



Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lowell City Council and Mayor Sokhary Chau

FROM: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager

CC: Conor Baldwin, CFO; Shawn Machado, Assistant City Manager; Brendan Flynn, ARPA Finance Manager; Melissa Desroches, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

DATE: July, 17th 2023

SUBJECT: Informational Re: ARPA Festival Grant Program

The City recognizes the important role Cultural Festivals and Events are playing in the City's recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic. Following the will of the City Council, the CASE office oversaw the rollout of a one-time grant program designed to help Cultural Festivals recover from the pandemic. The goal of the program was to get resources into the hands of festivals as early as this summer to help them recover, and keep the momentum going on the initial return of large-scale public events that began in 2022. While this program was slowed by the "cyber incident", CASE was able to continue accepting applications. \$200,000 dollars was allocated for this program. CASE received a total of twenty-two submissions with a total request of \$388,310. Of the twenty-two submissions that were received, sixteen met the criteria for funding and while we could not fully fund all of the eligible requests, all sixteen eligible applications received at least partial funding. The committee weighed application completeness, eligibility, timeline and budget requirement, COVID-19 impact and recovery plan, sustainability/longevity plan, local economy support, equity and inclusivity, and unique or unmet need as factors in determining the size of the grant received. Below is a list of the festivals that met the criteria and have been awarded funding.

| Festival | Grant |
|--|--------------|
| Lowell Puerto Rican Festival | \$11,830 |
| Youth Poetry Festival | \$8,350 |
| Southeast Asian Literary Festival | \$8,935 |
| Town and the City Festival | \$22,500 |
| MonsterBash | \$4,000 |
| Lowell Folk Festival | \$15,000 |
| Lowell Summer Music Series | \$15,000 |
| Angkor Dance Troupe – Free Summer Show | \$15,000 |
| Lowell Hispanic and Latinx Festival | \$15,000 |
| El Encuentro: The Latino Film Experience | \$3,500 |
| Jack Kerouac Festival | \$5,000 |



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| Greater Lowell PRIDE | \$10,000 |
| Juneteenth Community Bloc Party | \$10,000 |
| Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race | \$22,500 |
| Lowell Asian American Film Festival | \$22,500 |
| Points of Light Lantern Festival | \$10,700 |

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