

Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board Report 12-1
Recommendation to the Greenbelt City Council
April 10, 2012

Subject: Evaluation of FY13 Recognition Group and Contribution Group Applications

Background

At their March 6, 2012 meeting, the Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board (AAB) reviewed applications for renewal of Recognition Group status from the Greenbelt Glass Guild, Greenbelt Marching Band, Greenbelt Pottery Group, Greenbelt Writers Group, and Transitions Theater, Inc. All 8 members of the Arts Advisory Board were present at this meeting, including: Tatiana Ausema (Chair), John Drago, Mark Granfors-Hunt, Gale Martineau, Tiahna Nugent, Anna Socrates (Vice Chair), Shane Wisdom and Ginny Zanner. Also present were Konrad Herling (Council Liaison), Nicole DeWald (staff liaison), and Meeka Nugent (guest, Tiahna's mother).

At their April 3, 2012 meeting, the Board reviewed applications for renewal of Contribution Group status and FY13 funding from Friends of New Deal Café Arts, the Greenbelt Arts Center and the Greenbelt Concert Band. The Board also reviewed an application for first time Contribution Group designation and funding from alight dance theater. Seven out of 9 current members of the Board were present, including: Tatiana Ausema (Chair), John Drago, Mark Granfors-Hunt, Gale Martineau, Tiahna Nugent, Anna Socrates (Vice Chair) and Ginny Zanner. Also present were Konrad Herling (Council Liaison), Nicole DeWald (staff liaison), and Meeka Nugent (guest, Tiahna's mother). Absent from the meeting were members Shane Wisdom and Mary Harrison (newly appointed).

Summary Recommendations

1. AAB members present at their March 6 meeting voted unanimously to recommend that Recognition Group status be renewed for the City's Fiscal Year 2013 for all applicant arts organizations, including: the Greenbelt Glass Guild, Greenbelt Marching Band, Greenbelt Pottery Group, Greenbelt Writers Group, and Transitions Theater, Inc.
2. AAB members present at their April 3 meeting voted unanimously to recommend that Contribution Group status be renewed for the City's Fiscal Year 2013 for Friends of New Deal Café Arts, the Greenbelt Arts Center and the Greenbelt Concert Band.
3. AAB members unanimously voted on April 3 that alight dance theater should be granted Contribution Group status.
4. AAB members unanimously voted on April 3 that the FY13 funding requests of all four Contribution Group applicant organizations be granted by the City in full.
5. AAB members voted on April 3 to recommend that if it is not possible for all requests to be fully funded, that any necessary funding reductions be absorbed by the Greenbelt Concert Band and FONDCA, in that order. In a 6-1 vote, the Band's request for \$1,000 in supply money was deemed the lowest priority for City funding, due to the Band's lack of compliance with the Contribution Group fundraising requirement. Board members unanimously identified FONDCA's request for \$2,000 to support outdoor concerts as a lower funding priority than other requests on the basis of lesser perceived need; the Board expressed confidence in FONDCA's ability to raise funds from other sources, if necessary, for the Café programs they are seeking to underwrite.

Detailed Findings: Recognition Groups

Greenbelt Glass Guild (Represented at the meeting by Richard McMullin)

Board members unanimously recommended renewal of this organization's Recognition Group status.

Comments: "The events on Roosevelt Plaza sound like a good idea"; a member applauded their demonstration at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center; "amazing works of art" created both together and individually

Concerns: "Community gathering of Stained Glass artisans should be given a high priority this year, since they did not last year"; need to be "more visible in the community"

Greenbelt Marching Band (Represented at the meeting by Beth Leamond)

Board members unanimously recommended renewal of this organization's Recognition Group status.

Comments: "Glad to see them in the Labor Day Parade"; "Give us more!"

Concerns: "Continue to explore connections to UMD, other musicians, elementary/middle school needs..."; "it's wonderful that there are members that don't live in Greenbelt but it would be nice if the band had more Greenbelt residents"

Greenbelt Pottery Group (Represented at the meeting by Mary Gawlik)

Board members unanimously recommended renewal of this organization's Recognition Group status.

Comments: "A large, fairly active group with a lot of possibilities"; "Impressive showing at Empty Bowls!"; "Beautiful pottery at Festival of Lights"

Concerns: "How can the group reach out to younger members?"

Greenbelt Writers Group (No representative present)

Board members unanimously recommended renewal of this organization's Recognition Group status.

Comments: "A very Greenbelt-centered group"; "Writing is a solitary activity and a writers group is a motivating tool for writers"; "I've been to some of these meetings and it is always a creative time and interesting ideas are exchanged"

Concerns: Several members expressed questions and concerns as to whether the group's activities are adequately advertised and whether they are open to the public; "They need to do a better/ more detailed description of their activities and publicity"; "The inattention to detail and to inform the AAB on what the writers group is up to is very troubling to me"

Transitions Theater, Inc. (No representative present. Misha R'kingsley was willing to attend, but staff excused her since attending would require her to make a 5-hour round trip drive.)

Board members unanimously recommended renewal of this organization's Recognition Group status.

Comments: "Excellent and unique program serving Greenbelt and its citizens as well as larger community";

Concerns: "Finding a fiscal representative could be a real problem"

Detailed Findings: Contribution Groups

alight dance theater

Represented at the meeting by Board members Michelle Cardoso and Jeremy Ehrenreich

Overall Score: 4.7 (outstanding)

Service to the Community: 4.6 (outstanding)

Organizational Effectiveness: 4.6 (outstanding)

Artistic Merit: 4.9 (outstanding)

Comments: Members appreciated alight's collaborations with other Greenbelt community organizations and their willingness to share equipment and performance opportunities with other groups; "They create original work and that should be encouraged"; "Excellent artistic quality and skill levels"; "Out of all the contribution groups, alight demonstrates a serious attitude toward fundraising for its productions"; "Greenbelt-based - extensively performs at various local venues, Artful Afternoons (Community Center), GAC, Museum, youth activities. What more could Greenbelt ask?"

Concerns: "They don't have anything planned for the community [in FY13] as of yet"

Friends of New Deal Café Arts (FONDCA)

Represented at the meeting by Board members Barbara Simon and Lee Ann Irwin

Overall Score: 4.4 (very good)

Service to the Community: 4.3 (very good)

Organizational Effectiveness: 3.9 (very good)

Artistic Merit: 4.9 (outstanding)

Comments: "The outdoor concerts really add to the life of the City"; "Great programming"; "They are very successful in getting the job done...efficient"; "good reputation with musicians"

Concerns: Several members noted with concern that the group seemed to be "really old greenbelt-centered"; "I am concerned that the group will not attempt to link their programs to the other Greenbelt neighborhoods"; "Their organization seems really impenetrable"; "They seem a bit insular and not open to all of Greenbelt"

Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC)

Represented at the meeting by Board members Sandy Irving and Patricia Evans

Overall Score: 3.9 (good)

Service to the Community: 4 (very good)

Organizational Effectiveness: 3.3* (good)

Artistic Merit: 4.5 (outstanding)

Comments: "Nice variety of shows and guest productions"; "...amazingly high quality given the resources they have"; several members commended GAC for their completion of restroom renovations

Concerns: "That overhead will not end up putting GAC out of business...or homeless"; "Keep training new people to fill the roles of long-time dedicated volunteers"

* One Board member rated the organization "poor" in this category, with the explanation: "they limit people from volunteering for them"

Greenbelt Concert Band (GCB)

Represented at the meeting by Tom Cherrix (Conductor) and David Clarke (Manager)

Overall Score: 4.3 (very good)

Service to the Community: 4.6 (outstanding)

Organizational Effectiveness: 3.7 (very good)

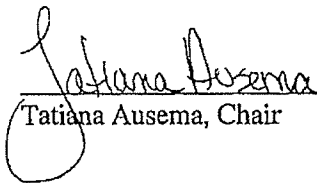
Artistic Merit: 4.6 (outstanding)

Comments: "Very dedicated leadership, core members"; "Love the history and the longevity"; "The low percentage of Greenbelt residents as members (7%) is offset by the large number of residents who are served (70%)"; several members commended the band for their service to seniors and nursing home residents; "They do add something to the 4th of July festival and the GHI picnic".

Concerns: "I would encourage them to seek new members"; "I would like to see a firmer commitment to fundraising"

Authorization

This report is submitted on behalf of the Arts Advisory Board by:



Tatiana Ausema, Chair

4.12.12

Date