



AGENDA
CUYAHOGA COUNTY EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
3:00 PM

Committee Members:

Sunny M. Simon, Chair – District 11
Robert Schleper, Jr. Vice Chair – District 6
Michael J. Houser, Sr. – District 10
Pernel Jones, Jr. – District 8
Dale Miller – District 2

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 19, 2025 MEETING**
- 5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

- a) R2025-0115: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$20,000, to the Kings & Queens of Art for the Overcoming Darkness and Defying Stereotypes Project from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

6. PRESENTATION

- a) Update from College Now Greater Cleveland

7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

**Complimentary parking for the public is available in the attached garage at 900 Prospect. A skywalk extends from the garage to provide additional entry to the Council Chambers from the 5th floor parking level of the garage. Please see the Clerk to obtain a complimentary parking pass.*

***Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing assistance system. If needed, please see the Clerk to obtain a receiver.*



MINUTES

CUYAHOGA COUNTY EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR

3:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Simon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Simon asked Deputy Clerk Carter to call the roll. Committee members Simon, Schleper, Houser and Miller were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee member Jones was absent from the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 5, 2025 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Schleper, seconded by Ms. Simon and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2025 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2025-0081: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to the Black Environmental Leaders Association for the Jaqueline E. Gillon Annual Scholarship Celebration from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. SeMia Bray, Co-Director of the Black Environmental Leaders Association, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0081. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Bray pertaining to the item, which she answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Miller, Resolution No. R2025-0081 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- b) R2025-0097: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$20,000, to Swing Phi Swing Social Fellowship, Inc. Greater Cleveland Chapter for the Mentoring Achieves Positive Pupils Program from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Sherinda Williams, President of the Greater Cleveland Chapter of Swing Phi Swing Social Fellowship, Inc.; and Ms. Carrissla Harris, Chair of Ebony Pearls, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0097. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Williams and Ms. Harris pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Miller, Resolution No. R2025-0097 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- c) R2025-0098: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$35,000, to Food Strong for the Superior Avenue Community Farm Restoration and Development Project from the Districts 3 & 11 ARPA Community Grant Funds; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Sara Continenza, Founder and Executive Director of Food Strong, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0098. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Continenza pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Schleper, Resolution No. R2025-0098 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- d) R2025-0101: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to SOS: Strengthening Our Students for the SOS IGNITE 360 Programs from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Dyeatra Williams, Executive Director of SOS: Strengthening Our Students; and Ms. Denise Daniels, Board Member, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2025-0101. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Williams and Ms. Daniels pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Simon with a second by Mr. Miller, Resolution No. R2025-0101 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Simon adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m., without objection.

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2025-0115

Sponsored by: Councilmember Conwell	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$20,000, to the Kings & Queens of Art for the Overcoming Darkness and Defying Stereotypes Project from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$20,000 to the Kings & Queens of Art for the Overcoming Darkness and Defying Stereotypes Project; and

WHEREAS, the Kings & Queens of Art estimates approximately 50 people will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, the Kings & Queens of Art estimates the total cost of the project is \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, the Kings & Queens of Art is estimating the start date of the project will be April 2025 and the project will be completed by December 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Kings & Queens of Art requested \$20,000 from the District 7 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$20,000 to the Kings & Queens of Art to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000 to the Kings & Queens of Art from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the Overcoming Darkness and Defying Stereotypes Project.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter.

Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 8. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: March 25, 2025

Committee(s) Assigned: Education, Environment & Sustainability

Journal _____
_____, 20____



Cuyahoga County Council

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): Kings & Queens of Art Non-Profit	
Address of Requesting Entity: 5714 Outhwaite Ave Ste 1	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity: 7	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: 10527 Orville Ave Cleveland, OH 44106	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Gwendolyn Garth	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity:	
Email: gwendolyngarth@gmail.com	Phone: (216) 339-0571
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.: 47-1685558	Date: March 7, 2025

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

Project Title: “Overcoming Darkness and Defying Stereotypes”.

Project Description: Kings & Queens of Art converted a bus into what is now a Mobile classroom that we call “The Art Palace on Wheels”. It is our intent to bring the Arts and Adult Education "Outside" literally and metaphorically; to take art and education to Cleveland residents who don't frequent local cultural institutions and adults who want to continue their education. Our goal is to serve the community in a more consistent, and socially aware outreach capacity that would continue to expand the awareness of the arts and promote Adult Literacy beyond the walls of an art gallery and/or museum building or school.

The Vision: We will display artwork on the outside perimeter, and we will hold Art Classes, Art workshops and Adult Literacy on the inside. It is our intent to present exhibitions and classes (weather permitting) on the weekends of each month for the seven months of spring, summer & fall, traveling to accessible public spaces such as libraries, schools, park districts, parking lots and vacant lots throughout Cleveland & Cuyahoga County. Performing art programs will accompany the exhibit and will take place outside the mobile art gallery. When the weather doesn't permit we will hold classes on the inside of whatever venue we schedule!

Why this Project is important and/or needed: The United States suffers the highest incidence of interpersonal violence among all industrial nations, and violence among youth is increasing. While the causes of crime and violence are multiple and complex, research indicates that self-esteem is a critical factor as both a source of crime prevention and an essential element of rehabilitation and behavioral change.

From my own lived experiences of 26 years of uninterrupted sobriety I have come to see and understand that Self-Esteem is an antidote to crime and violence especially inner violence. Using my own recovery/discovery process as evidence I have drawn three conclusions about violence and self-esteem in America:

(1) low self-esteem is closely associated with various forms of crime, interpersonal violence and inner violence, thus explaining why many rehabilitation and correction programs do not curb violent and abusive behavior, they do not encourage or foster programs that enhance personal growth; (2) programs that foster self-esteem have proven effective in reducing violence; and (3) parents, child-care providers, law enforcement officials, school personnel, and social workers need to understand the paramount importance of self-esteem and should be trained in strategies to enhance it. Once I began to see and understand my own self my mind and spirit became free and my self-esteem grew and so did my self-love.

At Kings & Queens of Art our real work is and will always be about Reinventing Communities & Perceptions about the people in those communities. We do so by employing the therapeutic value of art and by thinking and working holistically when engaging with others. It is our belief that art projects with immediate results, collages, self-portraits, and vision boards can help build self-esteem by giving one a sense of accomplishment. Art can also help one connect with self and others, and promote problem-solving and creative thinking.

Timeline:

1st year: April-December 2025; 2nd Year: April-December 2026. We will begin our journey in April 2025 at The Davis apartment community. We will hold 2 hr sessions twice a month with 4th to 8th grade girls and hold separate art sessions with their parents. We will make monthly assessments. Looking at what we've done well and what we could do better!

The first two years will serve as a pilot project allowing us the space and time to get the kinks out.

Project Start Date:

April 2025

Project End Date:

December 2026

IMPACT OF PROJECT:
Who will be served: Cleveland & Cuyahoga County Residents in under served communities.
How many people will be served annually: We will be starting our program with 25 youth grades 4th through 8th grades and 20 parents Estimated 50 people (leaving room for add ons) in this pilot year! We expect to grow participants as we become more visible!
Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how: Yes, low/moderate income people will be served. There will not be any class fees and supplies will be free to the participants and they will be able to take their creations home!
How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects: There are many mobile services now being provided our is unique in that it provides services that are healing and entertaining!
If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary: N/A
If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be: N/A
If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives: Because of the shift in world thinking, that has been mandated by the Pandemic, those who choose to be in service to our communities have had to come up with creative ways to serve our communities in a more consistent, and socially aware outreach capacity. Our program will be a great example of "How It Works"!

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total Budget of Project:

Administrative costs: \$10,000/Printing and Cost of Materials for production of 100 Handmade Journals
“Empowering My Self With Words” @\$25 = \$2,500/Art Supplies: \$5,000
Driver & maintenance of Art Mobile: \$1,000/Stipends for Volunteer staff: \$1,500
Total:\$20,000

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

Presently at this time we have no ther funding sources for this project

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:

\$20,000

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

We have a possibility of a Special Project contract with the Cleveland Public Library
We will be seeking funding from other sources such as United Black Fund, Gund Foundation
We are building a relationship with Cavaliers and Guardians!

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:

Signature:

Date:

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name: