



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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August 4, 2009

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Arts Board: Governor's Section 13.10 Request for the Use of Federal Economic Stimulus Funding for the Arts Board -- Agenda Item XXVII

By letter dated July 22, 2009, the Governor requested approval of increased expenditure authority of \$318,500 in 2009-10 in the federal grants, aids to individuals and organizations appropriation under the Arts Board. The funding was received under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

The Recovery Act includes \$50 million to be distributed as direct grants to fund arts projects and activities that preserve jobs in the nonprofit arts sector affected by declines in philanthropic and other support due to the economic recession. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is responsible for distributing one-time grants to the designated 50 state arts organizations, as well as other jurisdictional, regional, and national arts organizations for projects that focus on the preservation of jobs in the arts. Wisconsin has received \$318,500 in 2009-10, to provide financial support to local art organizations that have experienced a reduction in staff, or have a position that is in danger of being eliminated. Grants will range between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Based on information from the Arts Board, the application for the program was available on April 15, 2009, and the application deadline was May 18, 2009. The peer review panel (Wisconsin Arts Jobs Panel) met on June 8, and the Arts Board held a special meeting on June 12, 2009, to approve the panel's recommendations. The Board received 94 applications for funding totaling over \$1.6 million. The Board intends to fully distribute the \$318,500 in grants to organizations.

The Arts Board expects to award 18 grants to arts organizations around the state, subject to Committee approval of this request. The attachment shows the potential grant recipients, although the Arts Board has not formally awarded these grants. Some organizations submitted applications to the Arts Board as well as applications for direct grants from the NEA. Organizations are permitted only one grant under these programs, and those that received direct funding from the NEA will not receive moneys under this program.

CONCLUSION

Because the Arts Board has administered a grant application, review, and award process to distribute these moneys in accordance with federal guidelines, the Committee may wish to approve the request.

Prepared by: Layla Merrifield and Dave Loppnow
Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Potential Grant Awards

<u>Name of Grantee</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>
Walker's Point Center for the Arts	Milwaukee	\$15,000
DanceCircus, Ltd	Milwaukee	10,000
Theatre Gigante, Inc.	Milwaukee	15,000
Kanopy Dance Theatre, Inc.	Madison	25,000
Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra	Milwaukee	15,000
James Watrous Gallery, WASAL	Madison	25,000
Madison Ballet	Madison	25,000
Madison Creative Arts Program, Inc.	Madison	10,000
American Players Theater	Spring Green	15,000
Folklore Village	Dodgeville	25,000
Kids from Wisconsin	Milwaukee	10,000
Museum of Wisconsin Art	West Bend	25,000
South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center	South Milwaukee	25,000
Festival Choir of Madison	Madison	15,000
Musical Offering, Ltd.	Wauwatosa	10,000
Florentine Opera Company	Milwaukee	25,000
Francis Hardy Gallery Inc. of Door County	Ephraim	20,000
Milwaukee Children's Choir	Milwaukee	<u>8,500</u>
Total		\$318,500