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MEMO

To: Board of Trustees
From: Emily Allen, Community Impact Committee Chair
Date: June 1, 2022
Re: Orchestral Music Grant Program recommendation

The Community Impact Committee met on April 5, 2022 for the regularly scheduled Committee meeting. The Committee discussed the Foundation's Orchestral Music Grant Program, which was created through Board variance power following the bankruptcy of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra (NMSO). At the time, Board members conducted a lengthy process to determine any organizations that met the mission of NMSO. Since 2012, the application process has been by invitation only to the organizations determined to meet the criteria and since 2015, the same four organizations have been invited to apply: New Mexico Philharmonic, Albuquerque Youth Symphony (AYS), New Mexico Symphonic Chorus and Opera Southwest. Over the past five years, applicants have completed a lengthy application, staff have convened a panel and organizations have given presentations, resulting in all four organizations receiving roughly the same amount of funding each year.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Community Impact Committee recommended that staff calculate the average percentage of the available distribution that each of the above listed organizations has received since 2015 and allocate that amount to each organization, pending submission of a brief report of the use of the previous year funding and request for continued funding. Allocations would be as follows: NM Philharmonic 67%; AYS 19%; NM Symphonic Chorus 4%; Opera SW 10%. Committee recommends that this remain in effect for a period of three years, at which time staff and Committee will reevaluate the program to determine if any new organizations meet the criteria and if an open process should be considered.

During this time, if one of the three organizations should close its doors for any reason, the Committee will reevaluate the program and make additional recommendations to the Board.

Upon reviewing the percentages that, if approved, would be distributed to each organization based on allocations from 2015 to current, Foundation staff and Community Impact Committee Chair, Emily Allen would like to adjust the recommendation to be averaged over a five-year period. This is due to the tremendous growth and sustainability of Opera Southwest, who has seen significant increases in their funding award since 2015, and it is considered to skew the current distribution when evaluated from 2015. Updated recommended allocations would be as follows: NM Philharmonic 65%; AYS 20%; NM Symphonic Chorus 4%; Opera SW 11%.

Current recommendation to the Board: the four organizations currently invited to apply through the Orchestral Music Grant Program, will be awarded funding based on an average percentage of the distribution available calculated over awards received for the past five years (2017-2021). Organizations will submit a brief (not to exceed 1-page) report and request each year to initiate

the distribution, to be reviewed by Community Impact staff. This will remain in effect for a period of three years (2022-2024) and will be reevaluated by the Community Impact Committee for recommendations on how to proceed with this program into 2025.