

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

Meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee

Wednesday, August 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Held virtually via Zoom.

MINUTES

A meeting of the Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, August 17, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Present at the meeting were: Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee Chair and Trustee Evelyn Arana Ortiz, Committee Members: Priscilla Foley, Allen Knight, and Elizabeth T. Nagarajah. Jacqueline Johnson and Rep. Chynah Tyler were absent.

Also present: Dianna Preusser, Assistant Neighborhood Services/Branches Manager, Candelaria Silva-Collins, Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Program Manager and Pamela Carver, Clerk of the Board.

The Clerk noted the meeting was being recorded and reminders to sign up for public comment. Trustees Fellowes Athenaeum Trust Advisory Committee (“Committee”) Chair Evelyn Arana Ortiz presided and called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. She read the opening statement. The Clerk took roll call and determined there was a quorum. The first item on agenda was approval of meeting minutes from June 15, 2023, which were approved via a roll call vote.

Ms. Arana Ortiz reviewed the current available Fellowes Athenaeum Trust balance for FY24 programming of \$235,842.05. Ms. Arana Ortiz noted that this included a carryover of \$124,908.89 and the annual expenditure of \$110,933.16.

Priscilla Foley, Director of Neighborhood Services gave brief general BPL updates. She noted that they hope to return to full Saturday hours once capacity levels with staffing are stable.

Ms. Arana Ortiz moved onto the next agenda topic of review of 2023-2024 Request for Proposals (“RFPs”). She clarified if a member had a conflict of interest that they needed to abstain from the discussion and vote.

Candelaria Silva Collins reviewed some photos from the end of the FY23 programs. She then reviewed the FY24 proposals.

1. **Isaura Oliveira, Resist, Inc.** Afro-Brazilian Workshop, for 18yrs-elders, the program included dancing, singing, and storytelling through workshops. The amount requested was \$9,731. She was a repeat applicant.

The committee discussed this applicant and a few members commented that she was difficult to work with at times.

The Committee voted to approve with set, written expectations. If applicant does not meet them, all remaining sessions will be cancelled.

2. **Stephanie McKay and Lauren Dale, We Start with Art, LLC.** Take the A Train. Grades K-5th, hands on public art workshop exploring and processes of African American artists and activists from the Harlem Renaissance. They are repeat applicants requesting \$5,000 for two weeks.

The Committee discussed they thought one successful week was great, but 2 consecutive weeks was lot to ask of the space. Suggested breaking up into two separate seasons/sessions would be best.

Notes of suggested revisions: Approve two weeks if not consecutive (over spring, school vacation, etc.) or only one in June.

This applicant was approved for two weeks pending they agree to revisions.

3. **Iris Evans, Movers and Makers**, Families (age 5+) hands on activities led by two artists with movement. She is a repeat applicant who is requesting \$5,000.

The committee voted to approve this proposal.

4. **Marvin Henry, Relax Now Mobile Spa**, LLA for Wellness/Relaxation for Adults 17+, wellness including basic stress and relaxation management and techniques, reflexology covering points of relief. They are a new applicant requesting \$4,350.

This applicant's proposal was denied.

5. **Chess Wizards**, Chess classes for ages 6+ for children. Repeat applicant that is requesting \$10,000.

The Committee discussed their proposed budget was a bit confusing and suggested it be clarified. They also had a few suggestions regarding cutting off new participants so as not to cause disruptions to the course.

The proposal was approved pending edits of their budget.

6. **Leslie R. English, Sewing 101**, 2 adults only, 1 family (children 9+) 3 sewing one-session boot camps. This is a repeat applicant, requesting \$7,218.50.

This proposal was approved.

7. **Michelle Holcomb, Haley House, Inc.** Take Back the Kitchen, repeat, 2 sessions, one for seniors, one for families, \$9,135.

The Committee agreed that this applicant must have ServSafe certificate. The proposal was approved.

8. **S. Matt Read, new applicant, Boston Comic Arts Foundation**, for tween cartooning workshop, Kids ages 10-13, 5-day workshop series. \$7,500

They discussed the budget request and noted they thought the hourly rate was too high.

They voted to approve this proposal, pending better budget breakdown.

9. **Carlos Vargas, Roxbury Concert Series**, repeat applicant requesting 4 concerts featuring classical, jazz, and international music for \$6,200. One concert was proposed to be a collaboration with Boston Conservatory.

They voted to approve this proposal.

10. **Carlos Vargas, Piano classes for children**, ages 6-18, fundamentals of music and piano playing requesting \$10,000.

The final concert is requested to be at the Boston Conservatory which needed to be approved.

This proposal was approved.

11. **John Kordalewski, Makanda Project Concerts**, for adults, 2 concerts fall and spring. Request \$8,000 for this repeat applicant. There are 2 shows each season.

This proposal was approved.

12. **Michelle Coleman, Chair Yoga**, Adults for intro to yoga and ethical principles 2 5-session series. She is a repeat applicant requesting \$10,000.

The proposal was approved.

13. **Marie Furmin, Black Biz Development**, Queen Makeda Performance Project, Teen & Adults, business and community skit performance discussions. \$8,850. She is a new applicant.

The Committee noted they were unclear of her purpose. They discussed her description of classes and were not able to determine the deliverables.

This proposal was denied.

14. **Kelley Chunn, Roxbury Cultural District**, Nubian Nights, live 2024 performances on 2 consecutive Saturdays. She is a new applicant requesting \$7,500. Would be held in front of the library.

The Committee had questions about her proposal. Would she need access to the branch? Having extended hours programming don't have staffing for it. They needed clarification on the budget.

This proposal was denied.

15. **Carole Walton, The American City Coalition**, The greater Roxbury Book Fair, with author talks. This is a new applicant requesting \$8, 638.99.

This proposal was approved

16. **Faith Johnson, Full Circle Arts**, Art and Meditation, Adults & Seniors, requesting \$4,491 for two seasons (5 sessions each of workshops). She was a repeat applicant.

This proposal was approved.

17. **Kathy Eow, Arts Emerson**, Play Reading Book Club, adults, 3 plays will be studied over 5 sessions including performance per play. Requested \$10,000 and are repeat applicant with new director.

This proposal was approved.

18. **Dr. Lucy Lomas, re: Women's Health & Wellness Empowerment Series**, for adult women. 4 session series on women's health, requesting \$10,000 to new applicant.

This applicant was approved.

19. **Darnell Anderson, Repeat, Thabasix Solutions**, for mental and manual arithmetic, math cooking sessions Includes, sixteen 2-hour weekly workshops for 4th and 5th grade students on mental and manual math. And two 2-hour nutrition workshops teaching recipes that use math. They were requesting \$10,000.

The Committee discussed the start time was too early and suggested a later option with shorter sessions and more outreach. The challenge is he has different topics each week and offers homework help. Their

biggest concern is getting better attendance but noted he was great instructor, but his attendance was discerning.

This proposal was denied.

20. **Alda Witherspoon, The Witherspoon Institute**, for GET LIT WINKids BOOK BAN-D Club. For kids 5-15, described as post-Covid learning crisis literacy program for youth. This is a new applicant requesting \$9009.

The Committee discussed their concerns. They noted her programs are always well attended but the program's purpose was very unclear. They had concerns with the span of age groups and suggested focusing on one age group at a time would be better?

This proposal was denied, but suggested she reapply with a tighter proposal in the future.

21. **Denise Washington, Pop-Poetry Workshop**, adults 18+, workshop with published journal and public reading with 10 participants, propose over 8 weeks writing, performance, and journal along with published book. She is requesting \$7,000.

This proposal was approved.

22. **Tyra Lane-Kingsland, Cooking/Nutrition Workshop**, for caregivers (especially mothers 25-45 with young children) 4 cooking and nutrition workshops. She was a new applicant requesting \$6,900.

This proposal was denied.

23. **Jock Payten, Nubian Square Investment Advisors, LLC**, Fundamentals of Financial Planning, adults, 20-60, 3 session workshops to cover fundamentals of financial planning, New applicant requesting \$5,000.

The Committee discussed the food and beverage budget was too high and suggested lowering it.

This proposal was approved pending revisions of lowering his budget \$500, to allow \$3,500.

24. **Epitheo Evans, Emerged Wellness, LLC**, CALM Experience Tween Program, Tweens, 9-12years, 4-day program that teaches mindfulness practices such as emotional regulation, anxiety reduction and mindful eating over April vacation. This is a new applicant requesting \$1,200.

This applicant was approved.

25. **Theresa Brewer, TLB Consulting**, Confronting Oppression to Advocate Racial Equity Workshops, for adults for 3 full day (6 hours) workshops over fall, winter, and spring. This is a new applicant requesting \$5,005.

The Committee discussed that it was unclear if each session is standalone and were not sure if it makes sense for our patrons.

This applicant was denied.

26. **Daniel Callahan, Create and Rcord, LLX. MassQing Workshops**, High School-Adults, 4 MassQing workshops –ritual applications of paint to the face used to reveal rather than conceal, and bring out what is within. New applicant that is requesting, \$9,711.97 for 4 sessions.

The Committee suggested doing 2 sessions. Determine if it is successful in the fall and if so, can do one

in spring.

This proposal was approved for two sessions, equal to half their budget.

27. **Daniel Callahan, Create and Record, LLC**, Marketing Workshop, for adults, staying authentic while marketing your works. New applicant requesting \$6,183.98 for 4 session workshops for creatives.

The committee felt the city offered similar programs for free.
This proposal was denied.

28. **Ashleigh Gordon, Castle of our Skins, Inc.**, Black history, culture, and Music Workshops, for kids 4+ families. Interactive intergenerational, education workshops highlighting black history and arts. This is a new applicant requesting \$10,000.

The Committee suggested cutting down number of sessions to 4 due to space issues at the branch and suggested they review the time offering of this program.

This proposal was approved, pending time flexibility.

29. **Danielle Williams, Prophetic Resistance Boston**, CORI Info table for ages 21-70 years for CORI table registering people for CORI sealing clinics, requesting \$10,000 for this repeat applicant.

The Committee discussed the fact that this group needed a private room, the food costs were too large, and their concerns about how to get people to attend. Suggested they need better guidelines and structure.

This proposal was denied.

Ms. Arana Ortiz summarized the amounts:

Total Grants requested:	\$193,405.83
Annual Branch distribution:	\$ 5,000.00
Advertisement Allocation:	\$ 2,500.00
TOTAL:	\$200,905.83

Ms. Arana Ortiz asked for New Business. They discussed the branch worked with a traveling custodial staff since they were open six days, but only had a custodian for five days. They wanted to be sure applicants were clear on taking in/taking out trash from the room. Also suggested that applicants be very clear on their set up with the Branch staff to ensure proper set up time between programs is taken in consideration before booking.

The Committee discussed their next meeting would be on December 7, 2023, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Roxbury Branch in Nubian Square. Pending weather, they may change to virtual if needed. Notification would be addressed accordingly by the clerk.

Ms. Arana-Ortiz asked for public comment, for which there was none. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela R. Carver