

CDF Grantees Round Table 2

March 1, 2017

DCLA

Nisha (HSC)	Voices of Ascensions
Risa (Spaceworks, NOCD-NY)	La Migra Theater
Tom, DCLA (partial)	Arts & Business Council
Kristi, DCLA (partial)	Freestyle Rep Theater
Eddie, DCLA	Universal Temple of Arts
Nadia, DCLA	Angel
Emily, DCLA Programs	Ifetayo
Kathi, DCLA Programs	SAY
Anthony, DCLA Programs	Olde Stone House
Ladan, DCLA Programs	NYFA
Samantha, DCLA Programs	AAAA
Stacey, DCLA Programs	Gay & Lesbian Circus

- Risa provides introduction to the CP and summary of timeline, process, upcoming events, process in which to engage, provide feedback, and give recommendations. Nisha – welcomes chance to listen to the group as part of the approach of listening to all New Yorkers in a variety of forums.
- Kathi – all budgets under \$2M, only 2 over \$1M; similar to group yesterday. Several have received multi-year funding; all were successful FY17 CDF grantees;
 - Q: understand how other funders support orgs? What impact does DCLA have for your organization – leveraging other funds? Best practices to emulate from the field? Understand the lifecycle of CDF funding?
- Primarily serve communities historically underserved (Brownsville), open spaces, senior centers, public spaces, etc. This is very expensive – but to serve underserved areas, this is where we need to be doing programs, activities. The application process should more prioritize the cost of doing business in these areas with higher rates of operating.
 - Length of success and continual operation of organization should be factored into ability

- to be in longer, multi-year grants from DCLA
 - We have 3-yr grant from NYSCA, this is due to DCLA funding, but proven track record should place us into multi-year cycle more directly, or apropos
- Good Housekeeping seal of approval – seal of success and stability, being on the 3 year cycle is very helpful.
 - Agree, when calling other funders, they ask who else is supporting. DCLA funding is impressive to leverage support from other funders, private and individual.
- For small organizations, it is very labor intensive to go through the application process without knowing whether there is multi-year funding coming to your org. The one-year cycle has hindered our planning or long-term events. Budget under 250K – we need to know CDF decision earlier or have only multi-year once track record is established.
- We have under 100K budget – we’ve had multi-year from NYSCA and this really helps us plan programs and leverage funding from other sources bc we have secured the reliability of multi-year.
 - Q TF:What if you get locked in to a multi-year at a lower rate?
 - I agree that this can be problematic, I also agree that perpetual grant writing in between running programs. I don’t find grant writing to be too difficult or cumbersome.
 - We are at the 350K level, the multi-year is fundamental for our size, the amount of money we get year to year is not so extra that I’ll take the extra burden of writing grants each year.
- Ifetayo, over 1M – 28 years in operation, very diverse funding, DCLA, NYSCA, corporate, other. My issue is related to the systemic, historic under investment of support and funding for orgs by POCs. How will the cultural plan do this? The Mayor is calling for this in equity statements,
 - Process, panels, etc. – larger orgs are guaranteed funds (CIG); smaller orgs need to jump through a lot of hoops to get the funding. When will the funding rise to match the efforts we go through? The funding levels are not equal. When will this be addressed?
 - BCC initiative – the priorities of the City should reflect the programs around diversity, equity, inclusion. More representative arts leadership, it seems these are outside the other DCLA funding priorities – not reflected in increased funding for orgs doing work in underserved, -served, -resourced, most needy service locations.
 - Re-granting we find to be a successful way to provide resources to the cultural orgs doing community-resident-facing arts and culture programming.
 - Diversifying of the CIG – democratization of the capital budget – these are in better places then where they were previously. (e.g Weeksville capital project)
 - Answer to whether Equity will be addressed in the Cultural Plan –there will be a set of draft recommendations upon which the public can comment and critique. These issue will be on the table in the draft.
 - Another issue that comes up at every meeting is affordability and displacement – and this is an issue for residents, artists yes, but also for cultural organizations. We are hearing these issues – we are open to getting more recommendations.
 - Since this will be a framework for arts and culture for NYC – I hope we will address this historic inequity; the Cultural Plan needs to being to identify more, expanded, other resources for support since this is the framework for the

future.

- The weight of approval DCLA granting has is major, also the presence of DCLA staff / leadership at events are major leverage points.
 - Mid-career professional development, Diversity Survey – the whitest job in NYC is curator. We recognize this is something we need to deal with better.
 - CUNY Cultural Corps. Paid internships in cultural institutions, CIG year one, CDF groups year two.
- NYFA Broad guidelines – other funders change guidelines, we've received funding consistently and then nothing based on new guidelines or different priorities. With DCLA, there is a flexibility that most other funders do not have – as the funding structures
- AAAA benefits of the multi-year is greater than any potential loss (350K org) demonstrating stability is most important. I wish the application process wasn't so duplicative
- General Operating Funds (GOS) – program funding can be difficult, are we going to deal with the issue of GOS for orgs owned and operated by POC? The funding inequity between the large orgs (CIGs) who are white, euro centric, and not diverse and smaller, culturally explicit, POC run, POC facing and serving.
- Leadership Fellows with NYCT – lack of diverse rep in many cultural orgs and NFP generally. How can DCLA cultivate more leadership opportunities for POC at these orgs? Having served on a panel a few times, I think the DCLA process is fair, equitable, democratic based on what is on the paper. Two days of discussion and then determining how to spread the amount of resources across so many organizations. Recommendation >> more advocacy around the amount of resources, moneys for CDF grantees. The amount is not responsive to the amount of breadth or depth of service quality, consistency, and arts provision. The priority measurement is growth and numbers served. This is not the only factor of measurement, and we find larger orgs are valued higher simply based on numbers served in a vacuum.
- Funding priority from CDF should respond to the City prioritization of particular neighborhoods (BCC)
 - Look at amount of money going through the pool of resources granted through re-grant programs (Arts councils, etc.)
 - New Immigrant Initiatives through Council - \$5.4M is great, but absolutely NOT transparent or equitable.
- Best Practice – DYCD leadership and capacity building training, professionalize org
 - Application process not great, DCLA is much more streamlined, can these efforts be more combined?
- Panel Process:
 - Mid-sized – only 15K, extremely important to leverage for other organizations, grew at received more at the 3 year cycle. Many orgs receive minimal funding.
 - Panel process is extremely fair, democratic, and equitable. Struggle with limited amount of funding available to distribute to all these very deserving organizations
 - Bringing together diverse cross-section of people. One of the things panelists are thinking about is how critical DCLA funding is to strength and continuity of orgs success.

Panels are trying to make sure we don't cut funding bc of how critical the funding is for other purposes, creates the opportunity to

- Is the solution taking away some funding from larger orgs, with stronger futures to add more to the smaller orgs who rely on the validation and approval for finding more funding in other spaces?
 - Or is the solution deep, serious advocacy for increased funding to these organizations doing critical work that does serve diverse communities with diverse notions of culture?
 - Where is the equity? There is equity in the process in the DCLA panel process for small, mid and orgs owned and operated by POC. Is there equity outside of this silo within the City?
- **Role of City Council in cultural org funding through designations, member items, and initiatives:**
 - \$60M total from Council and CDF; \$70M total to CIG for programs (not energy) – DCLA administer funds, Council delegates directly
 - Part of the growth of our org has been due to the Council discretionary designations, understand why some may see it as unfair – I fear that orgs that have built infrastructure through the CM relationships and funds will suffer greatly. These relationships allow for prioritization of effectively executed programs which are regionally specific and more attuned to needs of communities and the orgs working in those events.
 - For smaller orgs, it is very time consuming to have to keep doing those updates, meetings, etc. with CMs. There is never a declination process – can't plan for anything effectively this way. Formalize this process a little more would be great. Keep it local, the local benefits are important.
 - 160K org (4 grants from DCLA), applied in districts, and sometimes borough wide. It is very hard to break into the ranks. Between 16-17, not a single new group received funding. The process has been quite disillusioning – not enough funding, and CMs really only fund the usual suspects.
 - We do a lot of shows around different neighborhoods, but we don't even know how to being making inroads. We just put it aside and don't engage at all.
 - Is there some kind of toolkit to help orgs navigate this process – some kind of relationship building with ED, Board and CM? Where do you start? What if you go across multiple districts or even boroughs? Help new orgs learn to swim.
 - In Brownsville, our member funding has been critical to sustain our org as our DCLA funding has decreased over the past few years. Relationships have been difficult. It takes time to educate the CMs about arts and culture, but once you get them on your team, you're in. >> It would be easier to make the applications more similar, streamline all the different kinds of applications to less burden these extremely hard working orgs without any slack.
 - We operate within a naturally occurring cultural district. As a united front, we host an elected, representative, legislative breakfast collaboratively and find the CMs attend and we can really build good relationships with them.
 - It feels like there is really an opportunity costs to determine where to place efforts in

engaging CMs. We serve youth in 30 districts – a toolkit for who to talk to, who to reach out to, to help us navigate this process and etc. A lot of this feels really happenstance.

- Working with Council feels a lot like individual fundraising.
- Every Cm has a community liaison, they are key folks with whom to cultivate relationships to acquire discretionary funding.
- We are a very small, Latino theater org, discretionary funding is really important for our org. We grew from 1 program to 3 due to this CM funding. It would be helpful for DCLA to help cultivate this funding in some way.
- We are often invited to events our local CM hosts – she wants a variety of events for constituents to participate in as the event is happening. A lot of the members are coming from community or NFP work. Their staff are champions for community-based work, plug into this.
 - Staten Island CMs are very organized in terms of pre-CDF application process trainings and discretionary pots of money. Best practice for all CMs to have so the public can have transparency in
 - Big Discretionary funding meeting this year – very helpful to learn about all the different initiatives. Talk about how to grow the areas together, orgs and CMs. CASA funds, etc.
 - We often go into schools to do programming, and if we don't have CASA funding (and SU CASA) we approach CMs for CASA funds to STAY IN THOSE SCHOOLS – often they are not aware of these things.
- Because of the smoother grantmaking process with DCLA, it has become difficult to access matching dollars when CDF and discretionary funding are tied together.
 - More work for not more pay (including the Council Initiatives being folded into DCLA admin) is also not ideal. It seems like a win-win for all to decouple Initiatives and CDF funding.
 - Data Arts – DCLA stay in Data Arts process, builds to a larger cultural measurement goal
 - With single administrator orgs with only part-time help, DATA ARTS is extremely burdensome.
- A few times, CIG or large org has reached out to include our org in events/programs – is there a way to incentivize or prioritize relationships with smaller orgs bc otherwise it will remain a disparate (sometimes unequal or exploitative) relationship. This would make a huge difference.
- Focus Groups with individual artists, way to incorporate all City processes – one place to find all information about employment opportunities, CM discretionary funding, etc. All transactions with City agencies. Also just one application process – store information online in City repository. DCLA not necessarily taking this on without more Admin money – but DCLA has best and most fair process in terms of grant moneys. How can this be modeled and expanded across the City and consolidated as the ONLY process for all applications.
- Went through DOHMH (HHS accelerator) pre-qualification, why doesn't this help my org when applying for other grants? NYSCA? Something meta-level!
 - Orgs will not administer RFP on regular website, only for groups who have the capacity to follow through the HHS accelerator process.

- **Ways to create synergies between DOE, DYCD, DCLA???** That would be GREAT!
 - **DCLA needs to be the leader in this bc you know us and can be the relationship broker.**
 - **At DFTA and DYCD consultant has different meaning, definition.**
 - **Paperwork never stops, please streamline this. All work is going into admin and we can't do the work.**
 - **If the whole process could be done online, that would be so helpful. Much more efficient.**
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- **The Cultural Plan needs to be the beginning of a new process for cultural support.**

