

### **Attachment C – Cultural, Arts, and Festivals Process Framework**

The County has historically evaluated contributions to cultural, arts, and festival community non-profits separately from other non-profits, because the criteria used for the Human Services Funding Process does not align well for evaluating cultural, arts, and festival non-profits.

At its July 19, 2023 meeting, the Board of Supervisors updated and approved the following framework for this process:

- Community non-profit agencies are grouped into four categories: larger programs that bring visitors to the community and support the local economy, smaller local cultural programs, programs that are arts-focused, or programs that may provide recreational or educational opportunities.
- The evaluation process focuses on qualification as an eligible program request, rather than a prior prioritization of programs based on 13 criteria by 5 County staff from different departments, which was in place prior to the FY 25 budget process. This change was made in part to streamline the administrative review process.
- Funding recommendations are tiered by category that consider prior funding decisions by category, e.g. larger programs that bring visitors to the community and support the local economy are historically funded greater than smaller local cultural programs.
- Funding recommendations provide funding among agencies regardless of whether they were new or existing in the prior budget. Depending on the context of the total recommended budget, staff may recommend funding more agencies at a lower amount per agency rather than a greater amount of funding for fewer agencies.
- Funding will continue to be subject to total budget considerations including, but not limited to: County mandates and obligations, investment in the Strategic Plan, and available revenues.