



**SERVICE
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Allocations Committee

01.08.2026 Meeting

Office of Arts and Culture

Glenn Ayars

Assistant Director

Office of Arts and Culture

Julia Hosch Singh

Cultural Programs Manager

Office of Arts and Culture



Voting Items Agenda



1. **Approval of the December 4, 2025 Allocations Committee Minutes**
2. **Vote to recommend Cultural Organizations Program Guidelines for FY 2026-27**

Agenda



1. **COP Guidelines 2026-27** [Julia Hosch, Cultural Programs Manager]
2. **Allocations Committee Chair Updates and Announcements** [Commissioner Mickie Bragalone, Chair]
3. **Staff Updates** [Glenn Ayars, Assistant Director]

1. COP Guidelines 2026-27

Review: COP 2027 Community Engagement

- Guidelines needed to be drafted for the 2026-27 year and voted through Council by February.
- In December, we solicited feedback from our current COP organizations (and potential applicants) at two virtual, hosted conversations.
- These meetings were intended to ensure that all stakeholders had a voice in the process, if they desired to do so. All current awardees' executive directors and grant contacts were invited.
- Those organizations who couldn't attend were still invited to email feedback and thoughts on the 2026-27 guidelines by 12/31/2025.

Engagement Session Attendees

Representatives from **27 organizations** across all revenue tiers attended, including multiple first-time applicants and multiple historical awardees (>5 years awarded). Those included:

- Lisa Boubel – **Agape Broadcasting/KNON**
- Juan Jose Lopez Rodriguez – **Anita Martinez Ballet Folklorico**
- Avery-Jai – **Arts Mission Oak Cliff**
- Joseph Vincelli - **The Artist Outreach**
- Katie Puder – **Avant Chamber Ballet**
- Pam Deslorieux and Phil Clemmons -- **Bruce Wood Dance Dallas**
- Kristen Vogel – **Dallas Black Dance Theater**
- Chris Denney – **Dallas Chamber**

Symphony

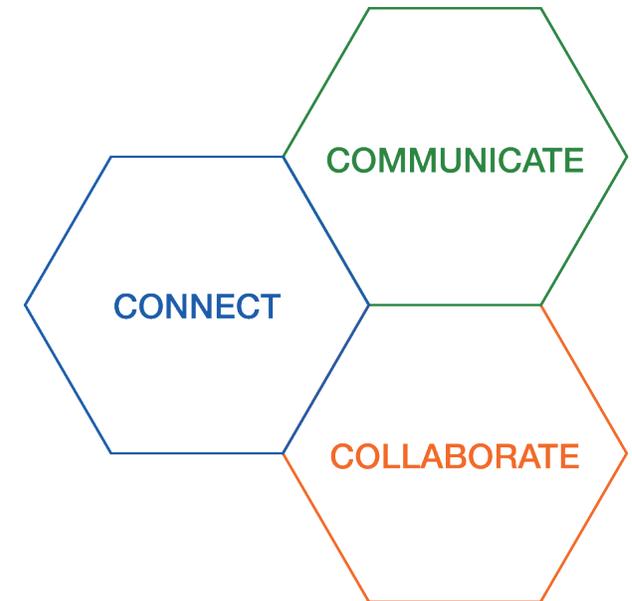
- Michael Meadows and Joey Hamilton- **Dallas Children’s Theater**
- Samuel Montgomery – **DMA**
- Mark Valenzuela – **Dallas Symphony**
- Michelle E. Hall – **Dallas Winds**
- Sabrina Miranda – **The Holocaust and Human Rights Museum**
- Joel Durbin – **Junior Players**
- Vanessa Hadox and Cale Peterson – **Nasher Sculpture Center**
- Diana Crowder – **Pegasus Ballet**
- Susan Yarad – **The Perot Museum**
- Karisa Coe – **The Sammons Center**

- Kim Bryan – **The Sixth Floor Museum**
- Sara Cardona – **Teatro Dallas**
- William Allen – **The Texas Supremacy of Music and Arts**
- Meghan Gomen – **Texas Winds Musical Outreach**
- Dawson Taylor - **Turtle Creek Chorale**
- Christina Cranshaw and Paul Semrad – **Undermain Theater**
- Jeff Rane - **Uptown Players**
- Jiles King – **Urban Arts Center**
- Amber Sims and Chandra White – **Young Leaders, Strong City**

Engagement Session Theme #1: FY 2026-27 should be Year 2 of the 3-year cycle.

Theme #1: Unanimously, in both days, organizations agreed that we should **continue in our plan for a three-year COP process**, and that this coming year should be **Year 2**.

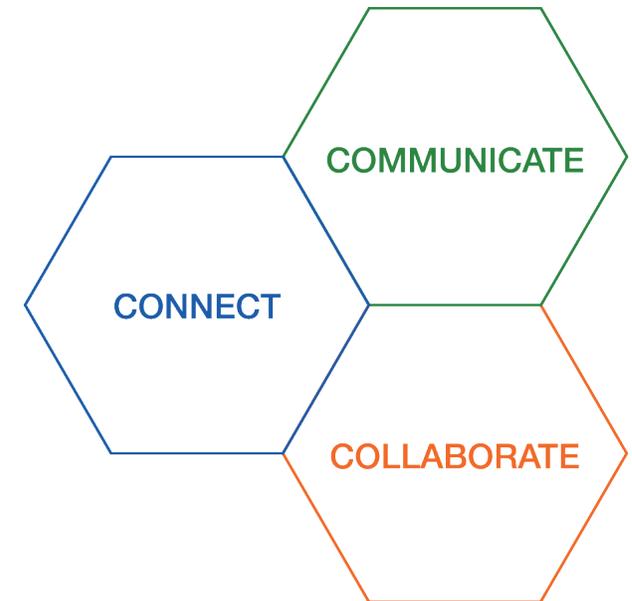
- Org 1 (large, Tier 6 org): “I feel pretty strongly that the three years, starting with this year, we'd like to continue. While exhibitions change, projects change, etc. this program is designed to be supportive of the organization. ArtsActivate is for individual projects, and this is for organizational support. We applied thinking that this was three years' worth of work. **If you're pulling the rug out from orgs and panelists [by starting with 2026-27 as Year 1], it feels not you are not respecting their initial time and investment in selecting these groups.**“
- Org 2 (small, Tier 1 org): “I always think it's better to go through and keep going.”



Engagement Session Theme #2: Access and Impact Survey was helpful but needs to be written more clearly.

Theme #2: When asked what about the COP process could be improved, multiple organizations brought up **confusing questions in the Access and Impact Survey** [which was built to replace panel points in the Access and Impact section.]

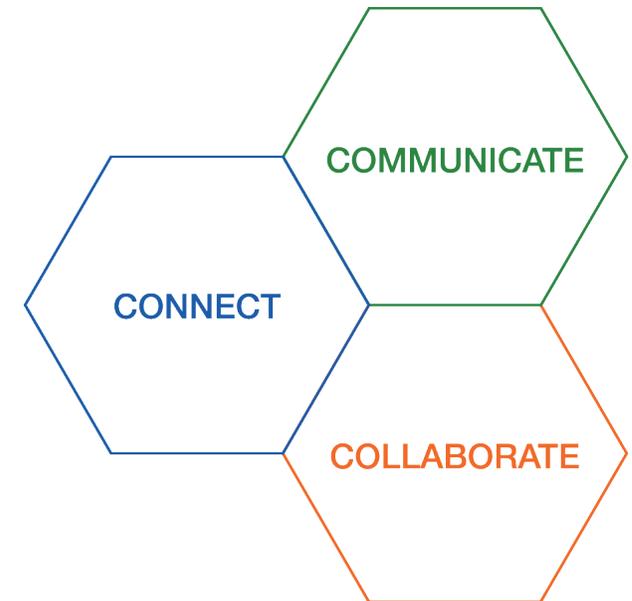
- Org 1 (Tier 4 org): Survey was unclear. **Questions were written in a way that was left too vague.** If you [OAC] move forward and keep the survey as part of the compliance, make it clearer. So, instead of asking if the organizations provide programs designed intentionally for youth, say "are there education programs? How do youth benefit from services?"
- +1 from Tier 5 organization in another art form



Engagement Session Theme #3: Applicants value continuity in funding over opportunity for growth (or potential decrease) each year.

Theme #3: Multiple panelists spoke about the importance of multi-year funding. We didn't ask the question explicitly – though the topic still came up -- in the first day's meeting (ran out of time) but did on day 2. Overall, **organizations apply to COP because of the operational funding and are looking for budget continuity.**

- Org 1 (new org): “We place a very high importance on multi-year grants – there seem to be fewer these days.”
- Org 2 (Tier 3 org): “[Importance of multi-year funding] is spot-on.”
- Org 3 (Tier 5 org): “There are multiple other places we can look for project-specific grants. This is the only one for operational funding.”



Additional Ideas Shared

Applicants are 50/50 on the video component of the full application.

- Tentative solution: Video component could be optional in the next three-year cycle.

When asked if panel scores should be considered in Year 2 and Year 3 applications, applicants are divided.

- Tentative solution: This cycle, we have written the guidelines to use panel scores as entry in Year 1 only.

An applicant suggested ways to streamline the application (i.e. pre-populated fields from last year).

- Tentative solution: We can probably work on this. We can't auto-populate in the software we have but could provide a copy of last year's application. And we're cutting the length of application significantly!

An applicant wanted places to explain financial challenges and goals in the application, especially during panel years.

- Tentative solution: We can add a question about this in the application.

2027 COP Guidelines: Year 2 of a 3-year Cycle

Year Two Application: Returning Applicants

- 1. Main Application (Scope of Work)
- 2. Financial Support and Supplemental Materials
- 3. Certification

Full Application: New Applicants

- 1. Main Application (Scope of Work)
- 2. Financial Support and Supplemental Materials
- 3. Certification
- 4. Video
- 5. Organization Profile (history, mission, etc.)

Cultural Organizations Program 2026-27: Requirements



Present a Season

The primary focus of the organization's operation must be to provide a **season of artistic and/or cultural services** to residents and visitors in the city limits of Dallas.

The organization's headquarters AND at least **50% of organization's activities must take place within the city limits of Dallas.**



Publicize a Season

Major in-scope services must be **publicized** with OAC logo and sponsor credit.



Operate a Season

Must have at least one paid **full- or part-time employee** of a Director/Manager level hired upon award of City contract.

Must remain in **good 501c3 standing** with IRS and comply with federal, state, and local laws.

Organizations must submit an **audit or 990 showing \$100K+ in revenue** each year.



Fulfill a Contract

Organization must execute a contract, submit **12 monthly reports**, and complete a **final report**.

Scoring Rubric: RETURNING ORGS ONLY

- Access and Impact (20 points)
 - 20: Access and Impact Survey *[will be more specific than FY 2025-26, to respond to that feedback]*
- Artistic and Cultural Services (20 points)
 - 10: Scope of Work *[ensures that organizations are still performing the services that panel approved]*
 - 10: Projection Matrix
- Contract Compliance (20 points)
 - 8: Monthly Reports
 - 4: Financial Report Submission
 - 4: Panel Participation
 - 4: Marketing Participation *[OAC logo on public work]*
- Financial Stewardship (20 points)
 - 4: Cash on Hand
 - 4: Fundraising Expense Percentage
 - 4: Organizational Board Governance *[give or get policy]*
 - 4: Employee Pay
 - 4: Operational Management *[org uses relatively recent strategic plan, employee/board handbooks, and safe workplace policies]*

There are only two “new” things (in blue)! We are just explaining old criteria better and weighing them more.

Scoring Rubric – Panel: NEW ORGS ONLY

- Public Benefit (35 points)
- Access and Impact (20 points)*
 - *Panelists will be able to read the results of the Access and Impact Survey, but will score this section based on their guidelines
- Organizational Capacity (15 points)

These are the same criteria in the same weight and value that we have always used. However, the phrasing of the criteria given to panelists is now legally resilient and follows federal directives.

Scoring Rubric – Administrative: NEW ORGS ONLY

- Artistic and Cultural Services (20 points)
 - 10: Scope of Work *[explains scope of services and major organizational offerings]*
 - 10: Projection Matrix
- Contract Compliance (20 points)
 - 8: Prior Contract Compliance
 - 4: Guideline Quiz
 - 4: Letter of Recommendation
 - 4: Financial Report Accuracy *[ensures that organizations have been submitting 990's on time and acknowledges audit needs]*
- Financial Stewardship (20 points)
 - 4: Cash on Hand
 - 4: Fundraising Expense Percentage
 - 4: Organizational Board Governance *[give or get policy]*
 - 4: Employee Pay
 - 4: Operational Management *[org uses relatively recent strategic plan, employee/board handbooks, and safe workplace policies]*

The Access & Impact section is missing because it's judged by panel instead.

*The Contract Compliance section is different for new orgs – because we're assessing their *readiness* for a COP contract, not prior ability to complete one.*

For Discussion: What should we look for in next years' scope of work without a panel?

Artistic and Cultural Services (20 points) - The applicant provides a season of artistic and/or cultural services that serve Dallas' residents and visitors.

2026-27 Scope of Work: The applicant includes a scope of work that continues to provide services of a similar or greater scope than the scope of work in 2025-26, including programs that provide a higher quantity and/or quality of artistic and cultural programs available to Dallas residents and visitors, and continue to grow Dallas' artistic community. All returning applicants' scopes of work are subject to review by OAC Staff and Allocations Committee.

- 10 = Applicant has submitted a fully completed scope of work that includes programs and service numbers approximately similar or greater than FY 2025-26
- 5 = Applicant has submitted a fully completed scope of work that includes service numbers approximately similar to FY 2025-26, with some meaningful reductions and/or changes explained by the organization
- 0 = Applicant's scope of work is significantly different in scope, number of events proposed, and audiences served since 2025-26 panel review

Putting It All Together

Returning Orgs

- Application in 3 parts. Significantly shortened.
- No panel process. Panel process in Year 1 allows them to enter the program, but isn't "scored" again
- Administrative scores worth 80 points: Access and Impact, Artistic and Cultural Services, Contract Compliance, and Financial Stewardship

New Orgs

- Application in 5 parts. Full-length, including video.
- Panel process worth 70 points: Public Benefit, Access and Impact, and Organizational Capacity. Panel will review all new applicants together. Allocations Committee can compare panel scores with scores of organizations in prior years.
- Administrative scores worth 60 points: Artistic and Cultural Services, Contract Compliance, and Financial Stewardship



2. Allocations Committee Chair Updates and Announcements

3. Staff Updates