



San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

To: San Francisco Library Commission
From: Mike Fernandez, San Francisco Public Library, Chief Financial Officer
Michelle Jeffers, San Francisco Public Library, Chief of Community Programs & Partnerships
Through: Michael Lambert, San Francisco Public Library, City Librarian
Date: November 21, 2024
Subject: Recommendation for Approval

Commissioners:

Pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Section 21G(8)a Rules & Regulations, the San Francisco Public Library (“SFPL”) hereby respectfully submits our Recommendation of Sole Source Grant Award. Should you agree with our recommendation, the code requires adoption of the resolution (attached) by this body. Please see our reasoning for this recommendation request below.

SFPL is seeking to extend the existing grant agreement by 6 months. The process of selecting a new drag laureate requires the dedicated effort of the drag laureate beyond our initial conception. The amount of outreach required to ensure community members from all backgrounds are aware of this opportunity is substantial and requires additional months of time and effort. In addition, planning is taking longer to ensure that other community members who should be represented in the selection process and committee are represented.

Background

In June 2022, Mayor Breed announced the inclusion of the new Drag Laureate included in her Budget, that was passed in July of the same year. In November of the same year the Mayor announced the application launch for the first Drag Laureate. The announcement kicked off a competitive process as defined by Administrative Code Section 21G.8 which continued that fall and winter, ultimately culminating with selection of the first San Francisco Drag Laureate for an 18 month term, from May 18, 2023 to November 17, 2024.

The selection was memorialized in a Grant Agreement which is governed by Chapter 21G of the San Francisco Administrative code between the San Francisco Library and D’Arcy Drollinger. The responsibilities defined in that agreement are as follows:

Responsibilities

San Francisco's Drag Laureate will embody our diverse and inclusive drag culture, elevating our entire community on the national and international stage.

Responsibilities of the Drag Laureate of San Francisco include, but are not limited to:

- Help develop and promote the role of the Drag Laureate.
- Serve as spokesperson for the LGBTQIA+ Community of San Francisco.
- Participate in community-based Drag programs and events that reflect and honor the diversity of San Francisco.
- Partner in an official capacity with various city agencies and community organizations throughout the full 18-month term, including during Pride Month.
- Produce Drag-centered events and programming centered on celebrating and supporting San Francisco's dynamic and diverse LGBTQ+ community in collaboration with San Francisco Public Library, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, the San Francisco Arts Commission and community partners.
- Ensure San Francisco's rich drag history is shared, honored, and preserved.
- Help promote and select the next Drag Laureate towards the completion of your 18-month term.

It is the final responsibility that requires additional time to complete in accordance to our grant Agreement. To carry out this portion agreement we cannot utilize a competitive process to select a new grantee to fulfill the existing duties.

Effective January 1, 2022 Chapter 21G(8)(a) was modified and now reads:

Notwithstanding any other provision of this [Chapter 21G](#), a Granting Agency may award a Grant without conducting an open and competitive process under Sections [21G.4](#), [21G.5](#), and [21G.6](#), in accordance with the Purchaser's rules and regulations. For Granting Agencies under the jurisdiction of a commission or a board, the Granting Agency shall not award a Grant without conducting an open and competitive process unless the commission or board approves the Granting Agency's recommendation that the Grant be awarded as a sole source. Before awarding such a Grant, the Granting Agency shall recommend to the commission or board concerned the approval and award of a Grant pursuant to this subsection (a) and such commission or board may then adopt a resolution approving the justification of the sole source and awarding the Grant.

Prior to this change, the Library Commission was not required to review grant agreements entered into with non-profit entities. This change now requires review when The San Francisco Public Library cannot engage in a competitive process. Grants awarded via a competitive process do not require review by this body. The City has developed a Waiver Form included with the resolution to guide the sole source approval process.

Justification for Waiver of Competitive Solicitation Process

Public Purpose may reasonably be accomplished by one particular Grantee

• Why this is the only entity that can fulfill this Public Purpose? What the entity offers that is essential to fulfilling the Public Purpose? As indicated in the advertisement for the selection of the inaugural Drag Laureate, one of the duties of this Laureate was to assist in further developing the process of selecting future Drag Laureates. The only individual that can bring the perspective of a San Francisco Drag Laureate would be a prior honoree. This is the only San Francisco Drag Laureate selected to date and therefore is the only entity that can both represent the LGBTQI+ community and provide the perspective of a Laureate

• What steps were taken to verify that this is the only entity that can fulfill this Public Purpose? Has the department contacted other entities to evaluate their ability to fulfill the Public Purpose, and if so, describe the entities and explain why they cannot meet the department's needs. SFPL has verified that we are the only entity that has selected a San Francisco Drag Laureate. No other entity would be able to provide the community membership and bring the perspective and experience of a past Laureate in shaping the process of selecting future Laureates.

The alternatives considered were to either seek out another Drag Laureate selected from another jurisdiction or to proceed without the Laureate's input. In consideration of these alternatives we determined that San Francisco is sufficiently unique that a different Laureate's experience would not be an adequate substitute for a local Laureate. As for the second, our determination is that the need to include the diverse perspectives needed to run a credible process is too great to go without. The Drag Laureate is the only entity that has the credibility and standing in the San Francisco Community that could obtain the needed input.

While it is possible that other entities might argue for their perspective instead of the Drag Laureate, none would have the unique perspective offered by the existing Drag Laureate.

Recommendation

Per the justification above and the waiver attached, the Library recommends award of the sole source grant. The Library Commission can accept this recommendation by adopting the proposed Resolution.