

**Subject: AED- Supported Artists and Organizations**

**FY 2018 Proposed Budget  
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

**4/5/2017**

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Ms. Katie Cristol at the work session on 3/2/2017, regarding why the number of supported artists and arts organizations has declined to a six-year low in this budget.

The total number of grants is projected to decrease in FY 2018 due primarily to two factors. The first is the reduction in the amount of the grant funding available to artists and arts organizations due to the elimination of one-time funding for Art Challenge grants and the second is the introduction of a revised application process.

For a number of years Arts Challenge grants were funded with one-time monies (\$30,000). One-time funding for Arts Challenge grants was not included in AED's budget in FY 2016. However, through departmental reallocations, AED was able to award some challenge grants. For FY 2017 and FY 2018, the department does not have the flexibility to continue to fund this program, and so Challenge Grant recipients are not included in the estimated number of organizations supported. The total award budget for arts grants, excluding any Challenge grants, in FY 2017 and FY 2018 is \$215,810.

The application process for arts organizations is being revised in FY 2018 to better align the grant program with the budget process and to introduce a pre-application eligibility process so that AED will know the actual number of applicants earlier in the process. For FY 2018, 48 applications have already been received and, to date, 42 are eligible for consideration. It is anticipated that 39 will be awarded support through the grant process. All grant applications are processed by Cultural Affairs staff and the Arts Commission provides final grant recommendations to the County Board for consideration. The County Board approves art grant allocations in July of each year.

The performance measure estimate for FY 2017 was based on the anticipated number of applications. For the FY 2017 grant application period, the Department only received 47 applications and distributed 40 awards – a difference of 12 between estimated applications and actual awards. As mentioned above, eligibility screening has been newly added as a process improvement, and so for FY 2018 and future years, staff will take this pre-screening data into consideration when developing estimates.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

<b>Critical Measures</b>	<b>FY 2013 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2014 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2015 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2016 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2017 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2018 Estimate</b>
Number of supported artists and arts organizations	44	46	46	44	52	39