



COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS STAFF REPORT

ITEM NO. 5.4

DATE: July 22, 2025

TO: Chairperson and Members of the Commission for the Arts

FROM: Allen McFarland, Management Analyst II

SUBJECT: Presentation on Mini Grant Outreach Activities and Data Trends from 2022 through the Fourth Quarter of FY 2024/25.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Commission for the Arts receive the presentation on the Mini Grant program's outreach activities and data trends from 2022 through the fourth quarter of FY 24/25 and provide input on strategies to improve applicant engagement.

SUMMARY

During the June 24, 2025, Commission for the Arts meeting, Commissioner Lane initiated a matter to review Mini Grant application engagement and outreach and explore ways to increase engagement. The Commission for the Arts collectively expressed support for bringing this item to a future meeting. This matter is being agendaized for this meeting based on that action.

DISCUSSION

The Mini Grant program is intended to support small scale community-based arts initiatives with awards up to \$1,000. The program is intentionally low barrier which allows for emerging artists and grassroots efforts to participate competitively. Designed to be low barrier, the program encourages participation from emerging artists, grassroots organizations and individuals who may not typically be eligible for traditional grant funding sources. The Mini Grant program is part of the City's broader goal of fostering public art.

This presentation provides a historical overview of the Mini Grant program including its core components and objectives, trends in award distribution and applicant engagement levels from 2022 through the fourth quarter FY 2024/25, and a summary of outreach activities and past Commission action related to increasing awareness of grant opportunities.

As part of ongoing efforts to enhance community awareness and participation, Staff will incorporate Commission feedback into current and future outreach strategies to ensure that the program continues to

align with the Commission's priority of promoting access to arts funding.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Mini Grant Outreach and Data Trends 2022 - 2025 June 1 Application Period

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Management Analyst I