

Date: April 14, 2009

Bidders Conference

For: Preschool for All Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum Services - RFP

Attendees: Tom DeCaigny, Performing Arts Workshop
Lisa Lee, First 5 San Francisco
Yeshey Beyene, First 5 San Francisco

Lisa Lee welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the grant. She also clarified that First 5 San Francisco reserves the possibility of issuing multiple grants for this award to ensure that both visual and performing arts experiences are available for children and teachers.

Q. #1 Page 13 of the RFP states that the amount of Grant Application request is the three years budget. Is this an annual or a 3-year budget?

Ans. It is a three year contract but you should submit an annual budget –negotiated yearly and based on the availability of funding.

Q.#2 What is First 5's strategy regarding how family engagement is directed?

Ans. Family engagement is especially appropriate when it is tied to the child's experience. The PFA Program Guidelines on Parent Engagement – which you can download from the First 5 San Francisco website – identifies the priorities.

Q. #3 What would be the implication of the funding security should Proposition 1D or Proposition H, unfortunately, pass? Whether it would jeopardize this in its entirety as a project area or in part?

Ans. At this time, the policy interpretation of high quality Preschool for All includes these foundational components like the arts which are key and essential for a quality preschool experience. The availability of funding will be impacted by the passage of local and state propositions. The PFA visual and performing arts curriculum services are primarily funded by Prop H funds. Currently the commission is engaged in sustainability scenarios should either of them pass. If Prop H passes it could drastically change how and what is funded.

Q. #4 What is the best strategy for offering visual and performing arts services? Is First 5's preference to offer a menu of services in visual arts and in performing arts separately and have the sites choose the type of services they want? Or is it preferred to offer an integrated service for each site?

Ans. We are looking for a strategy that offers more depth rather than offers a shallow approach to a child's exploration, both in terms of the ability to better impact teacher practice and provide a meaningful experience for children. Whether this can be achieved through an integrated approach or not is up to the program's strategy.

Q.#5 In the project would you like to see just the funds that are committed or funds that are also pending?

Ans. In the budget notes, the instruction is to identify those funds that are not yet secured by marking "NS".

Q.#6 Regarding the ramp up and planning section of the budget is there an interest in seeing a ramp up budget for Performing Arts Workshop, seeing that we have had experience in the original design and have made revisions? The ramp up for PAW would focus on recruitment to increase the diversity in linguistic skill sets. Is there a guideline for what might be considered a reasonable percentage to allocate for the ramp up phase?

Ans. Minimal ramp up and planning is preferable (less than 5%). We would want to see a budget which reflects the intention to start up services and meet the service goals as soon as possible.

Q.#7 Has there been a survey of PFA sites to help determine the level of interest for the performing arts vs. visual arts?

Ans. We have anecdotal requests to diversify kinds of residencies in the arts. There has been teacher interest in clay work, ceramics, collage etc.