

Community Organization for Seniors

Amount Funded: \$5872

I would fully fund this project (\$5872), as they're not asking for much, and their program does a lot of good. The director has already put so much of their time and money into this project, so it's clear they're passionate and resourceful. I feel that the grant money would be appreciated.

The program serves low income and minority groups, who might not have access to a program like this previously. I also want to note that a lot of other art organizations primarily work with kids, so by working with seniors, they're reaching another neglected group. It also has both mental and physical health benefits for its elderly participants.

The only weakness of this project is potentially the planned bookbinding activity. It's specific and would require some amount of skill, so it might not be as interesting or relaxing for everyone. Plus, some elders might not have a full range of motion in their hands and might struggle with the process. When I first looked at this program, I wasn't going to fund it as much as I did. What changed my mind was how passionate the director is and how beneficial the program could be to the health of elders.

Visual Artists Project

Amount Funded: \$18000

I would also fully fund the Visual Artists Organization (\$18000). It's a lot of money, but this organization has the widest outreach. It provides kids motor and educational skills that can help them in their academics, which is especially needed, as this area has low graduation rates. It also helps provide low income families with after school care, which allows the parents to stay at work longer without having to leave early or arrange their schedules to pick up the kids. I think this organization could be a lifeline for some families; it could provide the support they need.

The program does seem to be struggling financially, which could either mean they really need the grant, or that it's too risky to give them the grant. They have plans to do a fundraiser though, and I think the program will do enough good for a lot of people, that they deserve a chance.

When I read the beginning of the proposal in class, I already felt that I would fully fund it. The rest of the proposal just reaffirmed my decision, although I am a little worried about their finances.

Choral Ensemble

Amount Funded: \$5000

I think the Choral Ensemble is definitely worthy of funding. Their project gets students involved in a creative and high quality combination of visual art and performance. The tickets are extremely affordable, especially for families, and it takes place in December, which makes it a fun and memorable holiday activity. It's even educational and prioritizes diversity. But, I don't think it should get the full \$17000 they're asking for. In the proposal, they mentioned that they're widely recognized by many prominent organizations, which could be a better source of funding. Also, they've released recordings of their performances on iTunes and Amazon, which were best sellers, proving that they're capable of building their own financial cushion. I think the Choral Ensemble is accomplished enough that they could find their own sources of funding, so I would only give about \$5000.

Another reason I'm wary of giving them too much grant money, is that their project sounds specific and complicated. It involves a lot of people and has a lot of moving parts. I would look at the company's previous productions to see how well they handled those. It's also a long show of classical music, which might not be appealing for their family audience (I think this show would only work during the holidays).

Dance Company

Amount Funded: \$4000

With the Dance Company, I think I would only give them about \$4000. They seem to do good work, and are providing a service and entertainment to the community, but not much else. They aren't doing anything extraordinary that would

demand much grant funding. They just show performances from professionals, and occasionally have little events that involve the community. I do think their plan to send their festival artists out to the community is interesting and fun. Besides that, I think the company is better off raising funds from individuals and local businesses that are passionate about what they do. I don't think they should be a priority for grant funding.

Theatre Company

Amount Funded: \$4000

When I read the first part of the proposal in class, I didn't want to give any funding to the Theatre Company, as I felt their program was too specific with not much of an impact. However, I now see that this company is making an original show with cultural relevance to their area, which is growing their reputation as an arts destination. If I were a city or government official, I would see this as a good funding opportunity to grow that reputation and potentially attract tourists. They also are providing affordable entertainment, and even have worked with other nonprofits to provide tickets to the homeless. The theatre company is very good with money, so I know the grant money would not be wasted.

But, since they are so resourceful, I would only fund about \$4000, instead of the full amount. Especially since this specific show is so heavily intertwined with the prominent family and local museums, I feel like they have other options of potential funding.

With the show focusing on a real family from history, who's descendants are still alive and are prominent in the area, I worry that could cause issues. What's the general opinion people have of the family? "Prominent" to me implies wealth and/or political ties, and with the company's core demographic being low-income, the show might not be appealing or well received. The proposal does mention that the descendants are contributing and charitable members of the community, though, so that might not be an issue.