

Capital / Facilities Peer Session Report

NASAA Assembly 2008, September 11-13

In attendance: Jay Paget, Director, Cultural Facilities Fund, Massachusetts Cultural Council; Rebecca Polan, Program Coordinator for the Cultural Facilities Fund, Massachusetts Cultural Council; Daniel Strauss, Senior Program Analyst, Kentucky Arts Council; Kathleen Fox, Executive Director, Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission; and Donald Blancett, Cultural Facilities Program Administrator and Arts Resources Manager, Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs.

Day 1: Discussion on Capital/Facilities program and administration within each state.

Kentucky does not have a direct capital program, but rather funds cultural construction and historical renovation via a legislative line item or through the Universities, Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet.

The Ohio legislature identifies the projects. The Commission reviews the appropriateness of each project including need and uses of the facility. There is no direct application process. The program is funded through tax-exempt bonds.

Massachusetts has a financing agency with bonding authority. The agency sets the guidelines, eligibility, and match requirements. Administrative costs for the program are taken from the appropriations. Subsequent to legislative appropriations, applications are reviewed by panels that submit funding recommendations to the agency.

The Florida Legislature appropriates funds following application review by the Florida Arts Council and approval by the Secretary of State. Applications are priority-ranked by score by the Arts Council prior to submission to the Secretary of State and Florida Legislature. Funding is General Revenue through the Fixed Capital Outlay fund.

Some discussion of program procedures, staff, grants payments, and accountability.

Ohio. No funding cap on requests. Thirteen staff members work in teams to review applications and manage grants. Agency enters into an administrative contract with each grantee. Grant payments are by reimbursement only. Grantees submit invoices to substantiate reimbursement requests.

Massachusetts. Proposals are submitted after funds become available. A needs assessment is required with each application. The assessment includes a system replacement plan. Grant payment is by reimbursement only; verified by invoices. Two staff handle all program administration. Appropriation last year was \$35 million.

Florida. Proposals for new construction, renovation, or acquisition submitted annually. Agency enters into a contract with each grantee for the administration of the project. A restrictive covenant must be signed by the property owner and grantee and recorded in the county of the project. Agency is permitted to advance up to 25% of the grant. Invoices not required. Six-month progress reports and a final report are required. No program funding for past 2 fiscal years. One program administrator manages the entire program.

Day 2: Discussion on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification.

Kathy Fox (Ohio) led the conversation and provided expertise on LEED Certification. Some discussion on making LEED Certification part of the Capital/Facilities application process.

Kathy led the discussion on "green" cost benefits and the benefits on pre-planning. The group discussed heat reduction inside the facility, types of glass that keep heat out, storm water and water retention, recyclable materials, lighting systems, green roof as insulation, and various types of green parking lots.

The discussion was most interesting and informative and we thanked Kathy for her leadership and expertise in this area.

Minutes recorded sporadically by:
Don Blancett
Capital/Facilities Facilitator