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MEMO

To: Board of Trustees
From: Emily Allen, Community Impact Committee Chair
Date: December 2, 2024
Re: Community Impact Committee updates

The Community Impact Committee met on October 23, 2024, for the regularly scheduled meeting. In addition to the discussion around the Orchestral Music Grant Program, as provided in the consent agenda, the Committee continued a conversation from the June meeting that revolved around revising the current eligibility criteria that require Annual Grant Cycle applicant organizations to have been in existence for more than five years. The five-year eligibility requirement was intended to ensure financial stability and reduce risk. The Committee emphasized that the changing environment necessitates flexibility, as newer organizations often play a critical role in addressing emerging needs. Additionally, the Committee pointed out that all applicants must meet the requirements of a 501(c)(3) organization, which provides a measure of stability. Conversation led to the agreement that supporting these groups would foster innovation and inclusiveness, ultimately benefiting the community.

After a thorough examination of the potential risks to reducing this requirement to 1-year, the Committee ultimately voted to reduce the requirement to 3-years, with continued examination of what it would mean to reduce that further.

Additionally, the Community Impact Committee discussed and unanimously agreed to combine the two rounds of the Annual Grant Cycle into one round. This streamlined approach to the grant program would address issues of confusion resulting from separating grant applications into two rounds based on the field-of-interest. Ample notice will be provided to the nonprofits and the grant application will be open for two months to allow applicants time to adjust to this change.