

Creative Washtenaw & AAPAC - Mini Grant

Quick recap

The meeting focused on exploring a partnership between Creative Washtenaw and the City of Ann Arbor to administer a public art grant program funded by the Ann Arbor Art and Public Places Endowment Fund, which currently has approximately \$25,000 in spendable money generating \$5,000 annually through interest. Chloe confirmed Creative Washtenaw has the capacity and interest to help administer the program, though their staff is currently lean. The group discussed how the program would work, with Creative Washtenaw handling administration and sending proposals to the Public Art Commission for review and approval. Mary and Sarah agreed to draft a proposal with a mock timeline and detailed roles and responsibilities, while Chloe will review past contracts and compare them to Creative Washtenaw's proposed structure. The discussion also touched on the need for legal team coordination between the city and Creative Washtenaw to establish the proper contract structure.

Next steps

- Mary and Sarah: Draft a proposal for Creative Washtenaw outlining a mock timeline, roles and responsibilities, and structure for the public art mini-grant program, including considerations for RFQ/RFP, eligible participants, and administrative responsibilities.
- Chloe: Review the proposal from Mary and Sarah and compare it to previous Creative Washtenaw grant contracts to help develop an appropriate structure and contract for this partnership.
- Chloe: Follow up with Nat (accountant) regarding the 1099 for Tree Town Murals for 2026.
- Chloe: Email Mary to gauge her interest in participating in the State Street District Art Fair jury.
- Mary: Respond to Chloe's email about participation in the State Street District Art Fair jury.
- Christopher: Facilitate connection between City of Ann Arbor legal team and Creative Washtenaw legal team to clarify legal/contractual requirements for the grant administration partnership.

Ann Arbor Art Grant Program

Mary and Christopher discussed a mini-grant program funded by the Ann Arbor Art and Public Places Endowment Fund, which has approximately \$25,000 in spendable money and generates \$5,000 annually from interest. Chloe, representing Creative Washtenaw, expressed interest in administering the grant program, noting their experience with regranting and their lean staff

capacity. The group agreed to explore the logistics of the program further, with the goal of structuring it to be sustainable and long-lasting.

Public Art Program Partnership Discussion

Christopher explained that the city lacks administrative capacity to manage a public art program and is seeking a partner to handle grant administration, artist calls, and other logistical tasks. Chloe clarified that Creative Washtenaw would serve as a facilitator rather than a full grant manager, and Christopher confirmed that the Public Art Commission would retain decision-making authority over approved proposals.

Creative Washtenaw Partnership Proposal

Mary and Sarah plan to draft a proposal for Creative Washtenaw, including a mock timeline and roles and responsibilities, to present to Chloe. They aim to have their first call out this fall and are considering partnering with Creative Washtenaw to handle aspects like advertising the call and reviewing applications. Chloe agreed this aligns with their mission and capacity.

Grant Program Implementation Discussion

The group discussed implementing a grant program, with Sarah and Mary proposing to offer grants twice a year, potentially starting with a larger initial grant. Chloe suggested using their website to manage the grants without external software. Sarah shared a donation link through the Ann Arbor Community Foundation, noting that while donors have contributed in the past, recent years have seen less frequent giving. Christopher mentioned that legal teams from both organizations would need to collaborate on contract details.

Project Contract Structure Discussion

Christopher and Chloe discussed the contract structure for a project, noting that due to its lower budget, it doesn't require a City Council resolution but would need city attorney approval. Chloe mentioned that Mary and Sarah would formalize the project structure, which she would then compare to past contracts to create a suitable agreement. The team expressed excitement about the collaboration and the opportunity to restore a local focus to their work.

Art Fair Planning and Updates

Chloe discussed her travel and the weather, and Mary assured her that the rescheduled happy hour would work out. They briefly talked about a 1099 form that might be coming to Tree Town Murals, which Chloe said she would follow up on with Nat. Chloe also mentioned putting together a State Street district art fair jury and asked for Mary's interest, which Mary confirmed.