal Cove Conservancy	\$2,500.00
Festival Ballet Theatre	\$1,500.00
KOCI Radio	\$1,500.00
Kontrapunktus	\$2,500.00
MuseMe	\$5,000.00
Newport Beach Film Festival	\$25,000.00
Newport Beach Public Library Foundation	\$5,000.00
Orange County Museum of Art	\$10,000.00
Pacific Symphony	\$5,000.00
South Coast Repertory	\$5,000.00
	<b>\$85,500.00</b>

Council Policy I-10 defines arts groups as those involved in visual, musical, theatre, dance, crafts, performing and literary activities. The City Arts 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. In past years, the City Arts Commission grants a portion of funds back to itself to provide for annual programs. For fiscal year 2017/18, the Arts Commission has requested and approved \$ 25,500 for Arts Commission programming.

After careful deliberation, the following recommendations, totaling \$40,000 were approved at the City Arts Commission Meeting held on October 26, 2017:

**Balboa Island Improvement Association (BIIA)****\$1,000**

The Balboa Island Arts and Music Committee of the Balboa Island Improvement Association produces quality musical events on Balboa Island and assists in promoting local and regional art in collaboration with the Balboa Island Home Tour, Balboa Island Art Walk, and Balboa Island Brush Off. These grant funds will be used to help promote concerts for children, residents and visitors at St. John Vianney Chapel. BIIA will also offer Concerts in the Park, a free series of performances featuring country, folk and blues on Friday evenings, in late July and August. Families with children, pets and Newport Beach visitors will be able to enjoy music and sing-a-long in this park-side setting located at Balboa Island Park on Agate adjacent to the Beek Community Center.

**Chuck Jones Center for Creativity****\$1,000**

The Chuck Jones Center for Creativity will present "Food for Thought: Creativity Workshops with Brain Health in Mind", a program intended to benefit residents by encouraging brain health through creativity. Dr. William R. Shankle is a widely recognized expert in the field of brain aging, and has received many research grants and awards. He is considered a pioneer in using creativity to delay the effects of early onset dementia. Dr. Shankle and the Hoag Hospital Center for Neurosciences, Orange County Vital Brain Aging Program (OCVBA), has collaborated with the Center for Creativity to develop and conduct a series of programs that served an estimated 500 people at 15 events. Based on these results, OCVBA has decided to expand the program in 2017. Through this collaboration with OCVBA, the Center is uniquely qualified to provide this program to the senior community in Newport Beach. In addition, the Center has the ability (subject to the trademark and copyright provisions of Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc.) to use characters created by Chuck Jones for the programs as a key tool for enhancing reminiscence therapy in this age demographic.

**Newport Beach Film Festival****\$7,500**

The Newport Beach Film Festival's goal is to provide cultural enrichment, family entertainment, and education to the residents of Newport Beach and surrounding areas through the medium of cinema. With this funding, the Newport Beach Film Festival is planning a multi-program series covering several days of the Festival similar to the 2017 Seminar Series. The Newport Beach Film Festival will hold the seminars at key locations in Newport Beach and surrounding area. Past seminar topics have included directing, screenwriting, production design, cinematography, film music composition, animation, documentary filmmaking, editing, virtual reality, and special effects. The program will be similar to the 2017 event. The seminar topics and panelists will continue to change annually, in order to expand and improve this program to meet the needs of the community.

**Orange County Museum of Art****\$5,000**

The mission of Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA) is to enrich the lives of a diverse and changing community through modern and contemporary art. OCMA provides arts education for the community that both children and adults can enjoy and is the only modern and contemporary art museum in Newport Beach. This funding will be used for three programs: OCMA's *Free Fridays* program removes barriers to access and provides the Orange County community with greater opportunities for meaningful arts education and experiences through lectures, panel discussions, films, and other programs at no cost. *Free Fridays* occur every Friday at OCMA where admission is free to the museum and its programs with extended hours from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. with programs scheduled for two of the four Fridays per month during each exhibition cycle to complement the exhibitions on view. *Free Fridays* are enhanced with a series of exciting activities, including artist talks, panel discussions, and a range of thematic "culture nights" that offer the community the opportunity to attend music or dance performances deepening visitor experiences in a fun and casual social setting. Continuing OCMA's longstanding partnership with the Newport Beach Film Festival, now celebrating its 11-year anniversary, the museum also presents the cinematic works of emerging artists and established independent filmmakers on select Fridays as part of the Cinema Orange series. For the fall 2017 season for example, the film series will offer programming that engages diverse themes such as spirituality in art, innovation in creative practices as well as timely topics that relate to California and the Pacific Rim region and to exhibitions and artists on view.

**City Arts Commission****\$25,000**

The City of Newport Beach Arts Commission is dedicated to providing a range of free cultural programming that enriches the entire community, including children and families. The Arts Commission sponsors multidisciplinary arts programs funded by the Cultural Arts Grant Program such as arts lectures, performing arts, and visual art exhibitions in Central Library and at City Hall. The Arts Commission extends the range of arts programming by providing additional funding for the annual Concerts on the Green series, and the annual Newport Beach Art Exhibition.

Grantees and amounts granted for 2017/18 are:

Balboa Island Improvement Association	\$1,000.00
Chuck Jones Center for Creativity	\$1,000.00
Newport Beach Film Festival	\$7,500.00
Orange County Museum of Art	\$5,000.00
Newport Beach City Arts Commission	\$25,500.00
	<b>\$40,000.00</b>

**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).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None