



Date: November 20, 2023

To: Wanda S. Page, City Manager
Through: Bertha T. Winbush, Deputy City Manager
From: Jina B. Propst, Director, General Services Department
Subject: Agreement to Fund Durham Symphony 2024 Season Operated by Durham Symphony, Incorporated Using City of Durham Funds

Executive Summary

City Council allocated \$100,000 in the FY24 budget to support the Durham Symphony's 2024 Season and educational programming. The General Services Department proposes to execute an agreement totaling \$100,000 with Durham Symphony, Incorporated to support its 2024 season programming.

Motion

To authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement to fund the Durham Symphony 2024 Season operated by Durham Symphony, Incorporated in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

Background

Presenting an eclectic variety of orchestral music, the Durham Symphony strives to make classical music accessible to diverse audiences in a wide variety of community settings. Since its founding in 1976 as the Triangle's first community orchestra, the Durham Symphony has been bringing orchestral music (often for free) into a wide array of community spaces, including parks, schools, and churches as well as the Durham Armory, Emily K Center, Hayti Heritage Center, Durham County Library, and Durham Bulls Athletic Park.

In the FY24 budget, the City Council allocated \$100,000 to support the Durham Symphony's 2024 Season. The proposed contracted scope includes educational opportunities for students and residents, five ticketed and free concerts, and improvements to the organization's marketing strategies. Durham Symphony's contracted goals and benchmarks include:

- Increasing the number of services for musicians in 2024 Season;
- Expanding presence and partnerships in Durham;
- Offering patrons and musicians greater variety of music, including more classical concerts; and
- Making Durham Symphony more visible to residents and private funders.

If authorized, the General Services Department's Cultural & Public Art Program will manage the proposed contract.

Issues and Analysis

The proposed agreement with the Durham Symphony aligns with the City Council's commitment to supporting and expanding arts and cultural programming in Durham. Durham Symphony has

experienced challenges retaining and recruiting talent in light of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation.

In FY24, the City of Durham's proposed contract funding will allow the Durham Symphony to expand the number of services per season from 18 during the 2023 season to 28 services during the 2024 season. With a single service defined as one rehearsal (2.5 hours) and one performance (1 to 3 hours), adding 10 additional services during the 2024 season, will offer musicians more opportunities to perform and earn more compensation.

Alternatives

City Council could elect not to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, which would result in no City funded programming for the Durham Symphony's 2024 Season.

Financial Impact

If authorized, the proposed \$100,000 agreement will be funded from the FY24 general fund appropriation for the Durham Symphony (Org:0C000100/Obj:725000).

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

Due to the nature of this agenda item, a review by the Department of Finance – Underutilized Business Compliance was not required.

Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices

Due to the nature of this agenda item, obtaining Contractor Workforce Diversity & Hiring Practices information is not applicable.

Attachments

- Agreement to Fund Durham Symphony 2024 Season Operated by Durham Symphony, Incorporated Using City of Durham Funds
- Exhibit A - Program Scope and Description
- Exhibit B - Budgeted City-Funded Expenditures
- Exhibit C - Deliverables Reporting Form