

American Rescue Plan Act Task Force on 2021-12-02 1:00 PM - VIRTUAL MEETING

This meeting will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center:

<https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Meeting Time: 12-02-21 13:00

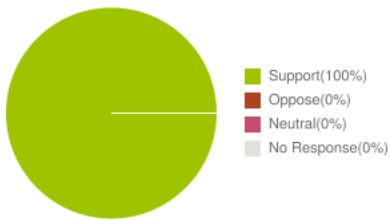
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
American Rescue Plan Act Task Force on 2021-12-02 1:00 PM - VIRTUAL MEETING This meeting will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx	12-02-21 13:00	14	3	3	0	0

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



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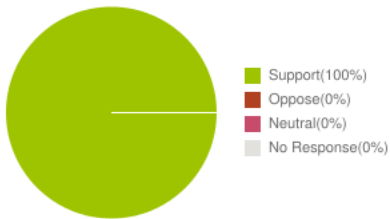
Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
6 HRA21-296 Future American Rescue Plan Act Task Force meetings and topics. (INFORMATION ONLY)	2	2	0	0
7 HRA21-286 eComments submitted to the American Rescue Plan Act Task Force via the County Legislative Information Center (CLIC). (INFORMATION ONLY)	1	1	0	0

*The Office of the County Clerk collects eComments submitted via CLIC, and appends these official public records to HRA File No. 21-286 at the conclusion of each meeting.

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

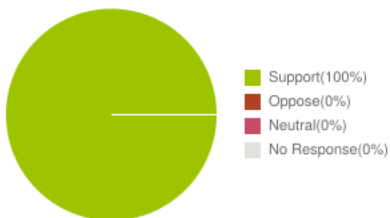
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Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 6 HRA21-296 Future American Rescue Plan Act Task Force meetings and topics. (INFORMATION ONLY)

Overall Sentiment



Megan McGee

Location:

Submitted At: 5:08pm 12-01-21

Please allocate at least 2% of County ARPA funds in arts, culture and creativity. The arts are a powerful tool for healing, growth, and connection - all of which are needed in order for our community to thrive. For example, Ex Fabula - whose mission is to connect Milwaukee through real stories - has hosted StorySlams in ASL and in

Spanish that have helped connect folks of different languages and cultures. We've also hosted affinity group storytelling spaces for People of the Global Majority (aka BIPOC folks); one participant wrote on a survey that "I am a scaredy-cat and that was a perfect environment to get my storytelling feet wet! The hosts were everything and I met a new friend."

Now, you might think, "Someone made a new friend? Big whoop." However, young people of color are leaving our city in droves - and the folks that are staying are ranking the city of Milwaukee as a "fair" or "poor" place to live. Ex Fabula's programming leverages the arts to create spaces where the community can wrestle with these challenges - and build understanding of the root causes - and find a way forward together.

So, let's not let other regions leave us behind. In Denver, for example, they've put 2 million of ARPA funds toward Neighborhood activation grants for community-serving organizations to use toward events and arts and cultural activities and another 1.2 million to Arts and Culture directly (https://www.denvergov.org/files/assets/public/finance/documents/office-of-cfo/stimulus-documents/2021economicrecovery_siac-meeting11-10-2021.pdf).

I know there are many many competing priorities, but sometimes, bandaids won't cut it; you gotta treat the underlying cause of all the owies, and the arts can help us to do just that.

Susie Robinson

Location:

Submitted At: 4:58pm 12-01-21

The County has an incredible opportunity in moving the needle in creating racial equity in our city. By allocating at least 2% of your share of ARPA to arts, culture and creativity, the County will help Milwaukee be better place for all people—especially those who have suffered inequities for far too long—as we emerge from COVID-19. Milwaukee has the chance to rebuild our city's cohesion, inclusion, and equity with a vibrant arts and culture community.

First Stage plays an important role in addressing issues of Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in our community and fulfills this role through the choice of the stories we tell on stage and the teams we assemble to bring them to life. Being intentional in the selection of voices and stories we amplify on stage is critical in providing opportunities for our audiences to gain insight to, and empathy for, other cultures and heritages while promoting awareness of, and progressive action on, issues of social responsibility and justice in our society. All theaters need to be held accountable for this, and First Stage is working hard to be a leader in our field.

As a Theatre for Young Audiences, First Stage is dedicated to:

- 1) creating theater experiences for young people and their families that entertain, enlighten, provoke thought and connect deeply with our rich and complex community;
- 2) being a gathering place for our community to come together for a shared theater experience that resonates for all; and
- 3) being recognized by our peers, our community and artists around the nation as a welcoming, invigorating and vital place for the creation of theater that speaks to our global community.

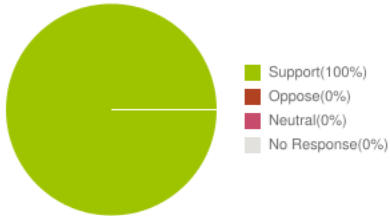
The past 18 months have shown us just how important First Stage is to our community—how deeply theater has been missed, and how meaningful it has been for young people to come together to learn, rehearse, grow, and perform.

ARPA funds will help First Stage and other arts organizations like us to create a brighter future and write a new story for our beautiful city.

Thank you for your consideration!

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Overall Sentiment



Terry Murphy

Location:

Submitted At: 3:51pm 12-01-21

As you consider this unprecedented opportunity to invest ARPA funding for catalytic change in the county, please prioritize Investment in arts, culture, and creativity. Such investments will help Milwaukee be better as we emerge from COVID-19. A vibrant arts and culture community helps to increase community cohesion, inclusion, and equity.

There is no doubt that the County has many fiscal challenges that can't be ignored. Investing in the arts and creativity can be a part of the solution. Yet too often, the arts and creativity is seen as a "nice" to have, when countless examples and studies show its tangible impact on many aspects of a community. Compared to many other cities and counties across the country, Milwaukee ranks towards the bottom of arts funding and creative approaches to improve our community through the arts. The City of Milwaukee invests just .02% of its annual budget in our sector; The County is better because of its relationships with our cultural institutions (MPM, MAM, Marcus Center, Parks and others) however, its programmatic investment through CAMPAC is also around .02%. But, CAMPAC is also only available for performing arts organization. If the County wants to address equity, what about all the artists and creatives working in the poorest neighborhoods of our county?

Here is just one of many innovative proposals that other communities are considering to fund with ARPA dollars. Creative Greensboro, the City of Greensboro's office of arts and culture, will award \$60,000 through a new Catalyzing Creativity Grants program. The grants will provide financial support to nonprofits or individuals to engage historically marginalized communities through creative programming.

Founded in 2019, Creative Greensboro provides support for, ensures access to and drives awareness of Greensboro's creative community. The Catalyzing Creativity Grants program was born out of one of the strategies of the City's arts plan. Applicants must be Guilford County-based with a creative program or project that will occur in Greensboro. Creative programs may include natural sciences, history, architecture, technology, visual arts, performing arts, and literature. Applicants may request up to 50 percent of project expenses, up to \$10,000.

Thank you for the important work you are doing -- be bold, be the change we need.

Terry Murphy
Executive Director
ArtWorks for Milwaukee