

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

July 10, 2017

12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Members of the California Arts Council will convene telephonically to discuss and vote on the agenda items below. The public may observe and comment upon the proceedings at any of the following locations:

California Arts Council
1300 I Street, Suite 930
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-6556

KCET
2900 W. Alameda Ave.
Suite 500
Burbank, CA 91505
(747) 201-5762

War Memorial Performing Arts Complex
401 Van Ness Ave, Room 125
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 621-6600

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Call to Order | D. Harris |
| 2. | Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum | M. Moscoso |
| 3. | Cultural Districts State Designation— <i>Voting Item</i> | C. Fitzwater |
| 4. | Review of Grant Appeal—Reentry through the Arts | A. Kiburi |
| 5. | Public Comment | D. Harris |

Notes:

1. All times indicated and the orders of business are approximate and subject to change.
2. **Any item listed on the Agenda is subject to possible Council action.**
3. The CAC retains the right to convene an advisory committee meeting pursuant to Government Code Sec. 11125 (d).
4. Council meetings are open to the public and are held in barrier-free facilities that are accessible to those with physical disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need additional reasonable accommodations, please make your request no later than five (5) business days before the meeting. Please direct your request to the Administrative Analyst, Mariana Moscoso, at (916) 322-6335 or mariana.moscoso@arts.ca.gov.
5. Public testimony is time limited. Please make concise remarks.

To: Council Members

**From: Ayanna Kiburi, Interim Director
Caitlin Fitzwater, Director of Public Affairs & Interim Cultural Districts
Program Coordinator**

Date: July 10, 2017

Re: California Cultural Districts – Designation Recommendation

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Council approve designation of 14 applicants as California Cultural Districts. Designation will be granted for five years per state legislation. Additionally, districts will participate in a two-year pilot program, receiving a \$5,000 technical assistance stipend per year for two years to support pilot program participation (\$10,000 total).

Program Overview: Summary Recap

The California Arts Council’s development of the California Cultural Districts program has required a unique approach. As a reminder, the CAC’s responsibility to certify state cultural districts is legislatively mandated (AB 189) and has no state-designated funding. Additionally, the program does not fall under the Council’s standard procedures, as it is not a grant program but a program awarding state designation. This is new territory for the CAC. The exact role of the Council is unique and differs from the prescribed role in developing grantmaking policies and awards. However, it is still critical for the Council to stay abreast of and involved in the program and process. The Council will review and approve state designation for the recommended final districts via telephonic meeting on July 10, 2017.

The approach to designate the first pilot group of state cultural districts has required a “hybrid” strategy, employing both existing CAC best practices, such as public listening meetings and peer review panels, and new strategies, such as the utilization of expert consultants in the development of program policies. This designation process also included use of a three-step application process, including an open application/letter of intent phase, peer panel review, and site visits. (Complete details on the program development process, timeline, and procedures were included in the May 2017 Council book.)

Panel Review, Site Visits & Final Application Process

As a reminder, a review panel evaluated the applications April 17-19 in Sacramento, grouped by geographic context (urban, suburban, and rural). The panel was responsible for narrowing the field to a representative group of 22 semifinalists to proceed to the site-visit phase of the application process.

The primary purpose of the site visits was to meet with applicants, local community members and artists; tour the district; confirm the information provided in the application; and gather additional insights for the final selection process. The site-visit phase was used to observe firsthand and eliminate districts where substantial further local cohesion, development, and or/planning is needed. Twenty-two site visits were conducted by multiple CAC staff from May 8 to June 5. Several Council Members participated as observers of site visits.

Based on the results of the site visits and the panel's initial evaluation, a diverse group of 14 finalists were invited to submit additional application materials for final review.

Recommended Districts: Statistics

The 14 districts recommended for state designation represent a broad diversity of California – geographically, culturally, and artistically – as set forth by the program goals and values. Some statistics for the 14 recommended districts include:

- 7 urban districts, 4 rural districts, and 3 suburban districts
- 1 cultural production district, 4 cultural heritage districts, and 9 cultural production and consumption districts
- Districts from the following state regions:
 - o North Coast
 - o Shasta Cascade
 - o Gold Country
 - o High Sierra
 - o San Francisco Bay Area
 - o Deserts
 - o Los Angeles
 - o San Diego

Attachments

Attachments to this memo include the [list, descriptions, and map of finalists recommended for designation](#), as well as a list of semifinalists not recommended for designation.



California Cultural Districts – Finalists Recommended for Designation

The following districts are recommended for designation:

District Name	Context	Region	City	County
Balboa Park Cultural District	Urban	San Diego	San Diego	San Diego
Barrio Logan Cultural District	Urban	San Diego	San Diego	San Diego
Downtown San Rafael Cultural District	Suburban	San Francisco Bay Area	San Rafael	Marin
Rotten City - Emeryville Cultural Arts District	Urban	San Francisco Bay Area	Emeryville	Alameda
Eureka Arts and Culture District	Rural	North Coast	Eureka	Humboldt
Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District	Rural	Gold Country	Grass Valley & Nevada City	Nevada
Little Tokyo	Urban	Los Angeles	Los Angeles	Los Angeles
Oceanside Cultural District	Suburban	San Diego	Oceanside	San Diego
Redding Cultural District	Rural	Shasta Cascade	Redding	Shasta
San Pedro Cultural District	Urban	Los Angeles	San Pedro	Los Angeles
SOMA Pilipinas	Urban	San Francisco Bay Area	San Francisco	San Francisco
The BLVD Cultural District	Suburban	Deserts	Lancaster	Los Angeles
The Calle 24 Latino Cultural District	Urban	San Francisco Bay Area	San Francisco	San Francisco
Truckee Cultural District	Rural	High Sierra	Truckee	Nevada



2017 California Cultural Districts Finalists



California Cultural Districts – Finalists Recommended for Designation



The following districts are recommended for designation:

District: Balboa Park Cultural District

Context: Urban
Region: San Diego
City: San Diego
County: San Diego

Balboa Park’s 1,200 acres are home to more than 100 nonprofit and community organizations. Developed more than a century ago, this multifaceted area is known as a natural and cultural destination, with lush gardens and iconic architecture. The Park hosts 17 museums, numerous performing arts venues and organizations, 65 miles of hiking trails, a public golf course, and the San Diego Zoo. Balboa Park draws more than 14 million residents and tourists each year.

Balboa Park tells the stories of San Diego’s collective history. The beautiful, walkable campus is a rich cultural resource and the central hub for art, science, and history within the region. Its greatest strength lies in the sheer number of cultural organizations within it, reflecting a diversity of disciplines, and providing a variety of accessible immersion opportunities for visitors and locals alike.

District: Barrio Logan Cultural District

Context: Urban
Region: San Diego
City: San Diego
County: San Diego
Note: Cultural Heritage District

In 1970, a group of Chicano studies students took a stand to fight for park space in the Barrio Logan neighborhood of San Diego. Chicano Park was born, and today its 79 historic murals make it a National Historic Landmark and the heart of the Barrio Logan Cultural District. The park also serves as venue for a multitude of community, arts and cultural events, including low-rider car shows, Azteca dance and drumming groups.

Barrio Logan has taken a nod from its Chicano Park hub, with a rich cultural tradition that often reflects the same motifs of collaborative strength and battles for social justice. The surrounding area features a slew of artist collectives, galleries, eateries, and shops. A stretch just east of the park includes a variety of galleries, cafes and breweries that showcase local art and collaborate to spearhead events such as the Barrio Art Crawl.

Barrio Logan is driven by a grassroots coalition of artists, community leaders, residents, and business owners who embody culture and are passionate about preserving it while staying relevant. For an authentic experience of Chicano culture, visit Barrio Logan.

District: Downtown San Rafael Cultural District

Context: Suburban

Region: San Francisco Bay Area

City: San Rafael

County: Marin

Downtown San Rafael is the center of business, culture, arts, and special events in Marin County. Our downtown arts district is located along the spine of Fourth Street which serves as the hub of local business and community life. The Downtown San Rafael Arts District provides a unique place to create and appreciate arts and culture – our arts partners provide programming for people to come together, make connections, and get involved in the community. Our Downtown Arts District leverages the arts to promote inclusiveness and encourage community conversations on social issues such as affordable housing and homelessness, multiculturalism, and the environment.

Our district project partners include Art Works Downtown (arts center with 4 galleries, 27 artist studios, 17 affordable housing units for artists, and various arts related businesses), California Film Institute (internationally known film organization with unique exhibitor and education programs and home of the Mill Valley Film Festival), Youth in Arts (visual and performing arts training for children and a youth artists' gallery), the City of San Rafael's Falkirk Cultural Center (historic building and home to art exhibitions, lectures, and community events), and the Downtown San Rafael Business Improvement District (sponsor of various arts related events and activities).

District: Emeryville-Rotten City

Context: Urban

Region: San Francisco Bay Area

City: Emeryville

County: Alameda

Note: Production District

Emeryville represents a different type of district devoted to art production and including a wide variety of modern art forms such as animation, digital/video mapping compositions, and light as a medium.

Our arts colony began when guerrilla art known as "Mud Flat Art" started appearing on our shoreline. As we transitioned from heavy industry to the modern economy, artists moved into available warehouses, the Bay's eastern shoreline was restored, and the City underwent significant redevelopment. Partners who helped form the district include internationally known Pixar Animation Studios, Emeryville Celebration of the Arts (produces annual juried art exhibit), Wareham Development (dedicated to STEAM education, which recognizes the nexus between the arts and the creative mindset needed for science/tech industry) and Bullseye Glass (provides artist workspace and serves as an artist incubator).

We have seen a significant renaissance and are a destination for shopping, business, and art production. California is often seen internationally as a progressive innovator; Emeryville is one of the State's best innovators in support of its artists. Our big little city is proud of what we have been able to do to support the arts and are excited to encourage others to embrace your local artists!

District: Eureka Arts and Culture District

Context: Rural
Region: North Coast
City: Eureka
County: Humboldt

Situated on the far north coast, surrounded by the redwood curtain, the Eureka Cultural Arts District features a wide variety of expression- everyone can find something to love (and can say “Eureka!” when they find it). From murals to movies, theater to traditional crafts, galleries to historical museums, fine dining to great bagels, and architectural to recreational variety. Skirting Humboldt Bay, the mild climate encourages walking and biking tours of public art, fine chocolate makers, local breweries, galleries, museums, artist studios, cafes, and organic ice cream.

Every month, First Saturday Arts Alive!, hundreds converge on Old Town and Downtown for Eureka’s art walk. They can visit over 75 open cultural sites and businesses, which display artworks or host musicians. On the streets, there are musicians, jugglers, clowns, crafts vendors, politicians, and community activists reaching out to passersby. At certain times of the year, crowds of people gather to celebrate the Redwood Coast Music Festival, Taste of Main Street, Summer Concerts, Tuba Christmas, Woofstock, the Perilous Plunge, and more.

Our arts entrepreneurial ecosystem includes recording artists, photographers, jewelers, painters, sculptors, dancers, actors, potters, textile artists, writers, architects, and musicians who have chosen our District as their home. We are proud of our homegrown arts assets.

District: Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District

Context: Rural
Region: Gold Country
City: Grass Valley & Nevada City
County: Nevada

As well as for their arts, Grass Valley and Nevada City are known for their expanding vineyards, wineries and tasting rooms, and a trail network of outstanding natural beauty. The Nisenan lived here for thousands of years before their incorporation as part of a perfectly balanced ecosystem thriving on the Yuba, Bear and American river watersheds – and, over time, their sacred places are being rediscovered and cherished.

Steeped in history and with the most famous gold-mining district in California, the District experienced a ‘cultural revolution’ from the mid-20th Century that has reshaped the local economy and which continues to influence the statewide arts scene. Starting in the ’60s, Beat Generation and deep ecology poet Gary Snyder, singer Utah Phillips and a host of authors and musicians settled here. Now, for over 50 high-tech companies – including a virtual and augmented reality hub – creativity occurs in peaceful, natural environments far from major urban centers.

Between them, Grass Valley and Nevada City are home to the Nevada Theatre, the oldest theater in California, and over 100 arts-related organizations producing upwards of a thousand events a year, scores of annual festivals, street fairs, art walks and studio tours, and a generous base of artists and makers.

District: Little Tokyo

Context: Urban

Region: Los Angeles

City: Los Angeles

County: Los Angeles

Note: Cultural Heritage District

Behind the bustling crowds and rows of restaurants, shops, offices, performance venues museums, religious spaces, public art, and residences is a colorful history shaping Little Tokyo for over 133 years. Located in downtown Los Angeles, Little Tokyo is a thriving and vital cultural, economic and community home to artists, cultural bearers, arts organizations and cultural activities for Japanese, Japanese American, Asian Pacific Americans and the larger African American and Latinx communities of Southern California.

Little Tokyo spans traditional and contemporary artistic cultural spaces with everything from contemporary anime shops, live karaoke in the Japanese Village Plaza and the Blue Whale Jazz club to Little Tokyo's First Street North which is on the National Registry of Historic Places and has also been named a National Historic Landmark which is home to the nation's longest running Asian American open mic and poetry venue. The expanse of the 150-acre district includes the Japanese American National Museum, the Go For Broke National Education, the David Henry Hwang Theatre, Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and the Geffen Contemporary at the Museum of Contemporary Art as well as the Aratani Theatre, James Irvine Japanese Garden and Isamu Noguchi Sculpture at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center.

District: Oceanside Cultural District

Context: Suburban

Region: San Diego

City: Oceanside

County: San Diego

The Oceanside Cultural District is home to an eclectic, emerging art scene. Along the Pacific Ocean with an historic and iconic pier and amphitheatre, and adjacent to Camp Pendleton, the largest Marine Corps base on the West Coast, you will find a unique place with an abundance of cultural resources. The Oceanside Public Library with the Oceanside Arts Commission, Oceanside Museum of Art, and MainStreet Oceanside as District partners, bring a focus on inclusivity, community potential, creativity, talent, and economic development to the forefront in the District.

Artist Alley serves as home to many striving artists with its art venues and local mural production. The California Surf Museum connects with non-traditional arts audiences while honoring the local surf culture. The historic theatres promote opportunities for all ages and introduce theatrical expression to thousands of school children each year.

Tattoo artists honor the area's military heritage with much of their work. The annual cultural events in the District are varied, colorful, and celebratory; as well as educational, featuring dance, music, and food. Restaurants and breweries in the District display local art and often feature local musicians. The Oceanside Transit Center is bustling and makes Oceanside an easily accessible locale to visit.

District: Redding Cultural District

Context: Rural

Region: Shasta Cascade

City: Redding

County: Shasta

Redding Cultural District's is located 160 miles north of Sacramento and includes three majestic mountain ranges as a backdrop. World-class attractions - located at the bend in the Sacramento River - connect to its historic Downtown via the Sundial and Diestelhorst bridges. Explore on foot or on a bicycle. Cultural and artistic activities range widely, from food cultivation and dining, music production and consumption, micro brewing and wine tasting, theater, dance, cycling, scholarship and education, and art and exploration of nature.

Nearly 70 public arts sites and more than 50 restaurants, bars and coffee shops can be found. Regional, national and international performing artists frequent the historic Cascade Theatre and Redding Civic Auditorium while the Carter House Gallery, Old City Hall and Turtle Bay feature art and cultural installations. The Sundial Bridge - a glass art walkway across the river - is one of the largest working sundials in the world. The SUNDIAL experience gives visitors a connection to nature, public art, trails, Wintu history, McConnell Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, Redding Rodeo grounds, and parks along the river - featuring a diversion dam, skate park, performing spaces and Diestelhorst Landing.

Redding Cultural District - gateway to True Northern California – is six miles from Shasta State Historic Park featuring the impressive Boggs Collection - California paintings between 1850-1950; Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (13 miles), Shasta Lake (15 miles) Lassen Volcanic National Park (47 miles); Trinity Alps (45 miles); spectacular Mt. Shasta (61 miles); McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park (64 miles).

District: San Pedro Cultural District

Context: Urban

Region: Los Angeles County

City: San Pedro

County: Los Angeles

We are nestled between a gritty industrial port complex and the stunning natural beauty of the Pacific Ocean. The peninsula geography creates an end-of-the-world feeling and our very close-knit community is comprised of a variety of ethnic influences. We are proud of our small town atmosphere, while belonging to the nation's second largest city.

The historic core of downtown San Pedro has been renting to artists since 1944, with studios in storefronts and warehouses, as seen on the cultural district map. There are also many commercial buildings housing many studios, organizations and work/live options in the district.

Our partner, Angels Gate Cultural Center offers studios in former army barracks for more than over 50 artists of all disciplines. CRAFTED at the Port of Los Angeles, a permanent weekend market with handmade apparel, home decor & food goods, houses a plethora of artists with space and marketing to

sell their artwork. Each of these non-traditional spaces offers regular arts events, with monthly art openings and classes in settings all over the district. There are still many vacant spaces in the district open to new artists and organizations, providing more opportunities to grow our arts culture. Recently Meta Housing built the 49 unit Pac Arts loft apartments as low-income artist residences, complete with studio spaces and meeting rooms.

District: SOMA Pilipinas (Filipino Cultural Heritage District of San Francisco)

Context: Urban

Region: San Francisco Bay Area

City: San Francisco

County: San Francisco

Note: Cultural Heritage District

SOMA Pilipinas, San Francisco’s Filipino Cultural Heritage District is home to a vibrant living culture and historic legacy that has shaped the South of Market neighborhood and San Francisco in the last 5 decades. Home to thousands of Filipino families and seniors, SOMA Pilipinas is also a critical employment hub for Filipinos working in the hospitality, service, and financial sectors. The district is a gravitational cultural center for Filipinos in California, who comprise the largest and fastest growing API community in a state where 43% of the U.S. Filipino diaspora resides.

SOMA Pilipinas is home to unique Filipino cultural institutions such as Bindlestiff Studio, the only dedicated Filipino-American performance space in the nation and Arkipelago, the only Filipino-American bookstore in the United States.

The district is also home to high-profile cultural events that draw Filipino community members from throughout Northern California. These include the Pistahan Parade and Festival each August and the Parol Lantern Festival in December. The Pistahan Festival showcases performers, crafts, culinary arts, vendors, and supportive businesses. And, starting this August, SOMA Pilipinas will host UNDISCOVEREDSF, a monthly Creative Night Market held every third Thursday at the historic Mint showcasing the sights, sounds, and flavors of SOMA Pilipinas.

District: The BLVD Cultural District

Context: Suburban

Region: Deserts

City: Lancaster

County: Los Angeles

The BLVD Cultural District is a thriving and dynamic cultural center located in the heart of northern Los Angeles County. The BLVD District boundary describes the epicenter of major cultural events in the Antelope Valley beginning in the late 1800s and highlights a number of historic sites such as the Cedar Center for the Arts, Aerospace Walk of Honor and Western Hotel Museum.

While the district honors the region’s rich history, it embraces innovative green and creative initiatives. Anchored by the Lancaster Performing Arts Center and the Museum of Art and History, the district programs a number of art exhibitions, galleries and performances year round. The district features an

expanding list of murals painted by both local and internationally acclaimed artists alike. Along the BLVD, are newly installed electric vehicle charging stations and solar waste compactors.

As a destination, the district features an ever-growing number of activities, cuisines and district-wide festivals. Weekly farmer's markets, concerts and open mic nights regularly bring audiences to the BLVD. Locally-owned businesses also offer an exciting array of shopping and dining experiences. District-wide festivals also take place along the BLVD year round including Streets of Lancaster, Celebrate America, the BoolVD and A Magical BLVD Christmas.

District: The Calle 24 Latino Cultural District

Context: Urban

Region: San Francisco Bay Area

City: San Francisco

County: San Francisco

Note: Cultural Heritage District

Calle 24 is the heart of San Francisco's eclectic and predominantly Latino Mission District. The district features a richness of culture and vibrancy unmatched anywhere else in the city. The district has served as the center of Latino activism, arts, commerce, and culture in San Francisco since the 1940s creating waves of social change that continue to reverberate throughout the country and the world

With more than 200 small businesses, is a bustling enclave for many Latino businesses including specialty food stores, restaurants, cafes, taquerias, Latino bakeries, butchers, art galleries, and gift shops that serve the needs of local residents. It is an art and cultural mecca boasting the largest collection of murals in the city and hosting a multitude of events that enliven the neighborhood with history, spirituality, and community throughout the year. Calle 24 businesses, residents, arts organizations and long established non-profit agencies collaborate to organize events such as Carnaval, Cesar Chavez Parade and Festival, and Day of the Dead.

With easy access to 24th Street BART Station, Muni bus lines, and the 101 Freeway, this beautiful tree-lined thoroughfare provides neighborhood residents and visitors many choices for traveling within San Francisco and throughout the region.

District: Truckee Cultural District

Context: Rural

Region: High Sierra

City: Truckee

County: Nevada

The Truckee Cultural District, located in the High Sierra, is well-known for its forests, waterways, and spectacular mountain views, which attract visitors and residents alike. These assets offer diverse and readily-accessible outdoor recreation and open space opportunities for which Truckee is famous. This natural setting stimulates an outdoor adventure culture and provides compelling opportunities to interpret, capture and inspire artistic and cultural creation. In addition to the captivating outdoors, Truckee is a designated Historic District and presents a rich combination of historic assets that highlight Truckee as the gateway to westward expansion and the site of the ill-fated Donner Party. These include

numerous historic buildings which give Truckee a unique sense of place—including an historic jail museum, Donner Memorial State Park and Museum, interpretive trails, railroad museum, and the Pioneer Monument.

Over the years Truckee has attracted and grown a vibrant, entrepreneurial, artistic community which has birthed over a dozen art galleries and exhibit spaces, created continuous year-round artistic and cultural events, inspired numerous public art pieces across Town, and most recently created a new 3,000 square foot makerspace that offers the community a place to learn, build and practice a wide variety of art and creative skills.



California Cultural Districts – Semifinalists Not Recommended for Designation

Detailed panel and site visit notes will be provided to applicants who do not receive designation and all applicants will be encouraged to continue to develop their local vision and to consider applying again in 2019 when the program next opens for designation.

Name of Proposed District	Context	Region	City	County
Benicia Historic Arsenal Cultural District	Suburban	San Francisco Bay Area	Benicia	Solano
Creamery District	Rural	North Coast	Arcata	Humboldt
Oakland Black Cultural Arts and Business District	Urban	San Francisco Bay Area	Oakland	Alameda
San Francisco Chinatown Cultural District	Urban	San Francisco Bay Area	San Francisco	San Francisco
Santa Ana Cultural District	Urban	Orange County	Santa Ana	Orange
Steinbeck Cultural District	Urban	Central Coast	Salinas	Monterey
Visalia Arts District	Rural	Central Valley	Visalia	Tulare
Weaverville Art & Heritage Cultural District	Rural	Shasta Cascade	Weaverville	Trinity

To: Council Members

From: Ayanna Kiburi, Interim Director

Date: July 10, 2017

Re: Grant Appeal Submission – *Reentry through the Arts* Applicant

Introduction

An appeal to an FY 16-17 Reentry through the Arts grant funding decision has been submitted, processed by staff, and accepted for review by Council.

If the appeal is approved by Council, the appellant's application will be reviewed by a telephonic convening of a peer review panel and ranked according to the review criteria published in the program guidelines. Funding may be allocated at a percentage of the request amount based on the panel's rank, consistent with the funding formula approved by Council for the Reentry through the Arts program for the FY 16-17 grant cycle.

Grant Appeal Policy

As stated on page 2 of all CAC grant guidelines:

Appeals to CAC funding decisions must be submitted on an official Appeal Form, available from the CAC, and postmarked within 45 days of the decision. Appeals are granted only on the following grounds:

- 1. Panel's assessment was based on a misstatement of factual information as contained in the application such that it negatively influenced the panel's recommendation; and/or*
- 2. Incorrect processing of the required application material such that it negatively influenced the panel's assessment of the applicant's request for funding.*

Appeal Submission – Strindberg Laboratory

Strindberg Laboratory has submitted an appeal for their application to the Reentry through the Arts program. The full appeal submission is attached to this memo. **The Council may approve this appeal on the basis of a discrepancy between the CAC's guidelines and application for the Reentry through the Arts program.**

The program's guidelines state, "The project budget cannot exceed 50% of the applicant organization's **total income** from its most recently completed fiscal year," while the application stated that "the request may not exceed 50% of the organization's **operating budget**."

The panel deemed the request amount, and therefore the application, from Strindberg Laboratory ineligible with a ranking of "1" based on the **total income** policy per the guidelines. As evaluated by the panel, in Strindberg Laboratory's DataArts report, the total income from the last completed fiscal year was \$131,751 for 2016. The request for \$74,000 was for more than 50% of the organization's total income from the last completed fiscal year.

Strindberg Laboratory reports following the application instructions based on their **operating budget** in their DataArts report of \$148,000, which would make \$74,000 an eligible request amount.

Attachment

Appeal form submitted by the Strindberg Laboratory on June 27, 2017

Appeal Form

Awards of California Arts Council financial assistance are discretionary. The Arts Council's funding decisions are based on panel recommendations, which are established on criteria described in each program's guidelines. Several review criteria, however, involve subjective, qualitative judgments that are not subject to appeal.

Appeals to the California Arts Council: 1) will be considered only on the grounds defined on page two of this form, and 2) must be submitted in writing on this official form within 45 days following award notification. If accepted for review, your appeal will be considered at the next scheduled Council meeting; appellants need not be present for an appeal to be considered. If the appeal is approved by Council, your application will be reviewed by a peer review panel and ranked according to the review criteria published in the program guidelines. Funding may be allocated at a percentage of the request amount based on the panel's rank, consistent with the funding formula approved by Council for the specific grant program.

Letters of support, extra documentation and/or pages, etc., will not be accepted or reviewed as part of the appeals process. Appeals sent via fax machine will not be accepted.

This form and the procedures contained herein supersede all previous appeals processes. The California Arts Council observes the requirements of California's Public Records Act and Open Meeting Laws. The completed Appeal Form, like the Application Form, is a public document and may be made available to future California Arts Council grant panels, press, or any other interested citizen.

You may submit your appeal via email to the Interim Director Ayanna Kiburi at Ayanna.kiburi@arts.ca.gov or via certified U.S. mail to Ayanna Kiburi, California Arts Council, 1300 I Street, Suite 930, Sacramento, CA 95814. You may not submit your appeal via fax machine. You will be notified of the disposition of your appeal after final action has been taken.

Name of Applicant: The Strindberg Laboratory

Address, including city and zip code: PO Box 29824, Los Angeles, CA 90029

Contact person: Michael Bierman

Telephone: 714-310-5073

Email: michaelbierman@strindberglaboratory.com

Name of Grant Program: Reentry Through the Arts

Revised 6/2017

State your appeal in the appropriate section A or B below. You may appeal under either or both sections. Please limit your response to no more than 250 words per section. You may either insert your response below the section or attach additional page(s).

A. Panel’s assessment of funding request was based on a misstatement of factual information as contained in the application, such that it negatively influenced the panel’s recommendation. *Disagreement with the panel’s assessment is not grounds for an appeal. You must provide clear evidence that the review was unduly influenced by the error of fact.*

1. The application misstates the allowable grant request amount.

Program Officer notes state the following:

“The RTA guidelines state in Eligible Funding and Expenditures:

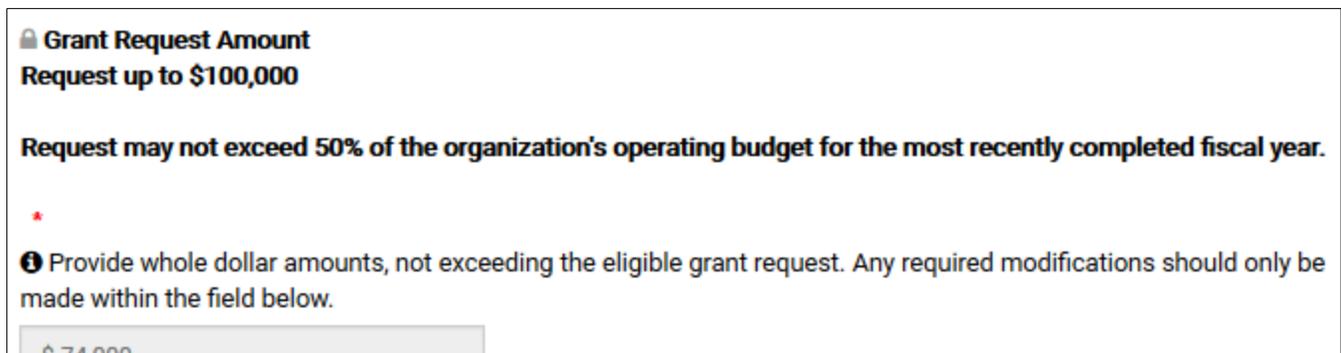
‘The project budget cannot exceed 50% of the applicant organization’s total income from its most recently completed fiscal year.’

In Strindberg Laboratories DataArts report, the revenue from the last completed fiscal year is: \$131,751 for 2016, up from \$91,400 in 2015. This request for \$74,000 is for more than 50% of the organization’s revenue from the last completed fiscal year as stated in the DataArts report that was included in the application. “

However, the application states the request may not exceed 50% of the organizations **operating budget**, (see screen snip below) TSL **operating budget** in DataArts report is \$148,000, which makes \$74,000 an allowable amount to request.

The Strindberg Laboratory followed the application instructions. Disqualification based on this grant request amount is improper.

This language appears in two places on the application.



In conversation, the Program Officer stated that this application is standard across all CAC grant programs. this assertion is incorrect.

Brief investigation reveals that this particular language is different on other CAC applications. See two examples below.

Example: FY 15-16 AAC Project Budget, screen snip

Grant requests cannot exceed an organization's total income from its last completed fiscal year.

Grant Request Amount
(up to \$15,000) *

Provide whole dollar amounts, not exceeding the eligible grant request. Modifications to this field will be reflected in all instances within the form.

\$ 15,000

Example 2 FFY 16-17 AAC Grant Request Amount

Grant Request Amount
(up to \$18,000)

Grant requests plus match cannot exceed 50% of an organization's total income from its last completed fiscal year. Amount must be matched 1:1. *

Provide whole dollar amounts, not exceeding the eligible grant request.

\$ 8,000

On both of these other grant applications, the organization's total income from its last completed fiscal year is clearly the basis for the grant request.

2. Reason for denial was "this was not meant to be a general operating grant." This contradicts the Project Budget Detail Instructions on the grant application, which state:

For Personnel, Rate of Pay, please indicate if the amount is per year (yr), month (mo), hour (hr), service (svc) or other. Examples: "\$30,000/yr", "\$300/mo", "\$30/hr", or "\$3,000/svc".

Personnel and Operating/Production Expenses for this grant must match your "Grant Request Amount,"

This clearly indicates that personnel and operating expenses are acceptable.

B. The required application materials were incorrectly processed such that it negatively influenced the panel's assessment of the application's request for funding. *You must provide clear evidence of error in processing the grant application.*

The panel used incorrect criteria for assessing the grant project budget.

The CAC website and the RTA Guidelines both state the grant period is June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2019. This is a two-year grant.

Based on the feedback we received, the panelists seemed to assess the budget as if it is for year, when it is for two years. *[evidence of the decision process is not available, the audio recording for the Reentry Panel was severely compromised, and is unusable.]*

“There was discussion in the panel about the fact that each of the staff members listed is receiving more than 50% of their annual salary through this proposed budget. The panelists felt like that did not align with the intent that the project budget is not covering more than 50% of an organization’s costs.”

If the grant period is June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2019, then the \$74,000 is covering 25% of The Strindberg Laboratory’s 2016 costs, and approximately 28% of 2016 income.

We requested \$29,000 each for two positions. At \$14,000 per year, the pay for each position is 10.68% of total income for 2016, less than 10% of the 2016 operating budget.

The budget chart in the application has no language reflecting the two-year period. Other panel notes indicate that their assessment was based on details not requested in the grant application. the instructions for entering Budget Detail are vague in the application, and are not discussed in the Guidelines.