

The following information is in response to CMO Questions, regarding Cultural Arts Funding, following EDD's FY 2018-19 Requests for Budget Proposals.

Program Description:

The Cultural Arts Funding Program supports projects and activities in all disciplines that provide quality arts and cultural programming to the Austin community and the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction. Applications are reviewed in a competitive process and assigned scores by discipline-specific peer review panels.

Program Awards Process:

The peer review panels are comprised of artists, arts administrators, or other individuals with a knowledge or appreciation of the arts. A slate of potential panelists is approved by the Arts Commission. Cultural Arts staff then selects panel members with the objective of having diverse panels. Most panelists are from Austin, with only 8 of this year's 80 panelists being from out of town. Panelists include members of the LGBTQ community. In Fiscal Year 17-18, EDD's Cultural Funding peer panels had an ethnic composition of 14% Asian, 28% Black, 23% Hispanic, as well as 2 multi-ethnic panelists, 1 Native American, and 1 Pacific Islander.

The panel scores the applications but does not determine a dollar amount. Instead, scores high enough to receive funding (75 or above on a 100-point scale) are plugged in to a funding matrix to determine award amounts. The parameters of the funding matrix are voted on by the Arts Commission, the Cultural Funding budget is adopted by City Council as part of the official City budget, and then City Council approves all awards over City Manager authority before the new fiscal year.

Awards:

The maximum award amount for each applicant depends on the funding program in which they apply. Maximum awards are broken down as follows:

- Cultural Heritage Festivals - \$100,000
- Core, Organizational Support - \$250,000
- Core, Project Support I - \$175,000
- Core, Project Support II - \$30,000
- Core, Project Support III - \$20,000
- Community Initiatives - \$5,000
- Capacity Building - \$2,500

Through the program design, EDD strives to ensure equity for Cultural Funding recipients. In addition to adding questions to this year's scoring criteria related to cultural equity, EDD staff also recently instituted the Culturally Specific Marketing Supplement and the African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, and Native American (ALAANA) Modifier. The Culturally Specific Marketing Supplement is a funding award, which does not require a match, for culturally specific applicants to spend on marketing and audience development. The ALAANA Modifier is applied to boost the budgets of ALAANA applicants. Since awards are based in part on an applicant's budget size, applying this modifier can result in a larger award.

For FY 2016-17, the most recent year for which we have complete data, award breakdowns by ethnicity were as follows (please note that ethnicities are self-identified, so the City can only report what is selected by the applicants):

Total awarded:	\$10,872,371
Asian:	\$285,223 (2.62%)
Black:	\$391,033 (3.60%)
Hispanic:	\$1,056,366 (9.72%)
Majority Minority:	\$426,140 (3.92%)
Native American:	\$107,429 (0.99%)
Pacific Islander:	\$8,800 (0.08%)
White:	\$5,928,870 (54.53%)
No group over 50%:	\$2,668,510 (24.54%)