



# Cultural Arts Programs

## *Cultural Arts & Marketing Division*

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**To:** Cultural Affairs Commission  
**Attn:** Dr. Matais Pouncil, Chair  
**From:** Funding Advisory Committee  
**Date:** September 27, 2010

**Re: Second Review / Recommendation to Change 2011 – 2012 Application Calendar to Reflect Budget Cycle**

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### **SUMMARY**

On July 14, 2010, the Funding Advisory Committee (FAC) voted to recommend to the Cultural Affairs Commission a revision to the Cultural Funding Program's application timeline, to take effect in Fiscal Year 2011-2012. The proposed revision to the annual timeline would realign program deadlines to reflect the City's budget adoption cycle, for the ease and convenience of the arts constituency applying for grants, and increased efficiency for City staff.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Acceptance of this recommendation will not result in any new expenditure of City funds.

### **BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on July 14, 2010, the FAC reviewed an issue that has long posed challenges for grantees and staff, and has become a dire problem due to City budget cuts. This is the Cultural Funding Program's practice of operating grant review panels in the spring for Council approval in June, and contracting in late summer-fall with funds that come available in the new fiscal year budget as of July 1. With the precipitous decline of City revenues in the past two years, the relative certainty that the Cultural Funding Program could predict the level of General Purpose Fund (GPF) monies that would be available as the new fiscal year began, based on the budget in past years, is gone. Therefore, Cultural Funding staff and the FAC have concluded that it is both prudent and responsible to realign the grant cycle calendar to reflect the City Council budget process, in order to allocate grant funds once they have been budgeted and not beforehand, speculatively.

The proposed new timeline was widely distributed by Cultural Funding program staff and the Oakland Cultural Trust prior to the July 14, 2010 public meeting of the FAC where the item was approved; there have been no objections and many comments in support from the arts community. The detailed timeline is attached.

**At its meeting on July 26, 2010, the Cultural Affairs Commission expressed concern regarding the impact the adjusted calendar might have in 2011, the first year of**

**implementation, on organizations using City funds to support summer arts services for youth, since in that year only the funding cycle would not include the summer months. The Commission tabled a vote on this item and asked staff to return at the September 27 meeting with a description of how this change might impact arts organizations and the community during the first-year summer funding hiatus. Staff will respond with a verbal presentation at the meeting.**

#### **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

Implementing the new proposed timeline will benefit all grantees and reduce paperwork and stress on City staff. The change will have a one-time effect that may impact potential grantees: no summer activities can be funded in 2011.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Funding Advisory Committee recommends that the Cultural Affairs Commission approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Cultural Funding Program application calendar.

Respectfully submitted,

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Steven Huss  
Cultural Arts Manager

**PROPOSED FY 2011 - 2012 Funding Program Application  
Timeline  
Cultural Funding Program  
Cultural Arts & Marketing Division**

**2011-2012 Cultural Funding Program will support arts and cultural activities occurring in the City of Oakland October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012**

2011-2012 Application Available: February 2011

2011-2012 Application Due: May 2011

Cultural Funding Program Panels: July 2011 (after the yearly budget is passed)

Vote on funding recommendations by Funding Advisory Committee and the Cultural Affairs Commission: August 2011

Vote by Life Enrichment Committee and Oakland City Council: September 2011

Contracts Become Available: October 2011

Contracts Due: November 2011

\*Please note that this calendar change means that no summer activities will be funded in 2011. Support by the Cultural Funding Program for summer activities will resume in summer 2012.