



Milwaukee County

Meeting Minutes Cultural, Artistic & Musical Programming Advisory Council

Chairperson: Katharina Hren
Vice-Chairperson: Antoine Carter
Carol Pritzlaff Voss - Dr. Barbara Leigh
LaShawndra Vernon - Rayhainio A. Boynes
Jeanette Arellano - Vacant
Vacant

Council Support Staff
Advisory Council Coordinator: Kelsey A. Nyen
Departmental Resource Contact: Celia Benton

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

4:00 PM

Microsoft Teams
County Legislative Information Center

VIRTUAL MEETING

This meeting was live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center:
<https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Call To Order

Roll Call at 4:04 p.m.

Present: 4 - Voss, Vernon, Arellano, and Hren

Absent: 3 - Leigh, Carter, and Boynes

Council Member Antoine Carter was not present at the time the roll was called, but appeared virtually later in the meeting.

- 1 [HRA26-528](#) A review of all qualified applications, showing total funds used if all qualified applicants received funding based on their chosen Tier.
(INFORMATIONAL ONLY)

Attachments: [HRA26-528 QUALIFIED APPLICANTS \(received 07/20/26\)](#)
 [HRA26-528 REVISED QUALIFIED APPLICANTS \(received 07/21/26\)](#)

APPEARANCES:

Celia Benton, Director, Economic Development (ED), Department of
Administrative Services (DAS)

Heather Reindl, Project Manager, ED, DAS

Kelsey A. Nyen, Committee Coordinator, Legislative Services, Office of the
County Clerk

This Hearings, Reports, and Attachments Informational Report was DISCUSSED
WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

- 2 [HRA26-529](#) Consideration and approval of Funding Applications for Cornerstone Organizations.

(ACTION ITEM)

Attachments: [HRA26-529 CORNERSTONE APPLICANTS \(received 07/20/26\)](#)
 [HRA26-529 REVISED CORNERSTONE APPLICANTS \(received 07/21/26\)](#)

APPEARANCES:

Celia Benton, Director, Economic Development, Department of Administrative Services

Sandra "Sandy" Saltzstein, Research Analyst, Research Services Division, Office of the Comptroller

Supervisor Sheldon A. Wasserman, District 3

Supervisor Anne O'Connor, District 1

Kelsey A. Nyen, Committee Coordinator, Legislative Services, Office of the County Clerk

A motion was made by Advisory Council Member Arellano that the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design be funded in the amount of \$10,000. The motion was later withdrawn, therefore no vote was taken.

A motion was made by Council Member Voss, and seconded by Council Member Vernon, that the Funding Applications for five Cornerstone Organizations:

Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra
Milwaukee Ballet
First Stage Milwaukee
Marcus Performing Arts Center

be APPROVED, in the amount of \$20,000 per applicant. The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Voss, Carter, Vernon, Arellano and Hren

Absent: 2 - Leigh and Boynes

- 3 [HRA26-533](#) Consideration and approval of Funding Applications for Tier 1 - New and Emerging Organizations.
(ACTION ITEM)

There were no appearances for Item 3.

There were no applicants for Tier 1 funding.

A motion was made by Council Member Voss, and seconded by Council Member Arellano, that the funding previously set aside for Tier 1 applicants be applied to Tiers 2 and 3. The motion **PREVAILED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Voss, Carter, Vernon, Arellano and Hren

Absent: 2 - Leigh and Boynes

Items 4 and 5 were considered together.

- 4 [HRA26-534](#) Consideration and approval of Funding Applications for Tier 2 - Established Organizations.
(ACTION ITEM)

Attachments: [HRA26-534 TIER 2 APPLICANTS \(received 07/20/26\)](#)
 [HRA26-534 REVISED TIER 2 APPLICANTS \(received 07/21/26\)](#)

APPEARANCES:

Heather Reindl, Project Manager, Economic Development (ED), Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

Celia Benton, Director, ED, DAS

Kelsey A. Nyen, Committee Coordinator, Legislative Services, Office of the County Clerk

Sandra "Sandy" Saltzstein, Research Analyst, Research Services Division, Office of the Comptroller

Items 4 and 5 were considered together.

A motion was made by Council Member Voss, and seconded by Council Member Vernon, that the funding for the four Tier 2 applicants:

Arts @ Large

Master Singers of Milwaukee

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music

Concord Chamber Orchestra Incorporated

be **APPROVED**, in the amount of \$3,000 per applicant, and the remaining funds for Tier 2 applicants be reallocated to Tier 3 applicants. The motion **PREVAILED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Voss, Carter, Vernon, Arellano and Hren

Absent: 2 - Leigh and Boynes

- 5 [HRA26-535](#) Consideration and approval of Funding Applications for Tier 3 -
Established Organizations with Social Cohesion Impact.
(ACTION ITEM)

Attachments: [HRA26-535 TIER 3 APPLICANTS \(received 07/20/26\)](#)
[HRA26-535 REVISED TIER 3 APPLICANTS \(received 07/21/26\)](#)
[HRA26-535 SCI ANSWERS \(received 07/20/26\)](#)
[HRA26-535 REVISED SCI ANSWERS \(received 07/21/26\)](#)

APPEARANCES:

Heather Reindl, Project Manager, Economic Development, Department of
Administrative Services
Celia Benton, Director, ED, DAS
Kelsey A. Nyen, Committee Coordinator, Legislative Services, Office of the
County Clerk
Sandra "Sandy" Saltzstein, Research Analyst, Research Services, Office of the
Comptroller

Items 4 and 5 were considered together.

A motion was made by Council Member Carter, and seconded by Council
Member Vernon, that all Tier 3 applicants be funded at a baseline amount of
\$3,000 per applicant, exceeding the originally specified number (30) of
available awards:

Skylight Theatre Music Corp.
The Milwaukee Choristers, Inc.
Theatre Gigante, Inc.
Renaissance Theaterworks
Washington Park Neighbors
NEW STATE INC
Festival City Symphony
Frankly Music
Latino Arts, Inc.
Ex Fabula
Forte Theatre Company
Walker's Point Center for the Arts
Danceworks, Inc.
Next Act Theatre
Milwaukee Chamber Theatre
Black Arts MKE
Wild Space Dance Company
Optimist Theatre
Milwaukee Film, Inc
Woodland Pattern
Ko-Thi, Inc.
Pink Umbrella Theater Co.
Joy Engine
Aperi Animam
Early Music Now, Inc.
RUACH, Inc.
Kids From Wisconsin

Florentine Opera
Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee
Riverwest Artists Association, Inc., doing business as Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts
Summit Players Theatre
TBEY Arts Center, Inc.
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
Betty Brinn Children's Museum
Lynden, Inc.
Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University
Quasimondo Physical Theatre
Charles Allis Art Museum, Inc.
Villa Terrace Museum & Gardens, LTD.
Civic Music Association of Milwaukee
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design

The motion **PREVAILED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Voss, Carter, Vernon, Arellano and Hren

Absent: 2 - Leigh and Boynes

A motion was made by Council Member Voss, and seconded by Council Member Vernon, that the following Tier 3 applicants, scoring a Social Cohesion Index score of 90 or higher, receive an additional \$2,000 per applicant, for a total award of \$5,000:

Skylight Theatre Music Corp.
The Milwaukee Choristers, Inc.
Theatre Gigante, Inc.
Renaissance Theaterworks
Washington Park Neighbors
New State, Inc.
Festival City Symphony
Frankly Music
Latino Arts, Inc.
Ex Fabula
Forte Theatre Company
Walker's Point Center for the Arts
Danceworks, Inc.
Next Act Theatre
Milwaukee Chamber Theatre
Black Arts MKE
Wild Space Dance Company
Optimist Theatre
Milwaukee Film, Inc.
Woodland Pattern
Ko-Thi, Inc. (Ko-Thi Dance Company)
Pink Umbrella Theater Co.
Joy Engine
Aperi Animam
Early Music Now, Inc.
RUACH, Inc.
Kids From Wisconsin
TBEY Arts Center, Inc.

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
Betty Brinn Children's Museum
Lynden, Inc.
Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University
Quasimondo Physical Theatre
Charles Allis Art Museum, Inc.
Villa Terrace Museum & Gardens, LTD
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design

The motion continued as follows: that if any funds are remaining after distribution of the above awards, that they be evenly split among those Tier 3 applicants with a Social Cohesion Index score of 80:

Florentine Opera
Civic Music Association of Milwaukee

The motion **PREVAILED** by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Voss, Carter, Vernon, Arellano and Hren

Absent: 2 - Leigh and Boynes

- 6 [HRA26-536](#) Consideration and allocation of unspent funds, if applicable.
(ACTION ITEM)

APPEARANCE:

Kelsey A. Nyen, Committee Coordinator, Legislative Services, Office of the
County Clerk

There were no unallocated funds.

This Hearings, Reports, and Attachments Action Item was **DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN**.

- 7 [HRA26-537](#) Discussion regarding newly adopted meeting frequencies, days of the
week, and times, and dates for a 4th quarter meeting.
(INFORMATIONAL ONLY)

Attachments: [HRA26-537 SURVEY RESULTS \(07/21/26\)](#)

APPEARANCES:

Kelsey A. Nyen, Committee Coordinator, Legislative Services, Office of the
County Clerk
Supervisor Anne O'Connor, District 1
Celia Benton, Director, Economic Development, Department of Administrative
Services

Mrs. Nyen shared electronic survey results, which are appended to this file as
"HRA26-537 SURVEY RESULTS (07/21/26)."

This Hearings, Reports, and Attachments Informational Report was **DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN**.

E-COMMENTS - 1

- 8 [26-54](#) eComments submitted to the Cultural, Artistic, and Musical Programming Advisory Council via the County Legislative Information Center (CLIC).

*The Office of the County Clerk collects eComments submitted via CLIC, and appends these official public records to Reference File No. 26-54 at the conclusion of each meeting.

APPEARANCE:

Kelsey A. Nyen, Committee Coordinator, Legislative Services, Office of the County Clerk

There were no eComments submitted for the July 21, 2026, meeting.

The July 21, 2026, record of eComments was DISCUSSED WITH NO ACTION TAKEN.

Length of Meeting: 4:04 p.m. to 6:04 p.m.

Adjourned,

**Kelsey A. Nyen
Committee Coordinator
Legislative Services, Office of the County Clerk
Cultural, Artistic, and Musical Programming Advisory Council**

Deadline for Next Meeting:

The Cultural, Artistic, and Musical Programming Advisory Council meets at the Call of the Advisory Council Chairperson.

The next meeting date is to be determined.