



Memorandum

TO: ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Kerry Adams Hapner

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED FY 2022-2023
FESTIVAL, PARADE, AND
CELEBRATION GRANT AWARDS**

DATE: May 4, 2022

Approved /s/ Nanci Klein

Date May 5, 2022

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the City Council approve the proposed FY 2022-2023 *Festival, Parade, & Celebration (FPC)* Grant awards as specified in Attachment A and subject to the availability of funds appropriated in the City's FY 2022-2023 Operating Budget.

BACKGROUND

Through the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA), the City of San Jose provides a limited number of *Festival, Parade, and Celebration Grant (FPC)* awards each year to expand access for all City residents to a wide range of cultural experiences in the form of community festivals, parades, and celebrations, large and small. These events are often held in public spaces and are always open to the public. Most FPC-supported events have free attendance, while some have fee-based admission to some parts of or the entire event. In various ways, these festivals contribute to the City's cultural enrichment and economic enhancement, and they help to promote the City to visitors.

As noted in the 2022-2023 guidelines, FPC funding is granted through a competitive process. Applications are weighed each year by a review panel for their responsiveness to the evaluation criteria published in the program information booklet.

ANALYSIS

The panel met on April 14 and 15, 2022 to complete its evaluation and was impressed by the overall quality and quantity of cultural offerings in San Jose.

The FPC Grant Review Panel is typically comprised of individuals experienced in special event production, community members familiar with special events in San José, and a representative from the Arts Commission. This year, the Arts Commissioner assigned to serve on the FPC panel had to withdraw due to scheduling conflicts and was not available to serve on the FPC panel.

The panel was comprised of the following members:

- **Anne Huang**, *Executive Director, World Arts West*
- **Alfonso (Al) Perez**, *President, Filipino American Arts Exposition*
- **Robertino Ragazza**, *Events Professional, Owner, Lorde & Grayson*
- **Dylan Rice**, *San Francisco Entertainment Commission*

The panel evaluated each application against five criteria: Event narrative & cultural, historical and/or neighborhood significance (30%); Communications, marketing, outreach, and attendance (30%); Financial and budgetary capabilities/leveraging of City funding (20%); Ability to produce a well-planned, and safe event (10%); and Economic impact (10%).

The OCA received 43 eligible applications for the FY 2022-2023 FPC grant cycle. Applications were organized into four groups based on the most recent actual expenditures for events covered by grant applications. The combined value of eligible grant requests was \$837,499.

At its March 2022 meeting, the Arts Commission recommended that 14% of the available funds in the Cultural Funding Portfolio be allocated to the FPC grant program. This recommendation results in \$546,980 being available for FPC grants.

The panel recommended funding for 38 of the 43 eligible applications based on the ranking of their scores in each budget category. Due to the City's pending development of the proposed Operating Budget for FY 2022-2023, the panel did not have specific dollar amounts to recommend for distribution at the time of its meeting. Instead, the panel made recommendations for approximate funding percentages, to be adjusted proportionally, when the final amount for distribution was available.

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PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Executive Committee reviewed these recommendations at a publicly noticed meeting on May 2, 2022. Notices of granting opportunities were distributed to the OCA's e-mail contacts lists, posted on the OCA website, uploaded on the City of San Jose WebGrants platform, and shared via social media.

/s/

KERRY ADAMS HAPNER

Director of Cultural Affairs

Attachments:

- A. List of FY 2022-2023 FPC panel grant award recommendations, in alphabetical order
- B. List of recommended FY 2022-2023 FPC grant applicants and events proposed in alphabetical order
- C. Grant review panel qualifications

ATTACHMENT A: FY 2022-2023 FPC Grant Recommendations

Event	Score	Recommended % of funds in category	Proposed Award**
Prior Actual Expense: \$1 - \$2 Million			
Recommended Allocation to Category: 33%			
Christmas in the Park	91.1	24.50%	\$44,223
Cinequest Film Festival	92.3	25.00%	\$45,126
Downtown Ice (SJDA)	90.1	24.00%	\$40,000
San Jose Jazz Summer Fest	94.5	26.50%	\$40,000
Prior Actual Expense: \$98,000 - \$360,000			
Recommended Allocation to Category: 28%			
Children's Cultural Fest Series (CDM)	89.3	9.75%	\$14,933
Dia San Jose (SJDA)	88.2	9.75%	\$14,933
Fountain Blues & Brews	88.5	9.75%	\$14,933
Int'l Aimusic Festival	89.7	9.75%	\$14,933
Italian Family Festa	88.3	9.75%	\$14,933
Mosaic Festival	90.2	9.75%	\$14,933
Music in the Park (SJDA)	90.4	9.75%	\$14,933
Rose, White and Blue 4th of July	83.6	6.25%	\$9,572
San Jose Jazz Winter Fest	87.6	9.75%	\$14,933
SV Jewish Film Festival	82.3	6.00%	\$9,189
SV Pride Parade	86.9	9.75%	\$14,933
Prior Actual Expense: \$35,000 - \$80,000			
Recommended Allocation to Category: 26%			
Almaden Valley Women's Club J4FFF	83.6	6.00%	\$8,533
Bark in the Park	87.6	9.00%	\$12,799
CPAA Spring Festival Silicon Valley	87.2	9.00%	\$12,799
Dia de los Muertos (SJMAG)	86.8	9.00%	\$12,799
Dia de Portugal	93.9	13.00%	\$10,000
Shakespeare in the Park	93.5	13.00%	\$18,488
Sikh Gurdwara - Hola Mohalla	81.1	5.00%	\$7,111
SJZ Boombox Concert Series	89.0	10.00%	\$14,221
SJZ New Works	87.1	9.00%	\$12,799
SV African Film Festival	92.4	12.00%	\$17,066
Youth Music & Art Cultural Fest	81.0	5.00%	\$7,111

Event	Score	Recommended % of funds in category	Proposed Award**
Prior Actual Expense: \$0 - \$31,000			
Recommended Allocation to Category: 13%			
Almaden Virtual 5K and Festival	72.5	0.00%	Recommend No Funding
Chile Mole Pozole	92.0	12.00%	\$8,533
Chopsticks Alley Art	80.8	4.00%	\$2,844
CreaTV	61.1	0.00%	Recommend No Funding
Folkloreada	94.1	13.00%	\$9,244
Guitar Solo & Ensemble Festival	35.6	0.00%	Recommend No funding
Jubilee Wellness (Proj MORE)	84.3	7.00%	\$4,978
Luna Park Chalk Art Festival	88.5	10.00%	\$7,111
Porchfest (Campus Comm Assoc)	81.9	5.00%	\$3,555
Pumpkins in the Park	82.7	5.00%	\$3,555
San Jose Poetry Festival	91.8	12.00%	\$5,000
Sikh Gurdwara - Ice Cream Social	80.3	4.00%	\$2,844
sjDANCEco Annual Dance Festival	74.2	0.00%	Recommend No Funding
SoAC Mariachi Festival	92.2	12.00%	\$5,000
SoFA Street Fairs (SJDA)	90.6	11.00%	\$7,822
VAR Black April Comm	82.0	5.00%	\$3,555
Vietnamese in San Jose	70.8	0.00%	Recommend No Funding
TOTAL PROPOSED GRANT FUNDING:			\$517,864

ATTACHMENT B: FY 2022-2023 FPC Grant Recommendations Event Descriptions

Aimusic School

Event: Aimusic International Festival

Grant will support the 8th Annual Aimusic International Festival on April 29 through May 6, 2023, at the California Theater, San Jose State University Concert Hall, and the San Jose City College Theater and Music Department. The festival will celebrate Peking Opera percussion music, collaborate with masters from Taiwan, and bring a unique world intangible cultural heritage program to multicultural residents in the City of San Jose.

Almaden Valley Women's Club

Event: Family Fun Festival and Fireworks Show

Grant will support the annual Family Fun Festival and Fireworks Show on July 4, 2022 at Almaden Lake Park. This event is held on July 4th, providing a safe place for families to attend and enjoy food from small businesses, non-profit booths, live entertainment and spectacular fireworks show.

Campus Community Association

Event: Bark in the Park

Grant will support Bark in the Park, an annual neighborhood dog-centric family event, held yearly for the last 22 years. It promotes Naglee Park and Downtown San Jose Living. Proceeds support various local non-profit organizations. Scheduled for September 17, 2022.

Campus Community Association

Event: PorchFest

Grant will support PorchFest, a popular neighborhood event which features eight music stops throughout Naglee Park neighborhood on neighbors' front lawns, driveways and porches. Neighbors are invited to walk or bike from "stage" to "stage". Some "host" neighbors choose to pull block party permits, invite taco trucks, making it as celebratory as they choose. Scheduled for June 18, 2023.

Cashion Cultural Legacy

Event: Folkloreada

Grant will support FOLKLOREADA, a one-day free community festival featuring cultural music & dance performances, artisan food and crafts vendors plus family activities at the School of Arts & Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza. Scheduled for May 14, 2023.

[Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose](#)

Event: Children's Cultural Festival Series

Grant will support the Children's Cultural Festival Series comprised of eight celebrations reflecting Latino, Vietnamese, Chinese, Indian, LGBTQ and African American families in our community. Held within Children's Discovery Museum, children and families are invited to learn about other cultures during these festivals through music, dance, arts activities, foods, and traditional clothing. Planned in collaboration with and supported by Community Advisory Committees or partner CBOs, the festival series will begin September 10, 2022, through June 19, 2023.

[Chinese Performing Arts of America](#)

Event: CPAA Spring Festival Silicon Valley

Grant will support CPAA's 15th Annual Spring Festival Silicon Valley (SFSV) scheduled for January 22-February 11, 2023. SFSV is a colorful and vibrant multi-event festival that will entertain and engage over 9,000 residents in the South Bay during the Lunar New Year.

[Chopsticks Alley Art](#)

Event: Son Mai Art Making at Moon Festival 2022

Grant will support Chopsticks Alley Art's art-making booth at the 2022 Moon Festival to teach participants how to make Son Mai paintings. This art form was revived and developed as a distinct genre of fine art painting by Vietnamese artists in the 1930s. Participants will be taught how to use premade scratchboards to make a reinterpreted and accessible version of Son Mai paintings to teach Vietnamese Americans the richness of this cultural artistic tradition.

[Christmas in the Park](#)

Event: Christmas in the Park

Grant will support Christmas in the Park, a free holiday walk through event in Downtown San Jose. For over 40 years, this holiday festival has evolved to create lasting memories for the community and consists of more than 500 decorated trees, over 40 animated exhibits, live entertainment and so much more. The event is scheduled for November 25, 2022 - January 1, 2023.

[Cinequest](#)

Event: Cinequest Film Festival

Grant will support the annual Cinequest Film Festival during February 28 through March 12, 2023, in San Jose. This annual film festival features over 260 local, national, and international premiere films, 700 film artists, interactive forums and more in its annual celebration of the creation and discovery of cinematic art and innovation plus the connection of artists, innovators, movie lovers and students.

[Fountain Blues Foundation](#)

Event: San Jose Fountain Blues Festival

Grant will support the 40th Annual San Jose Fountain Blues and Brews Festival which will take place June 17, 2023 at Plaza de Cesar Chavez in Downtown San Jose. The festival will offer a

diverse line-up of national and regional musicians, ranging in in genres from traditional roots blues, gospel and R&B, to funk, soul, rock, and swing - plus a "Blues Beyond" stage featuring young Artists blending multiple-popular music genres rooted in blues influences.

[Gay Pride Celebration Committee](#)

Event: SV Pride Parade and Festival

Grant will support the Silicon Valley PRIDE parade and festival on August 27 and 28, 2022 at Plaza de Cesar Chavez in Downtown San Jose. The event aims to raising the awareness and visibility of LGBTQ+ community members and allies in San Jose and Silicon Valley.

[Guadalupe River Park Conservancy](#)

Event: Pumpkins in the Park

Grant will support Pumpkins in the Park on October 8, 2022, in Discovery Meadow. It is a one-day festival celebrating the environment and harvest season that features entertainment, arts, and other hands-on activities. Pumpkins in the Park has been held since 1995 and is a family tradition for many in San Jose and beyond.

[Italian American Heritage Foundation](#)

Event: Italian Family Festa

Grant will support the major outreach program of the Italian American Heritage Foundation (IAHF) which is the annual Italian Family Festa. The two-day community festa, now on its 40th year, will be held August 20 and 21 at History Park San Jose and is a family-focused celebration of heritage and community through cultural exhibits, entertainment, artisan booths, lectures and cuisine.

[Luna Park Arts Foundation](#)

Event: Annual Luna Park Chalk Art Festival

Grant will support the return of the annual Luna Park Chalk Art Festival on September 17, 2022 at Backesto Park. Artists of all ages create colorful works of art on the pathways throughout the park. The event includes artists, musicians, food, and local vendors coming together with local school students and their families for a day of artistic celebration.

[Mosaic America](#)

Event: Mosaic Festival Silicon Valley

Grant will support Mosaic Festival Silicon Valley, a weekend festival in East San Jose featuring free performances in music, dance, visual art and spoken word by artists representative of the many diverse communities that live in the region and serving a projected audience of 3,000. The event is scheduled for August 26 and 27, 2022.

[Portuguese Heritage Society of CA](#)

Event: 24th Annual Dia de Portugal Festival

Grant will support the 24th Annual Dia de Portugal Festival which will be held at History Park, in Kelley Park, on June 10, 2023, and expects to draw 4,500 participants. It is a fun-filled day of cultural entertainment, food, and education about the Portuguese, an important population in San Jose's history and ethnic mosaic.

Positive Alternative Recreation Teambuilding Impacting Program (P.A.R.T.I.)

Event: Youth Music and Arts Cultural Festival

Grant will support the Youth Music and Arts Cultural Festival which will provide 25 youth artists and performers a grassroots platform where they can come together to share their culture and artistic expression through music and arts, while exploring new avenues for collaboration, action and celebration. The one-day event is youth built and youth led and projected to reach 2,500 virtual and in person participants. The event is scheduled for August 27, 2022, and August 2023.

Project MORE Foundation

Event: Jubilee Wellness Festival

Grant will support the Jubilee Wellness Festival on September 17-18, 2022, a free LGBTQ+ and Ally community health and wellness festival. This unique community event serves marginalized and disproportionately affected people in Santa Clara County. Jubilee is hosted annually on a Saturday to coinciding and celebrate National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Rose, White and Blue Parade

Event: Rose, White & Blue 4th of July Parade

Grant will support the annual Rose White & Blue Parade and Festival on July 4, 2022, a historic community celebration that brings together residents, businesses and organizations of San José and the greater Bay Area in celebration of diversity, public spirit, and floral/agricultural heritage through an annual parade and festival.

San Jose Center for Poetry and Literature

Event: San Jose Poetry Festival

Grant will support the 8th Annual San José Poetry Festival which will be held September 7-11, 2022, featuring national and San José talent in readings and workshops, collaborative opportunities for writers and audience, and economic opportunities for local small presses.

San Jose Downtown Association

Event: Dia de San Jose

Grant will support Dia de los Muertos San Jose (Dia San Jose) on October 15, 2022, at Plaza de Cesar Chavez. Dia San Jose celebrates the Day of the Dead - a one-day family friendly event of Mexican, Spanish, Aztecs and other indigenous people that now cross cultures in San Jose.

San Jose Downtown Association

Event: Downtown Ice

Grant will provide support Downtown Ice – Downtown San Jose's iconic ice-skating rink averaging more than 50,000 skaters and 110,000 additional spectators annually. Downtown Ice will operate from November 18, 2022, through January 20, 2023, at the Circle of Palms Plaza, Downtown San Jose.

San Jose Downtown Association

Event: Music in the Park

Grant will support Music in the Park's three shows for FY 22-23 at Plaza de Cesar Chavez. This has been San Jose's premiere after-work music series for 30-plus years, with performances by national musicians in a family-friendly setting. Dates: July 15, 2022, August 19, 2022, and an unscheduled date in June 2023.

San Jose Downtown Association

Event: SoFA Street Fair

Grant will support the SoFA Street Fair, the original family-friendly street festival for the South First Arts (SoFA) District, bringing together a diverse lineup of legendary San Jose and regional live bands for one day each Spring and Fall. The event is enhanced by local artisan craft booths, food trucks, street performers, participatory art and eclectic activities that showcase SoFA's vibrancy. Scheduled for September 25, 2022, and April 23, 2023.

San Jose Jazz

Event: San Jose Jazz Boom Box Concert Series

Grant will support the expansion of the SJZ Boom Box Mobile Stage Concert Series leveraging the 26-foot box truck mobile stage to create a series of free public concert performances throughout San Jose. Funding will go toward actualizing a minimum of 30 performances during Spring/Summer of 2022 throughout San Jose.

San Jose Jazz

Event: San Jose Jazz New Works Fest

Grant will support a live audience and web streamed festival over three weekends in Downtown San Jose spotlighting new compositions by local musicians commissioned from San Jose Jazz's annual cohort of Jazz Aid Fund recipients. Live from the SJZ Break Room.

San Jose Jazz

Event: San Jose Jazz Summer Fest

Grant will support the South Bay's largest music festival in Downtown San Jose. Summer Fest features 90+ community-accessible shows in a wide variety of musical genres over three days in August 2022.

San Jose Jazz

Event: San Jose Jazz Winter Fest

Grant will support San Jose Jazz Winter Fest, one of the best winter music festivals in the Bay Area. Featuring straight ahead jazz, Latin jazz, world music, youth ensembles, and nationally renowned performers, Winter Fest is a musical celebration that unifies San Jose's richly diverse community.

San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild

Event: Dia de los Muertos Festival and Celebration

Grant will support the SJMAG's 25th Anniversary Dia de los Muertos Celebration which will include a procession (comparsa) starting at the Cesar Chavez Park or Park View Plaza and ending at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library on the San Jose State University Campus. A four-hour free community celebration and closing of a month-long art exhibition of approximately 25 altars created by local artists and participating community members will take place.

School of Arts and Culture @ MHP

Event: Chile, Mole, Pozole

Grant will support Chile, Mole, Pozole (CMP) on Sunday, September 18, 2022, at the Mexican Heritage Plaza (La Plaza) in celebration of Mexican Independence Day, bridging the traditions of Mexico and East San José.

School of Arts and Culture @ MHP

Event: Mariachi Workshop

Grant will support a Mariachi Workshop on July 22 and 23, 2022 at the Mexican Heritage Plaza (La Plaza) that will include mariachi workshops for young people and performances by leading mariachi musicians.

Sikh Guwarda - San Jose

Event: Hola Mohalla Festival

Grant will support the "Hola Mohalla Festival", an event held March 12, 2023, at the community asset called the San Jose Gurdwara.

Sikh Guwarda - San Jose

Event: Under the Moonlight Ice Cream Social

Grant will support the "Under the Moonlight" event, an ice cream social held for the last 18 years at the community asset called the San Jose Gurdwara. The San Jose community is invited free of charge to build comradery and to celebrate the 4th of July.

Silicon Valley African Film Festival

Event: 13th Silicon Valley African Film Festival

Grant will support the 13th annual Silicon Valley African Film Festival (SVAFF), a showcase of over 80 films from about 30 African countries as well as performances, fashion show, arts and crafts, food, etc. The Cinema Cafe Series is SVAFF's year-round community engagement with virtual and in-person screenings in multiple San Jose locations.

Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival

Event: Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival

Grant will support the Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival, October to November 2022. The festival screens films, including both documentaries, and features whose subject matter pertains, whether directly or indirectly, to Jewish culture, peoplehood, tradition, education, and history.

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Silicon Valley Shakespeare

Event: Free Shakespeare in the Park 2023

Grant will support the 2023 Free Shakespeare-in-the-Park Festival held at Bramhall Park, in the Willow Glen neighborhood from June 2 - 18, 2023.

Vietnamese American Roundtable

Event: VAR's Black April Commemoration

Grant will support the 11th Annual Black April Commemoration which serves to honor the past and future goals of the Vietnamese American community since the Fall of Saigon over 45 years ago. Through multi-medium exhibits and performances, VAR seeks to evoke reflection upon the exodus of millions of Vietnamese boat people.

ATTACHMENT C: FY 2022-2023 FPC Grants Grant Review Panel Qualifications

Anne Huang

Executive Director, World Arts West

Dr. Anne Huang (she/her) is a seasoned arts executive, and a highly regarded, culturally specific capacity building consultant and resource equity advocate. In 2019, Anne was appointed the first person of color, immigrant, and San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival artist to lead World Arts West. Under Anne's equity and inclusion focus, World Arts embarked on a new horizon. For the first time since 1978, World Arts West board and staff are now majority BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and reflect the diversity of its artist community. By centering the voices of cultural artists, Anne works to empower everyone to make and present revolutionary new artworks and uplift underrepresented voices and stories.

Anne is the former Executive Director of Oakland Asian Cultural Center (OACC), where she transformed OACC from a struggling arts organization into a leading cultural institution serving 50,000 people per year. Anne led the OACC in large-scale innovative partnerships, including with StoryCorps, Stern Grove, Independent Television Service, and 100 Families: Art and Social Change with California College of Arts, Center for Art and Public Life. OACC's partnership with KALW and StoryCorps produced the first and only full-length audio documentary about the history of Oakland Chinatown.

Anne is a sought-after speaker and consultant for conference panels, cultural convenings, and resource equity in philanthropy. She has served in leadership roles for National Dance Project's Regional Dance Development Initiative, New York Foundation for the Arts' Immigrant Artist Program, and the City of Oakland's Mayoral Arts Task Force. Anne is the Board Chair of Dance/USA Board of Trustees.

Alfonso (Al) Perez

Principal & Founder, Creative i Studio and President, Filipino American Arts Exposition

Al Perez is principal and founder of Creative i Studio, which specializes in innovative and impactful graphic design solutions for corporate events and corporate identity programs. He has over 30 years' experience translating marketing objectives into creative strategies for Fortune 500, small business and nonprofit organizations. His services also include onsite project management for conferences, trade shows and corporate events around the country. Al keeps active in the Filipino American community and is currently serving as president of the Filipino American Arts Exposition (FAAE). For the last 20 years, Al has led community partners, artisans, performing artists and an energetic team of 200+ volunteers to produce the annual Pistahan Parade and Festival at the Yerba Buena Gardens, the largest celebration of Filipino community, culture and cuisine in the country.

Mr. Perez has also taken leadership roles in organizing community events such as:

- Filipino American Heritage Night series with the SF Giants, GS Warriors, Oakland A's, SJ Sharks, and Cal Bears Basketball

- Filipino American History Month Celebration at City Hall Rotunda
- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration at the Herbst Theatre & City Hall
- Kalayaan Philippine Independence Celebration Union Square

Al is a Commissioner on the San Francisco Entertainment Commission where he has served as Neighborhood Representative for 13 years. He advocates for sensible policies that elevate San Francisco's vitality and diversity. He also serves on the Board of San Francisco's Cow Palace, providing stewardship in promoting economic opportunities for small businesses in the agricultural industry.

Robertino Ragazza

Events Professional, Executive Director of Lorde & Grayson

Mr. Ragazza is the founder and Executive Director of Lorde & Grayson, an arts-based production company which produces various local events such as the "All Womyn's Showcase" and San Jose Nuevo Flamenco's "Flamenco Friday Series" throughout San Jose and the Bay Area. Mr. Ragazza is an active participant in San Jose's arts and cultural community events. He is an award-winning photographer and ceramics artist, a teaching assistant in San Jose City College Photography Department, and an award-winning guest services agent and concierge at The Westin (formerly Hotel Sainte Claire). Mr. Ragazza has served on grant review panels for the City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs, Center for Cultural Innovation and Silicon Valley Creates. He was a 2013 Silicon Valley Creates Emerging Artist Laureate. Born in the Philippines and raised in San Jose, Mr. Ragazza dedicates many hours of his time, as well as his artwork, to supporting the local arts community.

Dylan Rice

San Francisco Entertainment Commission

Dylan Rice is a Senior Analyst at the San Francisco Entertainment Commission. In this role, he develops policies, educational outreach, and promotion initiatives responsive to the needs of the local entertainment industry.

Dylan began his professional career in Chicago, where he helped launch the City of Chicago's first music office as Program Director of Creative Industries-Music at the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events. He oversaw the creation of policies, research, programs, and networks to support the economic vitality and cultural vibrancy of Chicago's music sector. Dylan played a key role in launching workforce and infrastructure development initiatives including Lake FX Summit & Expo, Chicago Music Summit, ChicagoMade, The Chicago Track, and the City's first Venue Licensing Toolkit. Prior to his work with the City of Chicago, he spent seven years producing concerts and festivals at Navy Pier, the Midwest's top-visited tourist destination, working for both the Metropolitan Pier & Exposition Authority and Navy Pier, Inc. At Navy Pier, Dylan spearheaded the Neighborhoods of the World festival and oversaw the booking and operations of the Beer Garden Summertime Concerts. He is also an accomplished rock and folk singer-songwriter.