

Roy A. Hunt Foundation Policies and Procedures

Controversial Grants

Background

Harmonious agreement on grants is not always possible within a family foundation with diverse granting interests. Trustees have struggled to develop strategies to guide the consideration process when points of view differ.

This policy is based on two givens: that the Roy A. Hunt Foundation grants generally are intended to represent group consensus among grant groups, and that the Foundation was intended by its founder to be an instrument for keeping the family together:

“The individual Trustees as distinguished from the corporate Trustee recognize the family relationship among them, and pledge themselves to conduct themselves as trustees not only to achieve the high purposes of the Foundation but also to be a credit to the family. They realize that they and their successors will not always agree on a course to be pursued, but promise that any individual in the minority will go along with the majority cheerfully and in good fellowship. They also promise that a majority will not ignore the advice and counsel of a minority, but will give them full and mature consideration. They hope thereby that achievement of the purposes of the Foundation will be facilitated, and that the members of the family will be strengthened in their ties to each other.”

-Resolution #2, Minutes, December 24, 1951 Hunt Foundation Meeting

In October 2007, the Next Generation Grant Group adopted this policy.

Purpose

The purpose of the Controversial Grants policy is to provide a consistent, fair and neutral method of due process for Trustee-sponsored grant proposals that precipitate unresolved debate.

Policy

Trustees should conscientiously attempt to be tolerant of the values, beliefs and expressed viewpoints of other Trustees. Trustees harboring reservations about a proposal from a new applicant or a grant to an Old Grantee should attempt to investigate the issue themselves in advance of the meeting at which grants will be considered.

A proposal that, having been sufficiently heard, continues to spark significant or prolonged controversy should voluntarily be withdrawn by its sponsor and not presented for further consideration.

Prior to the withdrawal by the sponsor, any proposal that elicits opposing points of view that cannot be settled during a reasonable amount of discussion time at a grantmaking

meeting of the applicable Generation Grant Group will be deferred to the next grantmaking meeting. In the meantime:

1. A full and/or more detailed proposal must be requested (if not already submitted) and sent to each Trustee.
2. A site visit may be made to the organization. The visit may be made by staff, by selected Trustees, and/or by paid consultants depending on the nature and dollar amount of the proposal. A written site visit report will be submitted to all Trustees prior to the next meeting of the applicable Generation Grant Group.
3. In some cases, background research on the issue and the proposed strategy to address the issue may be conducted by a neutral outside consultant contracted by the Foundation office. A written report will be submitted to the Trustees.

Trustees may agree to earmark grants for specific and uncontroversial purposes, projects or programs within organizations that are considered controversial if such grants are approved by consensus. Trustees who remain uncomfortable with a grant of any kind to an organization are free to dissent from a vote to approve an earmarked grant. Sufficient documentation of the use of the earmarked grant must be presented to the Foundation at an appropriate time.

The applicable Generation Grant Group must achieve consensus (80% of votes) in order for a grant to be recommended to the Board of Directors for funding. The Board of Directors then must also achieve consensus (80%) to approve a grant.

Votes for controversial grants may be taken by ballot if a motion to vote by ballot achieves approval by a majority of the grant group members present.

No grants will be made anonymously as a way to address controversy.

Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy as applied to a single grant may be approved by an 80 percent consensus vote of the applicable Generation Grant Group. The Board of Directors should be advised of any such approved exceptions when the grant is presented for Board approval.

Procedures

This policy will be implemented on a case-by-case basis. Prior to initiating discussion at the grantmaking meeting of the applicable Generation Grant Group, Trustees with questions regarding a proposal should request a copy of the full proposal from the Foundation office and should also explore the applicant's website.

Confidentiality

This policy is confidential and for internal use by Trustees only. It may not be distributed by Trustees or Foundation staff in any part or form to potential applicants. Distribution to consultants or other foundations must be approved by the Foundation office.11/06/2009