

STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

Grant Committee Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2023

The Grant Committee of the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority held a meeting via videoconference and in-person on Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

The hybrid meeting was called to order by Mr. Peter Lisi, Board Chair, at 12:06 p.m. and upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT: Steven L. Elbaum  
Kimberly Kennison (*Designee for Jeffrey Beckham, OPM Secretary*)<sup>1</sup>  
Peter W. Lisi, Board Chair  
Susan Martin  
Alan Mattamana

ABSENT: Lawrence Davis, Committee Chair

ALSO PRESENT: Jeanette W. Weldon, Executive Director  
Denise Aguilera, General Counsel  
Daniel Giungi, Communications and Government Affairs Specialist  
Rebecca Hrdlicka, Administrative Services Assistant  
Andrew Kwashnak, Senior Data & Systems Analyst<sup>2</sup>  
JoAnne Mackewicz, Controller<sup>3</sup>  
Kara Stuart, Manager, Administrative Services  
Betty Sugerman Weintraub, Manager of Grant Programs and  
Philanthropic Outreach of Connecticut Health and  
Educational Facilities Authority

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Lisi requested a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2023 meeting of the Grant Committee. Ms. Martin moved for approval of the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Lisi.

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTENTIONS</u></b>
Peter W. Lisi	None	Kim Kennison <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kimberly Kennison participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

<sup>2</sup> Andrew Kwashnak participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

<sup>3</sup> JoAnne Mackewicz participated in the meeting via teleconference that permitted all parties to hear each other.

<sup>4</sup> Ms. Kennison abstained from voting as she did not attend the Grant Committee Meeting held on January 18, 2023.

Susan Martin

Alan Mattamana<sup>5</sup>

### **FY 2023 NONPROFIT GRANT REVIEW**

The Grant Committee reviewed applications for the FY 2023 Nonprofit Grant Program. Ms. Weintraub reported that there were 159 Letter of Interests (LOIs) received for this grant process, 48 organizations were invited to submit full applications, and 39 applications were completed for review. Ms. Weintraub reported that 1 application had withdrawn, and 8 applications had been disqualified for submitting outdated or incorrect documents.

Ms. Weintraub then presented an overview of the applications completed, which included the following topics:

- Breakdown of capital expenditure requests and program requests
- Sectors (i.e., child care, cultural, healthcare, or education) served
- Geographic communities served

Ms. Weintraub also reported on the funds allocated to the cultural sector from the previous annual Grant Committee meeting held on September 9, 2022. Ms. Weintraub stated that the Grant Committee voted for \$100,000 of grant funds to be allocated to the cultural sector in the nonprofit grant cycle. Grant awards to the cultural sector can be over or under this \$100,000 based on the Committee's consensus and discretion. Finally, Ms. Weintraub thanked the IRC members for their hard work in reviewing the applications.

Mr. Lisi inquired about the geographic reach of the grant submissions, and a brief discussion ensued regarding current philanthropic outreach efforts and fluctuations per grant cycle. Ms. Weintraub noted that often times nonprofit organizations are located in urban areas, however have a larger geographic footprint for their service area.

Mr. Elbaum joined the hybrid meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Mr. Lisi and Ms. Weintraub stated that a consensus discussion will ensue following the presentation of applications by Ms. Weintraub. Mr. Lisi reiterated that the awarded dollar amounts are ultimately determined by the Committee members, whether that be the full amount requested

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<sup>5</sup> Mr. Mattamana abstained from voting as he did not attend the Grant Committee Meeting held on January 18, 2023.

from CHEFA by the applicant or changed by the Committee upon discussion. Mr. Lisi also reiterated that the Committee ultimately decides who is recommended for an award and that all information (e.g., IRC ratings) is presented to the Committee for an informed decision.

The floor was opened to questions about the applications.

Mr. Lisi commented on the total amount requested from applications receiving 2 or more high ratings, which is approximately \$1.5 million. Given that the total amount to be awarded is approximately \$1 million, Mr. Lisi reported that the consensus discussion should look to cut approximately \$0.5 million in requests.

Mr. Lisi opened the floor to discuss any applications not previously presented by Ms. Weintraub, and the Committee agreed to focus on the 26 applications presented for a consensus discussion.

The Committee then transitioned into a consensus discussion to decide which applications should be awarded. An application was considered for an award if the majority of the Committee was in consensus (i.e., 3 or more Committee members considered the application favorable).

The consensus discussion started with the cultural organizations. After the initial consensus of the cultural organizations, a discussion ensued on the amount awarded for Silvermine Guild of Artists, Inc.; Sea Research Foundation, Inc. DBA Mystic Aquarium; and Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County in order to match the allocated \$100,000 funds for cultural organizations.

After further deliberation by the Committee, consensus was reached that the applications submitted by the following cultural organizations should be awarded grants for the FY 2023 Nonprofit Grant Program:

Neighborhood Studios of Fairfield County: \$50,000

Sea Research Foundation, Inc. DBA Mystic Aquarium: \$25,000

Silvermine Guild of Artists, Inc.: \$25,000

Mr. Lisi requested a motion to award the 3 organizations as listed above to fulfill the cultural sector \$100,000 fund allocation for the FY 2023 Nonprofit Grant Program. Ms. Martin moved for approval and Mr. Elbaum seconded the motion.

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

**AYES**

Steven L. Elbaum  
Kimberly Kennison  
Peter W. Lisi  
Susan Martin  
Alan Mattamana

**NAYS**

None

**ABSTENTIONS**

None

The consensus discussion continued for all other (i.e., non-cultural) organizations that received 2 or more high ratings by the IRC. Mr. Lisi also opened the floor to discuss applications not part of the initial discussion.

After further deliberation by the Committee, consensus was reached that the applications submitted by the following organizations should be awarded grants for the FY 2023 Nonprofit Grant Program:

Family & Children's Aid, Inc.: \$52,453

Goodwin University: \$75,000

Hartford Promise: \$75,000

Health Education Center: \$75,000

Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc.: \$35,000

Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership (LEAP): \$75,000

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford: \$15,000

Literacy Volunteers of Central CT: \$10,000

Make the Road States, Inc., DBA Make the Road CT: \$75,000

NAF: \$75,000

New Haven Promise: \$75,000

Our Piece of the Pie, Inc.: \$75,000

Solar Youth, Inc.: \$45,000

The Child and Family Guidance Center: \$75,000

United Way of Western Connecticut: \$75,000

The awarded amounts were determined by the requested amount from CHEFA by the applicant as well as through Committee discussion, so that the total of all awarded grants would not exceed the \$1,007,453 allocated for disbursement.

Mr. Lisi requested a motion to award the 15 organizations as listed above. Mr. Elbaum moved for approval and Ms. Kennison seconded the motion.

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<u><b>AYES</b></u>	<u><b>NAYS</b></u>	<u><b>ABSTENTIONS</b></u>
Steven L. Elbaum	None	None
Kimberly Kennison		
Peter W. Lisi		
Susan Martin		
Alan Mattamana		

**ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further time, the remaining agenda item on Enterprise Capital was not discussed as it was noted that the memo provided to the Committee included a summary of planned current and future activities. Mr. Lisi moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Elbaum seconded the motion.

Upon a voice vote, the “Ayes,” “Nays” and “Abstentions” were as follows:

<u><b>AYES</b></u>	<u><b>NAYS</b></u>	<u><b>ABSTENTIONS</b></u>
Steven L. Elbaum	None	None
Kimberly Kennison		
Peter W. Lisi		
Susan Martin		
Alan Mattamana		

The hybrid meeting adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Weldon  
Executive Director