

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 15, 2025

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks requesting approval of 2025 Fund for the Arts ("CAMPAC") allocations

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

Milwaukee County Parks, on behalf of the Cultural Artistic Musical Programming Advisory Council (CAMPAC), request approval of 2025 allocations from the Fund for the Arts Org 1974 to cultural and performing arts groups.

POLICY

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

BACKGROUND

In July of 2023 CAMPAC recommended that the proposed funding formula transition outlined in File 21-90 be reinstated.

2022
Awards Capped at 200% of 2021 Award for any group. Awards limited to floor of 75% of 2021 award for any group
2023
Awards capped at 200% of 2022 Award for any group. Awards limited to floor of 66% of 2022 award for any group
2024
Completely move to award criteria established in File 21-90 Apply equal distribution for award NO Caps or Floors for distribution

With the recommended formula determined, applications for the 2025 Fund for the Arts were open on the mymilwaukeecounty.com portal from July 7, 2025, through August 1, 2025. Forty-eight total applications were received.

Through reinstating File #21-90 the funding formula applies equal distribution of the total Fund for the Arts budget (\$307,825) dividing by the number of applicants (48) for an allocation of \$6,413 per organization. Following past practice, this includes an allocation for sponsorship of summer concerts operating within Milwaukee County Parks. These recommendations were confirmed by the CAMPAC at its meeting on August 5, 2025.

Related File No's:	21-90, 22-612, 23-863, 24-905
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	2/22/2021, 8/9/2021, 9/12/2023, 12/3/2024

Proposed allocations for 2025 are outlined in the chart below -

Organization Name	Grant Award
Aperi Animam	\$6,413
Arts @ Large	\$6,413
Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee, Inc.	\$6,413
Black Arts MKE, Inc.	\$6,413
Boulevard Ensemble Inc.	\$6,413
Civic Music Association of Milwaukee	\$6,413
Concord Chamber Orchestra	\$6,413
DanceCircus, Ltd	\$6,413
Danceworks, Inc.	\$6,413
Early Music Now	\$6,413
Ex Fabula	\$6,413
Festival City Symphony	\$6,413
First Stage Milwaukee, Inc.	\$6,413
Florentine Opera Company	\$6,413
Forte Theatre Company	\$6,413
Frankly Music, Inc.	\$6,413
Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University	\$6,413
Joy Engine	\$6,413
Ko-Thi Dance Company (Ko-Thi Inc.)	\$6,413
Latino Arts, Inc.	\$6,413
Lynden Inc. (d/b/a Lynden Sculpture Garden)	\$6,413
Marcus Performing Arts Center	\$6,413
Milwaukee Ballet Company, Inc.	\$6,413
Milwaukee Chamber Theatre	\$6,413
Milwaukee County Parks Summer Concerts	\$6,413
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design	\$6,413
Milwaukee Opera Theatre	\$6,413
Milwaukee Repertory Theater	\$6,413
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra	\$6,413

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, Inc	\$6,413
Next Act Theatre	\$6,413
Optimist Theatre	\$6,413
Present Music	\$6,413
Quasimondo Physical Theatre	\$6,413
Radio Milwaukee	\$6,413
Renaissance Theaterworks	\$6,413
RUACH, Inc.	\$6,413
Skylight Music Theatre	\$6,413
Summit Players Theatre	\$6,413
TBEY Arts Center, Inc.	\$6,413
The Milwaukee Choristers, Inc.	\$6,413
Theatre Gigante, Inc.	\$6,413
Walkers Point Center for the Arts	\$6,413
Washington Park Neighbors	\$6,413
West Side Arts Un, Limited d/b/a The New State	\$6,413
Wild Space Dance Company	\$6,413
Wisconsin Conservatory of Music	\$6,413
Woodland Pattern Book Center	\$6,413
TOTAL	\$307,825

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

CAMPAC eligibility and formula distributions are intended to address strategic areas 1C (Increase the number of county contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses), 2C (Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions) and 3C (Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities).

FISCAL EFFECT

Funding for cultural allocations was included in the 2025 adopted budget.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Beth Haskovec, Chairwoman, CAMPAC bhaskovec@gmail.com

PREPARED BY:

Jim Tarantino, Deputy Director, Milwaukee County Parks

APPROVED BY:

Guy Smith, Executive Director Milwaukee County Parks

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution

Fiscal Note

CC:

David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Sheldon Wasserman, Committee on Parks & Culture Chairperson
Steve Taylor, Committee on Parks & Culture Vice Chairperson
Felesia Martin, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Juan Miguel Martinez, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Jack Eckblad, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Anne O'Connor, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Priscilla Coggs-Jones, Committee on Parks & Culture Member
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Mgr, Office of the County Clerk
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services
Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS
Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS
Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office
Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office
Allyson R. Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB
Sandy Saltzstein, Research and Policy Analyst