

**Cultural, Artistic & Musical Programming Advisory Council on 2025-10-02
4:00 PM - In-Person Meeting**
This meeting will be held in Room 207 of the Parks Administration Building.
Meeting Time: 10-02-25 16:00

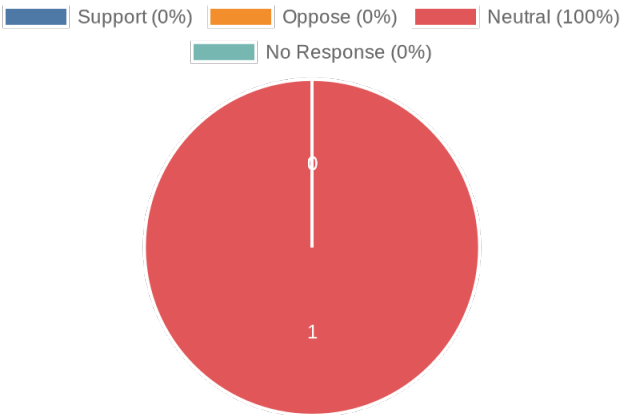
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Cultural, Artistic & Musical Programming Advisory Council on 2025-10-02 4:00 PM - In-Person Meeting This meeting will be held in Room 207 of the Parks Administration Building.	10-02-25 16:00	16	1	0	0	1

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



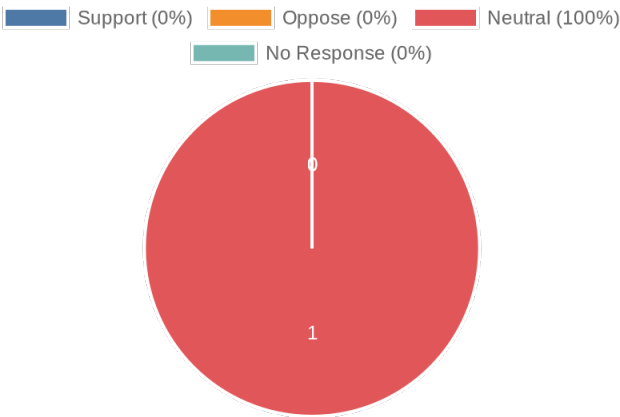
Cultural, Artistic & Musical Programming Advisory Council on 2025-10-02 4:00 PM - In-Person Meeting
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Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
4 HRA25-182 Discussion Regarding Input provided by the Committee on Parks and Culture to the Cultural, Artistic, and Musical Programming Advisory Council Concerning the 2025 Allocations and Funding Distribution Formula. (ACTION ITEM)	1	0	0	1

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

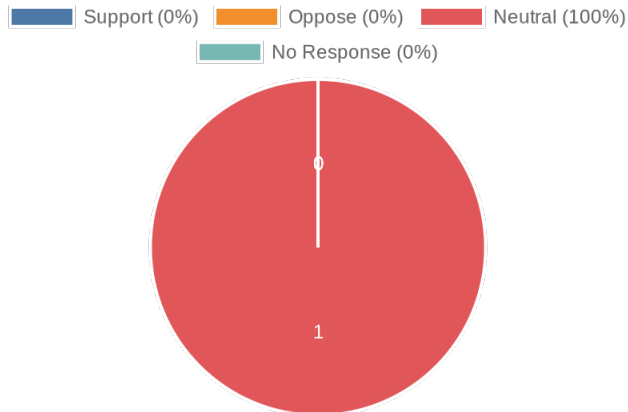
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Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 4 HRA25-182 Discussion Regarding Input provided by the Committee on Parks and Culture to the Cultural, Artistic, and Musical Programming Advisory Council Concerning the 2025 Allocations and Funding Distribution Formula. (ACTION ITEM)

Overall Sentiment



MEGAN MCGEE

Location:

Submitted At: 5:58pm 09-29-25

I'm writing on behalf of the Small Arts and Culture Coalition (SMAC), which consists of 11 Milwaukee-based arts organizations with annual operating budgets under \$300,000. I work for Ex Fabula; the other members are Aperí Animam, CAPITA Productions, DanceCircus, Ko-Thi Dance Company, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Pink Umbrella Theater, Quasimondo Physical Theatre, The Constructivists, Walker's Point Center for the Arts, and WoLF Studios MKE. Each member organization operates with an annual budget under \$300,000. Together, SMAC represents the voices of some small and emerging groups that ensure Milwaukee's cultural ecosystem is diverse, accessible, and reflective of all communities. Many but not all of us have previously received CAMPAC funding.

SMAC members have discussed the CAMPAC situation at length, and we wanted to communicate 3 things to the CAMPAC advisory committee. Quotes are from a press release we issued, which was published on Urban Milwaukee.

1. Thanks for releasing the funds! We realize this is the board's purview, but your committee did recommend approval :)

Earlier this month, the County Board's Committee on Parks and Culture voted to hold back CAMPAC funds due to concerns about the current funding formula, which distributes funds equally to all approved applicants. On September 18, the Board voted to release the funds, while also suggesting that a new formula is needed. "SMAC members applaud the Board for releasing much-needed funds," said a coalition representative. "Further delay would have undermined our ability to deliver fall programming, pay artists, and meet commitments to communities across Milwaukee. For us, CAMPAC funds are not a luxury—they are essential."

2. Please join us in urging the Board of Supervisors to restore the funds to previous levels!

SMAC is urging the Board to restore the \$100,000 cut made to CAMPAC in the 2025 budget when developing the 2026 budget. That cut, combined with an increase in funded organizations, reduced individual allocations by 30%. For small, BIPOC-led and -serving groups, these reductions threaten the ability to provide programming in

underfunded neighborhoods.

3. Please center equity when making changes to the funding distribution formula and application process. We support broader community conversations about equity in public funding. "Counting numbers served oversimplifies an organization's impact," SMAC leaders noted. "Equity means resourcing organizations that provide critical cultural programming in communities that are often overlooked, often with minimal staff and infrastructure."

We're very concerned about the September 18 resolution that suggested the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF) play a role in designing a new CAMPAC formula. A 2024 Wisconsin Policy Forum report showed that of the \$7.2 million UPAF raised, 41% went to just two large organizations, while only 4% was shared among 41 smaller groups. "UPAF lacks the expertise to create equitable distribution," said the coalition. "Milwaukee's arts ecosystem is strongest when it reflects and supports all communities. The County Board must ensure CAMPAC remains a tool for equity, not consolidation."

Thanks again for your service to the CAMPAC advisory committee.