

**December Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**300 Park Ave South, New York, NY**  
**December 5, 2017**  
**10:30AM-11:10AM**

Meeting called to order at 10:30AM by Chair, Dr. Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel.

Welcome & Introduction provided by Chair, Dr. Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel.

**Multi-Disciplinary Arts Chair Richard Mittenthal:**

Good afternoon, I am pleased to chair this meeting for the Multidisciplinary Arts Committee.

The programs that will be presenting funding recommendations today are Dance, Individual Artists and Regional Economic Development Council Initiative, or REDC.

First, we have a recommendation from the Dance program. I will refer to Deputy Director Megan White for these particular recommendations.

Deputy Director of Programs Megan White: In the Dance program, there was an applicant that declined funds for FY18 due to scheduling conflicts. The program has recommended those declined funds be reallocated to two worthy projects that were initially funded below the request amount. These are two requests, totaling \$48,000.

If there is no further discussion, I would like to motion that we accept the recommendations made by the Dance Program. Is there a second?

I would like to ask Deputy Director of Programs Megan White if there are any conflicts?

No conflicts to enter for the record.

All those in favor?

Any Opposed?

Motion passed unanimously.

Mittenthal: Next is **Individual Artists**.

**WELCOME and STAFF INTRODUCTION:**

Program Director Arian Blanco: I want to thank Program Directors Robert Baron, Kathleen Masterson and Leanne Tintori Wells as well as colleagues Debbie Lim and Rita Putnam.

Also a big thank you for the inspired hard and detailed work of our Program Officer Orin Chait, Administrative Associate Omar Estrada and Temporary Staff Associate Will McDermott. Without their dedicated service to the IND Program, the successful completion of our work would have simply not been possible given this year's compressed application review schedule.

**IND PROGRAM INTRODUCTION:**

NYSCA's Individual Artist Program or IND Program has the distinct mission of offering independent, unaffiliated, maverick artists the opportunity to apply via fiscal sponsor for funds that directly supports their artistic pursuit in the creation of new work. It is the only NYSCA

program that is exclusively dedicated to providing direct funding opportunities to the actual art maker. While these grant dollars represent a very small part of NYSCA's overall grant portfolio they are a key component to furthering the artistic excellence, variety and vibrancy of New York State's citizen artists.

### **IND PROGRAM ALLOCATION OVERVIEW:**

And now for the heart of the matter...The overall FY18 budget for the Individual Artists Program is \$1,359,600. This allocation is slightly higher than last year given a one-time transfer of \$31,423 from the REDC Program. With this transfer, I am happy to report that every application recommended for funding is being recommended at their full request. This year, a total of 228 applications registered intents to apply of which 194 went before Panel and 87 are being recommended for funding for an overall 45% funding success ratio.

### **IND PROGRAM CATEGORY SUMMARIES:**

#### ***Category Overview:***

Support is currently provided in the form of Commissions in the areas of Dance- Choreography, Music-Composition and Theatre-Artists. Additionally, Film, Media and New Technology Production support is also provided.

Each category is reviewed by a separate discipline specific Panel. Panelists rate each proposal for artistic merit, as demonstrated by the application; the media work samples, the feasibility of the project and the artist's credentials. Funding recommendations are then assigned based on IND Program allocation & Panel ratings for artistic quality only.

Dance Choreography Commissions are an exception as they are rated along all three criteria given that these requests are more closely integrated into the programming of the sponsoring applicant.

The Media production category awards range from \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$25,000 and our commission categories range from \$2,500 up to a maximum of \$10,000.

#### **IND Composer Composition Commission:**

For IND-Composer Composition Commissions we reviewed 41 requests of which 23 are being recommended for funding. Total funding for this category is \$219,750.

Support is recommended for composer commissions that encompass a broad range of genres – opera, electronic music, jazz, chamber music as well as scores for dance and theatre.

Full funding is recommended for all requests rated 6.7 or higher.

#### **IND Film, Media and New Technology Production:**

For IND-Film, Media and New Technology Production we reviewed 113 requests of which 41 are being recommended for funding. Total funding for this category is \$924,700.

Projects recommended for support include a variety of documentaries, narrative films, media and audio art installations, radio, interactive-digital technology, as well as experimental works.

Full funding is recommended for all requests rated 5.5 or higher.

**IND Theater Artist Commission:**

For IND-Theater Artist Commissions we reviewed 31 requests of which 15 are being recommended for funding. Total funding for this category is \$140,150.

Commissions recommended for support include works by Designers, Directors, Playwrights and Performance Artists.

Full funding is recommended for all requests rated 5.0 or higher.

**IND Dance Commission:**

For IND-DNC Commissions we reviewed 9 requests of which 8 are being recommended for funding. Total funding for this category is \$65,000.

Support is recommended for dance choreographers in a variety of dance forms including: Traditional and Experimental Modern Dance.

Full funding is recommended for all requests rated 6.5 or higher.

THIS COMPLETES OUR PRESENTATION FOR THIS YEAR'S NYSCA IND PROGRAM.

Mittenthal: If there is no further discussion, I would like to motion that we accept the recommendations made by the Individual Artists Program. Is there a second?

I would like to ask Deputy Director of Programs Megan White if there are any conflicts?

White: We note for the record the following conflicts:

1. Hal Payne for Arts Services Initiative of Western New York, Inc
2. John Morning for Henry Street Settlement
3. Richard Mittenthal for The Symphony Space Inc

Mittenthal: All those in favor?

Any Opposed?

Motion passed unanimously.

Next is the **Regional Economic Development Councils Initiative, or REDC.**

Before we begin discussion of the REDC program, please note that due to the timing of the Governors announcement of the awards and in alignment with direction received from the Executive Chamber.

- the recommendations for REDC are being shared on paper copies only
- these copies will be collected at the end of the meeting
- all information regarding results will be embargoed until the Gov. announcement, and

- when referring to an applicant, please utilize the numbers on the left of the page and do not refer to them by name.

### **WELCOME and STAFF INTRODUCTION:**

Program Director Arian Blanco: I want to firstly thank Program Officer Orin Chait and Temporary Staff Associate Will McDermott for their extraordinary; above and beyond the call of duty efforts in working with me to effectively accomplish every required facet of this year's Regional Economic Development Council or "REDC" Initiative.

Additionally; I would be remised if I don't also acknowledge literally the rest of our NYSCA staff including our program officers, directors and operations staff! A high touch, high volume initiative that is the Regional Economic Development Council, truly requires the talents of many to effectively run.

### **REDC INITIATIVE INTRODUCTION:**

NYSCA's REDC Initiative seeks to make high impact grants for new, bold programs and hires that are distinct from the applicant's current programs or staffing mix. Successful projects demonstrate significant economic and community development impact and position arts and culture at the core of local economic development efforts.

### **REDC INITIATIVE ALLOCATION OVERVIEW:**

And now for this year's REDC Initiative recommendations:

### **NYSCA Arts and Cultural Initiatives:**

**The FY18 budget for our NYSCA REDC Arts and Cultural Initiatives was level from last year at \$5M of which we awarded a total of \$4,967,910 in REDC funds.**

This year, a total of 223 applications registered intents to apply of which 206 went before Panel and 97 are earmarked for funding for an overall funding success ratio of 44%.

Funding was recommended for select applicants throughout the 10 regions and in all our three grant categories:

- **Workforce Readiness.**
- **Arts & Cultural Impact Programming.**
- **Workforce Investment.**

Each application is concurrently reviewed and rated by both the agency it applies to and the local Regional Economic Development Council the project takes place in. An applicant's overall rating is based on a 100-point scale that is weighted as 80% of the agency (NYSCA) and 20% of its local REDC rating. Funding recommendations in each of the three Initiatives grant categories was determined based on the applicant's region and its combined rating.

The following rubric or rational was used to determine the FY18 award list before you today:

***For NYC Region:***

Ratings of 100-74 are recommended for full funding of the request amount rounded to the nearest \$25.

***For All Other Regions:***

Ratings of 100-69 are recommended for full funding of the request amount rounded to the nearest \$25.

**NYSCA/ESD Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement INITIATIVE:**

This year for the first time NYSCA co-administered in conjunction with the Empire State Development our latest REDC Initiative called the NYSCA/ESD Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement Initiative.

The Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement Initiative is a capital grant program established to strengthen tourism; promote business development, and improve the quality, efficiency and accessibility of New York State arts and cultural organizations through targeted investments. Each funded proposal will work to support the long term strategic plans for economic growth as put forth by its local Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs). Minimum requests begin at \$500,000.

**The FY18 budget for our one-time REDC Arts & Cultural Facilities Improvement Initiative was set at \$20M by the state legislature of which the total amount is being awarded.**

A total of 87 applications registered intents to apply of which 74 went before Panel and 22 are earmarked for funding for an overall funding success ratio of 25%.

The following rubric or rational was used to determine the FY18 award list before you today:

**Funding Rational for Facilities Initiative:**

Funding was recommended for select applicants throughout all 10 regions. Combined overall rating of 82 or higher is recommended for full funding of requested amount rounded to the nearest \$10,000. One applicant with a combined overall rating of 81 is recommended for 75% of requested amount.

This completes our Presentation for this year's NYSCA REDC INITIATIVE.

Mittenthal: If there is no further discussion, I would like to motion that we accept the recommendations made by the REDC Initiative.

I would like to ask Deputy Director of Programs Megan White if there are any conflicts?

White: We note for the record the following conflicts –

1. Rita Paniagua for CNY Arts Inc
2. Laura Aswad for New York City Center, Inc

Motion passed unanimously.