

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 5, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS' 2009 VIRGINIA ARTS ECONOMIC STIMULUS GRANT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ARTS, DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application to the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA).

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit a grant application for the amount of \$18,000 to the Virginia Commission for the Arts' 2009 Virginia Arts Economic Stimulus Grant; and
- (2) Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

DISCUSSION: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 federal stimulus initiative includes \$50 million for jobs in the arts. A portion of these funds will be managed by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and a portion will be managed by state arts councils across the country. The Virginia Commission for the Arts will distribute \$331,000 of this funding in grants to Virginia arts organizations and agencies to preserve jobs. The City of Alexandria, through the Office of the Arts, is eligible to apply for a grant through the VCA.

The stimulus grant is a one-time, non-recurring opportunity. The grant is to fund salary support, full or partial, for one or more positions that are critical to an organization's artistic mission and that are in jeopardy of being eliminated, or have been eliminated since October 15, 2008, as a result of the economic climate. The grant will not support salaries of new or expanded positions. Positions eliminated after October 15, 2008 and fundraising personnel are eligible for this grant funding. Local arts agencies that have applied for a FY 2010 Services to the Field Grant are eligible to apply.¹ It is also required that the applying agency be approved for that grant in order

¹ The City's application for the Services to the Field Grant was docketed and approved on February 24, 2009, item #12.

to be eligible to receive the stimulus grant (the VCA panel will be meeting to review the Service to the Field applications on May 13; the City's request was for \$15,000). The grant application deadline is May 18, 2009.

The FY 2009 budget rescissions, approved in November of 2008, reflected a \$18,000 reduction in Durant Center staff funding. The funds were to be used to fill a staff position to assist the Office of the Arts with events and programs including the Alexandria Film Festival, Alex Awards, Festival of the Arts and Art in City Hall/City Galleries program, among others. The application will request \$18,000 to restore that position and fill the part-time, short-term, position for FY 2010. Specifically, the position will manage the logistics and develop a template for each event and program to be used for future years.

If awarded, the grant will allow the existing Office of the Arts staff to focus on a number of projects including establishing standards and mechanisms for private funding of a public art program. This and other foundation-building projects are needed in order to progress the development of the Office of the Arts and the growth of the arts within the City.

The funds, to be allocated to the Office of the Arts, are anticipated to be received mid-to-late July, 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT: Matching funds are not required. Virginia Commission for the Arts provides 100% of costs under this grant program. The program will not create a long-term fiscal commitment for the City. No monies are available in the City's budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended, and the persons employed via these grant funds will understand the grant-dependent limited-term nature of his or her employment.

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Richard Baier, P.E., Interim Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA)

Alisa Carrel, Director, Office of the Arts/RPCA

Cheryl Anne Colton, Cultural Arts Administrator, Office of the Arts/RPCA