



**Business Meeting Minutes-Grant Deliberations  
Friday, March 25, 2022**

**Commissioners Present:**

- Susan C. Grube, Chair
- Emma "Em" Davis, Vice Chair
- Brenda J. Roberts, Secretary
- C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.
- Michael Cloud-Butler
- Mia K. Guile
- Raeesah Islam
- Cynthia Romero, MD
- Alicia Phillips Peoples
- Olga Torres-Baker
- Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.)

**Cultural Affairs Department Staff Present:**

- Emily S. Labows, Director
- Hillary L. Plate, Cultural Programs & Grants Coordinator
- Beth Hundley, Assistant Director

**IT Support:**

- Eddy Jeon, Systems Analyst, Information Technology
- Robert Arcchi, Business Relationship Manager Information Technology

**Guests:**

- The Honorable Michael Berlucchi , COVB Council Member
- Monica C. Chaparro, COVB Assistant City Manager

**I. Welcome**

*Chair Susan C. Grube called the meeting to order at **9:05 am** and welcomed Council Member Michael Berlucchi and Assistant City Manager Monica Chaparro.*

**II. Introduction of Grant Presentation Process**

- a. \$645,000 is proposed for use between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023
- b. Review budget and set planned allocations for FY23
  - There is \$607,650 allotted for project grants.
  - \$20,000 for the Community Cultural Arts Grants (CCAG)
  - \$4,500 for the Leadership Organizational Grant (LOD)

- \$100 for Workshops and Deliberations
- \$250 for Operational Expenses
- \$10,000 for Marketing
- \$2,500 for Champion for the Arts

*Chair Susan C. Grube* would like to propose that \$10,000 be transferred from the Community Cultural Arts Grant (CCAG) to the Project Grants.

**MOTION I.**

*Mr. C. Cheyney Cole Jr.* made a motion that \$10,000 be moved from the Community Cultural Arts Grants (CCAG) into the Project Grants to make the total amount of \$617,650. It was seconded by *Cynthia Romero, MD.* There was no discussion. All in favor said Aye. None opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. Review FY22 CCAG remaining funds; vote for redistribute to another FY22 line item

*Chair Susan C. Grube* reported that \$3,250 from the FY 22 Community Cultural Arts Grant needs to be used by June 2022. She proposed that this amount be moved to the marketing line item for this fiscal year.

**MOTION II.**

*Ms. Olga Torres-Baker* made a motion to transfer \$3,250 from the FY22 Community Cultural Arts Grant (CCAG) to the marketing budget. This was seconded by *Hon. Winship Tower (Ret.).* There was no discussion. All in favor said Aye. None opposed. The motion carried unanimously.

- d. If any members of the commission or their household received \$5,000 or more with any of the organizations or have any affiliations with the organization, *Chair Susan C. Grube* has asked for that information to be disclosed for awareness. Disclosures noted:

- *Ms. Raeesah Islam* works for the Governor's School for the Arts which has a relationship with the Governor's School for the Arts Foundation.
- *Chair Susan C. Grube* plays the flute and does not get compensated when she plays with Symphonicity.
- *Ms. Mia Guiles* holds a non-paid position as Treasurer of the Friends of the Creative District (FCD), which is affiliated with the ViBe Creative District.

- e. Project Grant Deliberation Process (25 applicants):
- This meeting is being recorded.

- Deliberations are to go in the order that presentations were given the previous day, Thursday, March 24.
- The process would have the Liaison introduce their organization, reiterate their request and make a funding recommendation. Discussion would then go around the room for deliberation.

### III. Grant Presentations:

#### 1. **Zeiders American Dream Theater / Requesting \$60,000**

(Time: 12:31)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Cynthia Romero, MD*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$60,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended funding amount.
- Disclosures: None

*Chair Susan C. Grube* reminded the Commission that their initial vote is to be based off project merit and all decisions will be revisited after all the applicants are voted on.

*The Honorable Michael Berlucchi* thanked the Commission for being present to hold the deliberations. He stated he already intended to advocate funding for \$100,000 for FY 23 for the Arts and Humanities Commission and will provide support if the AHC wants to write a letter to City Council.

#### **MOTION III.**

*Cynthia Romero, MD* made a motion that Zeiders American Dream Theater be awarded full funding of \$60,000. It was seconded by *Secretary Brenda J. Roberts*.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (10-1) in favor. The motion passed for Zeiders American Dream Theater to be awarded a \$60,000 Project Grant.

#### 2. **Ballet Virginia / Requesting \$45,000**

(Time: 25:50)

- Commissioner Liaison: *The Hon. Winship Tower (Ret.)*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$45,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended funding amount.
- Disclosure: *Chair Susan C. Grube* shared that she played in the pit during the Nutcracker performance but did not receive any compensation for the performance.

#### **MOTION IV.**

*The Hon Winship Tower (Ret.)* made a motion that Ballet Virginia be awarded funding of \$35,000. It was seconded by *Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler*. There was no discussion.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (9-2) in favor. The motion passed for Ballet Virginia to be awarded a \$35,000 Project Grant.

#### **3. Virginia Symphony Orchestra/ Requested \$90,000**

(Time: 43:27)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Chair Susan C. Grube*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$90,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.

#### **MOTION V.**

*Chair Susan C. Grube* made a motion that Virginia Symphony Orchestra be awarded full funding of \$90,000. It was seconded by *Secretary Brenda J. Roberts*. There was no discussion.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (6-5) in favor. The motion passed for Virginia Symphony Orchestra to be awarded a \$90,000 Project Grant.

#### **4. Virginia Stage Company/Requested \$5,000**

(Time: 55:10)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Ms. Raeesah Islam*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$5,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: *Cynthia Romero, MD* stated that she is a personal friend with one of the directors of Virginia Stage Company.

#### **MOTION VI.**

*Ms. Raeesah Islam* made a motion that Virginia Stage Company be awarded full funding of \$5,000. It was seconded by *Ms. Alicia P. Phillips*. There was no discussion.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion passed unanimously for Virginia Stage Company to be awarded a \$5,000 Project Grant.

**5. Virginia Opera Association/ Requested \$9,000**

(Time: 57:49)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Chair Susan C. Grube*
- Initial Recommendation: \$3,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: None

**MOTION VII.**

*Chair Susan C. Grube* made a motion that Virginia Opera Association be awarded funding of \$3,000. It was seconded by *Vice Chair Em Davis*. There was no discussion.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote “Yes”. The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion passed unanimously for Virginia Opera Association to be awarded a \$3,000 Project Grant.

**6. Virginia Musical Theatre, Inc./ Requested \$110,000**

(Time: 1:10:28)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Cynthia Romero, MD*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$110,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: None

**MOTION VIII.**

*Cynthia Romero, MD* made a motion that Virginia Musical Theatre, Inc. be awarded funding of \$100,000 contingent on a follow up regarding a diversity equity inclusion with advisory mechanisms to broaden their lens. It was seconded by *Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler*. There was no discussion.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to vote “Yes”. The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion passed unanimously for Virginia Musical Theatre, Inc. to be awarded a \$100,000 Project Grant.

**7. Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)/ Requested \$135,000**

(Time: 1:21:48)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Secretary Brenda J. Roberts*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$135,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.

- In response to the renovations to the building, *Assistant City Manager Monica Chaparro* shared that the City is responsible for maintaining the building, using the City's CIP Fund.
- *Director Emily Labows* added that Public Works is analyzing work orders to determine the underlying problem with the building and is in the Capital Improvement Budget.
- Disclosure: None

#### **MOTION IX.**

*Secretary Brenda J. Roberts* made a motion that Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) be awarded funding of \$135,000. It was seconded by *Ms. Mia K. Guile*. There was no discussion.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to vote "Yes". The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion passed unanimously for Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) to be awarded a \$135,000 Project Grant.

#### **8. Virginia Legends Walk Foundation / Requested \$115,000**

(Time: 1:36:25)

- Commissioner Liaison: None assigned. Presented by *Chair Susan C. Grube*
- Initial Recommendation: No funding because there is no project occurring this year.

#### **MOTION X.**

*Chair Susan C. Grube* made a motion that Virginia Legends Walk Foundation be awarded zero funding. It was seconded by *Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.*

*Cynthia Romero, MD* added for discussion the following statement: The history and story needs to continue to be told in the same vibrant tone. The message to Virginia Legends Walk Foundation should convey that what they presented sounds like a great idea but need to submit plans for a specific project.

The feedback is to make sure that they are coming back with a specific season request with clear cut programming presentations and a recommendation to touch base with other theater companies on how to make their presentation. They need to be further along in their program with concrete information about the actual project to receive AHC support.

Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to vote “Yes”. The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion passed unanimously for Virginia Legends Walk Foundation to be awarded zero funding.

9. **Virginia Beach Chorale / Requested \$4,000**

(Time: 1:41:37)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler*
- Initial Recommendation: \$4,000 with the option to give more; suggested that requests under \$10,000 should automatically be funded.
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- *Ms. Plate* shared that during COVID they participated in Pop- Up Performances when singing was considered a high risk activity.
- Disclosure: None

**MOTION XI.**

*Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler* made a motion that Virginia Beach Chorale be awarded full funding of \$4,000. It was seconded by *Ms. Raeesah Islam*. There was no discussion.

Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote “Yes”. The vote was (7-4) in favor. The motion passed for Virginia Beach Chorale to be awarded a \$4,000 Project Grant.

**Time: 1:56:51:** Commissioners took a 5 minute break at 11:00 am. Lunch orders for Jason’s Deli were taken.

*Hon. Winship Tower (Ret.)* shared that she had received an email from ViBe Creative District, Executive Director Kate Pittman that is to be given to the Commission.

10. **Virginia Arts Festival / Requested \$20,000**

(Time: 2:10:25)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Hon. Winship Tower (Ret.)*
- Initial Recommendation: \$20,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: None

**MOTION XII.**

*Hon. Winship Tower (Ret.)* made a motion that Virginia Arts Festival be awarded full funding of \$20,000. It was seconded by *Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler*. There was no discussion.

Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote “Yes”. The vote was (7-4) in favor. The motion passed for Virginia Arts Festival to be awarded a \$20,000 Project Grant.

**11. Governor’s School for the Arts Foundation / Requested \$2,500**

(Time: 2:21:13)

- Commissioner Liaison: No assigned liaison. Presented by *Chair Susan C. Grube*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$2,500
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: *Ms. Raeesah Islam* noted at the beginning of the meeting that she is employed by the Governor’s School for the Arts. She opted to abstain from voting.

**MOTION XIII.**

*Chair Susan C. Grube* made a motion that the Governor’s School for the Arts Foundation be awarded full funding of \$2,500. It was seconded by *Vice Chair Em Davis*. There was no discussion.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote “Yes”. The vote was (10-0) in favor, with 1 abstaining. The motion passed for the Governor’s School for the Arts Foundation to be awarded a \$2,500 Project Grant.

**Time: 2:24:58:** *Chair Susan C. Grube* stated that the deliberations for ViBe Creative District will be moved back after the lunch break to allow ample time for the newly received material to be distributed and reviewed by the Commission.

**12. Teens With A Purpose – The Youth Movement/ Requested \$9,200**

(Time: 2:25:25)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Ms. Mia Guile*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$9,200
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: None

**MOTION XIV.**

*Ms. Mia Guile* made a motion that Teens With a Purpose- The Youth Movement be awarded full funding of \$9,200. It was seconded by *Cynthia Romero, MD*. There was no discussion.



Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote “Yes”. The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion passed unanimously for Teens With a Purpose-The Youth Movement to be awarded a \$9,200 Project Grant.

**13. Tidewater Winds/ Requested \$6,000**

(Time: 2:30:10)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Vice Chair Em Davis*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$6,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: None

**MOTION XV.**

*Vice Chair Em Davis* made a motion that Tidewater Winds be awarded full funding of \$6,000. It was seconded by *Secretary Brenda J. Roberts*. There was no discussion.

Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote “Yes”. The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion passed for Tidewater Winds to be awarded a \$6,000 Project Grant.

**14. Tidewater Arts Outreach/ Requested \$15,000**

(Time: 2:36:30)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Ms. Olga Jones Baker*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$15,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: None

**MOTION XVI.**

*Ms. Olga Jones Baker* made a motion that Tidewater Arts Outreach be awarded full funding of \$15,000. It was seconded by *Ms. Raeesah Islam*. Chair Susan C. Grube pointed out for discussion that there needs to be an awareness of the strain of staffing in these homes. *Ms. Olga Jones Baker* would like to explore connecting them with other communities in need. *Ms. Mia Guiles* noted the large volume of participants were more than expected.

Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote “Yes”. The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion unanimously passed for Tidewater Arts Outreach to be awarded a \$15,000 Project Grant.

**15. Tidewater African Cultural Alliance (TACA)/ Requested \$7,025**

(Time: 2:43:52)

- Commissioner Liaison: No assigned Liaison. Presented by *Chair Susan C. Grube*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$7,025
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: *Ms. Alicia P. Phillips* serves as their Board Chair for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and is a volunteer member on their Board, receiving no monetary compensation.

**MOTION XVII.**

*Chair Susan C. Grube* made a motion that Tidewater African Cultural Alliance be awarded full funding of \$7,025. It was seconded by *Ms. Olga Torres- Baker*. There was no discussion.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion unanimously passed for Tidewater African Cultural Alliance (TACA) to be awarded a \$7,025 Project Grant.

**16. Virginia Beach Art Center, Inc./ Requested \$19,000**

(Time: 2:49:53)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Secretary Brenda J. Roberts*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$19,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: None

**MOTION XVIII.**

*Secretary Brenda J. Roberts* made a motion that Virginia Beach Art Center, Inc. be awarded full funding of \$19,000. It was seconded by *Vice Chair Em Davis*. There was no discussion.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (10-1) in favor. The motion passed for Virginia Beach Art Center, Inc. to be awarded a \$19,000 Project.

**17. The Hurrah Players, Inc./ Requested \$60,000**

(Time: 2:58:18)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$60,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.

- Disclosure: None

Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr. wanted to state that he is very impressed with the current members of the commission and believes this is a well-informed group.

#### **MOTION XIX.**

Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr. made a motion that The Hurrah Players be awarded funding of \$45,000. It was seconded by Ms. Olga Torres-Baker. There was no discussion.

Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion unanimously passed for The Hurrah Players to be awarded a \$45,000 Project Grant.

### **18. Virginia African American Cultural Center/ Requested \$10,000**

(Time: 3:06:04)

- Commissioner Liaison: Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$10,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: None

#### **MOTION XX.**

Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr. made a motion that the Virginia African American Cultural Center be awarded full funding of \$10,000. It was seconded by Ms. Mia Guile. There was no discussion.

Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion unanimously passed for the Virginia African American Cultural Center to be awarded a \$10,000 Project Grant.

### **19. Symphonicity/ Requested \$95,000**

(Time: 3:08:45)

- Commissioner Liaison: Vice Chair Em Davis
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$95,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: Chair Susan C. Grube shared that she is a non-paid volunteer that plays the piccolo with their orchestra.

### **MOTION XXI.**

Vice Chair Em Davis made a motion that Symphonicity be awarded full funding of \$95,000. It was seconded by Mr. Michael Cloud- Butler. There was no discussion.

Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (10-1) in favor. The motion passed for Symphonicity to be awarded a \$95,000 Project Grant.

### **20. Military Aviation Museum/ Requested \$20,000**

(Time: 3:14:38)

- Commissioner Liaison: Ms. Mia Guile
- Initial Recommendation: Did not have an initial recommendation and wanted to hear comments from the Commission.
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr. opted to sustain from voting due to his business association with founder, Jerry Yagen.

Being council liaison for Military Aviation Museum, Ms. Mia Guile commented on her moral conflict with this organization due to her family history background with the military and is opposed to their full funding request. She will move forward with partial funding based off feedback from the Commission. For discussion, Cynthia Romero, MD pointed out that the military is our nations' state of defense. This could be a future destination because by 2030, Virginia will become the 5<sup>th</sup> largest state for veterans and the 3<sup>rd</sup> for women veterans. The healing aspect was further discussed by Ms. Alicia P. Phillips. By working with these entities, these spaces could reach across boundaries to create opportunities for reconciliation and healing. Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler added that this discussion has made awareness and all questions can be channeled through Ms. Mia Guile.

### **MOTION XXII.**

Ms. Mia Guile made a motion that Military Aviation Museum be awarded funding of \$5,000. It was seconded by Cynthia Romero, MD. There was no discussion.

Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (10-0) in favor, with one abstaining. The motion passed for Military Aviation Museum to be awarded a \$5,000 Project Grant.

**21. Little Theatre of Virginia Beach/ Requested \$25,000**

(Time: 3:34:02)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Ms. Mia Guile*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$25,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: None

**MOTION XXIII.**

*Ms. Mia Guile* made a motion that Little Theatre of Virginia Beach be awarded full funding of \$25,000. It was seconded by *Vice Chair Em Davis*. There was no discussion.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion unanimously passed for Little Theatre of Virginia Beach to be awarded a \$25,000 Project Grant.

**22. Hampton Roads Educational Telecommunications Association, Inc.**

**(WHRO) / Requested \$5,000** (Time: 3:37:05)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Ms. Raeesah Islam*
- Initial Recommendation: \$5,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: None

**MOTION XXIV.**

*Ms. Raeesah Islam* made a motion that Hampton Roads Educational Telecommunications Association, Inc. (WHRO) be awarded full funding of \$5,000. It was seconded by *Ms. Alicia P. Phillips*. There was no discussion.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion unanimously passed for Hampton Roads Educational Telecommunications Association, Inc. (WHRO) to be awarded a \$5,000 Project Grant.

**23. Young Audiences of Virginia, Inc./ Requested \$7,570**

(Time: 3:39:43)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$7,570
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.

- Disclosure: None

#### **MOTION XXV.**

*Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler* made a motion that Young Audiences of Virginia, Inc. be awarded full funding of \$7,570. It was seconded by *Ms. Olga Torres-Baker*. Discussions stemmed off the quality of their programs needing improvement.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (10-1) in favor. The motion passed for Young Audiences of Virginia, Inc. to be awarded a \$7,570 Project Grant.

#### **24. Access Virginia / Requested \$5,000**

(Time: 3:46:35)

- Commissioner Liaison: No assigned Liaison. Presented by *Chair Susan C. Grube*. This new program is for hearing and sight impaired productions.
- Initial Recommendation: Does not have a recommendation. Would like to hear the feedback from the Commission before making a suggested funding amount.
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- Disclosure: None

#### **MOTION XXVI.**

*Chair Susan C. Grube* made a motion that Access Virginia be awarded funding of \$2,500. It was seconded by *Ms. Raeesah Islam*. There was no discussion.

*Chair Susan C. Grube* asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote "Yes". The vote was (9-2) in favor. The motion passed for Access Virginia to be awarded a \$2,500 Project Grant.

#### **25. ViBe Creative District/Requested \$100,000**

(Time: 4:01:20)

- Commissioner Liaison: *Ms. Raeesah Islam*
- Initial Recommendation: Full funding of \$100,000
- The rest of the Commission shared their comments and/or recommended amount.
- *Hon. Winship Tower (Ret.)* shared the following message received from Executive Director Kate Pittman:
  - ✓ The ViBe has received Tier 1 funding (top rated support) from the Virginia Commission for the Arts for operating support for many years now. ViBe and the projects that we

have produced in collaboration with the City of Virginia Beach have been invited to participate in a national and international professional development platform as a success story for the important community-building and civic engagement through the arts.

- ✓ Much like ViBe is a "museum without walls" , the ViBe has also been called a venue without a roof" in terms of the public park that operates in support numerous smaller arts groups who are not supported at the larger oceanfront parks.
- ✓ The ViBe is documented in numerous national and international publications (and Jeopardy) as a positive identifier to the City As citizens. Their leadership team has won numerous community-based awards.
- ✓ The increased budget request is to accommodate two very important community partners: (1) The Sports Center & VB Convention Center parking lot artwork activation (majority of budget increase) and (2) The Seatack Civic League diversity outreach effort.
- Disclosures:
  - ✓ *Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.* opted to abstain from voting due to a possible conflict of interest that he's waiting from confirmation from the City Attorney.
  - ✓ *Ms. Mia Guile* is a non-paid Treasurer on the Board of the Friends of the Creative District (FCD), an affiliate organization of the ViBe Creative District.
- In regards to *Mr. C. Cheyney Cole Jr.* participating in discussion, *Ms. Plate* read the following By-Laws Section 1-Composition & Requirements updated Dec 20, 2017: A commissioner may concurrently hold membership on the corporate board of an arts group in the Commonwealth of Virginia; provided, however, that the commissioner should disclose that membership and voluntarily abstain from participating in the Commission's discussion or vote on any matter involving the arts group on whose corporate board the commissioner serves.

This would allow for him to join the discussion, but voting would be contingent on a response from the City Attorney. Mr. C. Cheyney Cole Jr. stated that the City should have included a line item in the budget for the ViBe.

**MOTION XXVII.**

Ms. Raeesah Islam made a motion that ViBe Creative District be awarded full funding of \$100,000. It was seconded by Hon. Winship Tower (Ret.). There was no discussion.

Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote “Yes”. The vote was (7-3) in favor, with 1 abstaining. The motion passed for ViBe Creative District to be awarded a \$100,000 Project Grant.

Chair Susan C. Grube and Ms. Plate will calculate some figures to reallocate the funding to fit the budget after the lunch break.

**Time: 4:23:50:** Commissioners took a 20-minute break at 1:30 pm  
**Time: 4:33:31** Commission reconvened at 1:50 pm.

**26. Funding Allocations:**

(Time: 4:34:25)

Chair Susan C. Grube shared that the total grant awards exceed the budget by \$188,145. Based on the grant awards from Fiscal Year 2022 and the discussions from today’s deliberations, the following funding adjustments and allocations were proposed.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>FY22 Funding</b>	<b>FY 23 Funding</b>	<b>Adjustment</b>	<b>Revised</b>
Zeiders American Dream Theatre	\$46,000	\$60,000	(\$15,000)	\$45,000
Ballet Virginia	\$27,600	\$35,000	(\$2,500)	\$32,500
Virginia Symphony	\$59,800	\$90,000	(\$40,000)	\$50,000
Virginia Stage Company	\$5,000	\$5,000	0	\$5,000
Virginia Opera	\$4,500	\$3,000	0	\$3,000
Virginia Musical Theater	\$101,200	\$100,000	(\$10,000)	\$90,000
Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)	\$115,000	\$135,000	(\$20,000)	\$115,000
Virginia Legends Walk Foundation	N/A	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00
Virginia Beach Chorale	zero	\$4,000	(\$2,000)	\$2,000
Virginia Arts Festival	\$8,100	\$20,000	(\$10,000)	\$10,000
Governor’s School for the Arts Foundation	\$3,000	\$2,500	(\$1,500)	\$1,000



Teens With A Purpose – The Youth Movement	N/A	\$9,200	0	\$9,200
Tidewater Winds	0	\$6,000	(\$4,000)	\$2,000
Tidewater Arts Outreach	\$10,000	\$15,000	(\$5,000)	\$10,000
Tidewater African Cultural Alliance (TACA)	N/A	\$7,025	0	\$7,025
The Virginia Beach Art Center, Inc. 4:42:23	\$16,500	\$19,000	(\$4,000)	\$15,000
The Hurrah Players, Inc.	\$27,600	\$45,000	(\$12,500)	\$32,500
The Virginia African American Cultural Center	N/A	\$10,000	0	\$10,000
Symphonicity	\$78,200	\$95,000	(\$15,000)	\$80,000
Military Aviation Museum	0	\$5,000	(\$2,000)	\$3,000
Little Theatre of Virginia Beach	\$23,000	\$25,000	(\$2,000)	\$23,000
Hampton Roads Educational Telecommunications Association, Inc. (WHRO)	\$5,000	\$5,000	(\$2,500)	\$2,500
Young Audiences of Virginia, Inc.	\$3,500	\$7,570	(\$2,570)	\$5,000
Access Virginia	N/A	\$2,500	0	\$2,500
ViBe Creative District	\$55,200	\$100,000	(\$40,000)	\$60,000
				\$617,650

**MOTION XXVIII.**

Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr. made a motion that the proposed funding recommendations from Chair Susan C. Grube be approved. It was seconded by Vice Chair Em Davis.

Discussion: Cynthia Romero, MD advocated for the Virginia Beach Art Center getting funding comparable to last year's funding of \$16,500.

**MOTION XXIX.**

Vice Chair Em Davis made a substitution motion to move \$1,000 from Little Theatre of Virginia Beach to Virginia Beach Art Center. It was seconded by Cynthia Romero, MD.

Organization	FY23	Adjustment	Revised
Little Theatre of Virginia Beach	\$25,000	<del>(\$2,000)</del> (\$3,000)	<del>\$23,000</del> \$22,000
The Virginia Beach Art Center, Inc. 4:42:23	\$19,000	<del>(\$4,000)</del> (\$3,000)	<del>\$15,000</del> \$16,000

Chair Susan C. Grube asked all in favor to raise their hand to vote “Yes” for the substitute motion. The vote was (11-0) in favor. The motion unanimously passed to approve the proposed allocation recommendations from Chair Susan C. Grube to include the \$1,000 transfer adjustment from Little Theatre of Virginia Beach to the Virginia Beach Art Center.

Ms. Plate reiterated the final approved funding amount below:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>FY22 Funding</b>	<b>FY 23 Funding</b>	<b>Adjustment</b>	<b>FINAL APPROVED FUNDING</b>
Zeiders American Dream Theatre	\$46,000	\$60,000	(\$15,000)	\$45,000
Ballet Virginia	\$27,600	\$35,000	(\$2,500)	\$32,500
Virginia Symphony	\$59,800	\$90,000	(\$40,000)	\$50,000
Virginia Stage Company	\$5,000	\$5,000	0	\$5,000
Virginia Opera	\$4,500	\$3,000	0	\$3,000
Virginia Musical Theater	\$101,200	\$100,000	(\$10,000)	\$90,000
Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)	\$115,000	\$135,000	(\$20,000)	\$115,000
Virginia Legends Walk Foundation	N/A	\$0.00	N/A	\$0.00
Virginia Beach Chorale	zero	\$4,000	(\$2,000)	\$2,000
Virginia Arts Festival	\$8,100	\$20,000	(\$10,000)	\$10,000
Governor's School for the Arts Foundation	\$3,000	\$2,500	(\$1,500)	\$1,000
Teens With A Purpose – The Youth Movement	N/A	\$9,200	0	\$9,200
Tidewater Winds	0	\$6,000	(\$4,000)	\$2,000
Tidewater Arts Outreach	\$10,000	\$15,000	(\$5,000)	\$10,000
Tidewater African Cultural Alliance (TACA)	N/A	\$7,025	0	\$7,025
The Virginia Beach Art Center, Inc. 4:42:23	\$16,500	\$19,000	(\$3,000)	\$16,000
The Hurrh Players, Inc.	\$27,600	\$45,000	(\$12,500)	\$32,500
The Virginia African	N/A	\$10,000	0	\$10,000

American Cultural Center				
Symphonicity	\$78,200	\$95,000	(\$15,000)	\$80,000
Military Aviation Museum	0	\$5,000	(\$2,000)	\$3,000
Little Theatre of Virginia Beach	\$23,000	\$25,000	(\$3,000)	\$22,000
Hampton Roads Educational Telecommunications Association, Inc. (WHRO)	\$5,000	\$5,000	(\$2,500)	\$2,500
Young Audiences of Virginia, Inc.	\$3,500	\$7,570	(\$2,570)	\$5,000
Access Virginia	N/A	\$2,500	0	\$2,500
ViBe Creative District	\$55,200	\$100,000	(\$40,000)	\$60,000
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>				\$617,650

*Chair Susan C. Grube* will work with *Ms. Plate* and *Secretary Roberts* to submit a letter to City Council to request a budget increase for the AHC and will make plans to attend with other members of the Commission to the Budget meeting in May. *Ms. Plate* will confirm when City Council meets for the budget. *Cynthia Romero, MD* added that having several years of documentation can be beneficial to make City Council aware of the longevity of how long it's been trending.

*Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.* commented on working with an impressive group. The Commission gave kudos to *Chair Susan C. Grube* for facilitating a great meeting as well as staff and IT for their support.

*Ms. Plate* shared that if there are any suggestions or feedback for the organizations, it will be noted in a letter with the liaison copied.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

The meeting ended at **2:45 pm.**

Submitted by Arts and Humanities Commission Recorder: Mari R. Coronado, Executive Assistant II