


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS FOR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE GRANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application to the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) for funding, in the amount of \$5,000, for the Local Government Challenge Grant Program. The grant application deadline is April 1, 2010.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the City Manager to:

- (1) Submit a grant application, in the amount of \$5,000, to the Virginia Commission for the Arts' Local Government Challenge Grant Program; and
- (2) Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts (ACA) fully endorses the application submission.

DISCUSSION: The City has received the maximum amount of funds awarded through the Virginia Commission for the Arts' Local Government Challenge Grant Program for 30 out of the past 31 years that this program has been in operation. Through the Local Government Challenge Grant Program, the VCA will match funds, up to \$5,000. Independent town, city, and county governments are eligible to apply for funding in this category.

For Fiscal Year 2011, the City is seeking \$5,000, the current maximum permitted in the VCA's Local Government Challenge Grant category. The grant application is due April 1, 2010. These funds, if awarded to the City, are to be allocated to the arts organizations and artists who have submitted requests for funding to the Alexandria Commission for the Arts. Included in the application is a description of each artist and organization the ACA has proposed to receive VCA funding.

The Commission's grant program is modeled after the Virginia Commission for the Arts Grants Program. In August, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts provides written guidelines to all potential applicants. Grant workshops are conducted in September and October. Grant requests are due the third Friday in November. New this year, the grant applicants were able to submit all of their applications online to the Commission. The Resource Panels for Music, Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts and Literature, subordinate bodies of the ACA, conduct interviews with each grant applicant in January.

The Commission holds a Public Review of the applications and conducts a formal action meeting in March. After the adoption of the City Budget, confirmation letters with funding levels are sent to successful applicants. All applicants receiving funding from the Commission are required to submit a Final Report within thirty days after the project is completed. The Commission's Conflict of Interest Policy is enforced to ensure the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness and honesty in discharging public trust and to uphold the principles of fairness in the decision-making process regarding potential recipients of public funds.

If the Local Government Challenge Grant is awarded at the maximum amount of \$5,000, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts recommends the arts organizations and artists listed below receive VCA funding for Fiscal Year 2011. The award amounts are determined by the history of funding and the size of the operating budget for each organization and project.

Alexandria Choral Society	\$200
Alexandria Harmonizers	\$300
Alexandria Performing Arts Association	\$200
Alexandria Singers	\$200
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra	\$300
The Art League	\$300
Choreographers Collaboration Project	\$100
Arts Resource Foundation/Del Ray Artisans	\$200
Eclipse Chamber Orchestra	\$300
First Night Alexandria	\$300
Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center	\$100
Jane Franklin Dance Company	\$200
Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theatre	\$300
Living Legends of Alexandria	\$100
MetroStage	\$300
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association	\$300
Northern Virginia Youth Orchestras	\$300
Port City Playhouse	\$200
Virginia Opera	\$300
Washington Balalaika Society	\$200
Washington Philharmonic Orchestra	<u>\$300</u>
Total	\$5,000

The City of Alexandria requested and received the maximum award amount of \$5,000 for Fiscal Year 2010. The VCA request represents less than 3% of the total funds available for the arts grant program.

The grant award is provided in two payments. The first payment is 75% of the award and includes a partial amount from the City appropriation and all of the Virginia Commission for the Arts funds. The final payment of 25% of the grant award is released after the ACA receives a successful Final Report form.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Virginia Commission for the Arts provides up to \$5,000 under this grant program. The City has identified 100 percent matching funds, in the amount of the grant award, as the cash match in the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Fiscal Year 2011 proposed operating budget.

In addition, the City is also responsible for normal administrative costs associated with this grant. These costs include financial and reporting oversight provided by the administering agency (the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities) as well as the Office of Management and Budget and the Finance Department. It should be noted that no monies are available in the City's Budget to continue these activities once the grant funds are expended.

The grant application may be reviewed in the Office of Management and Budget, Room 3600, City Hall, during normal office hours.

STAFF:

James Spengler, 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