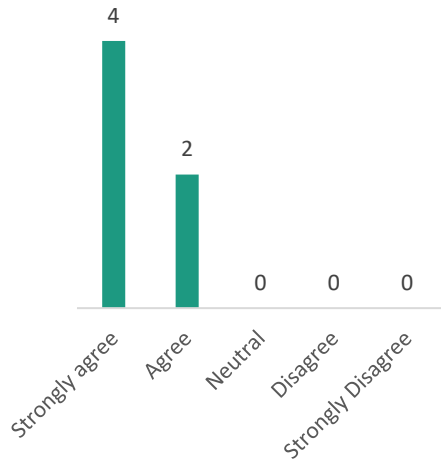


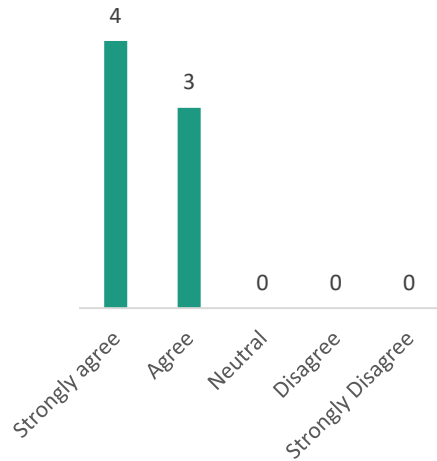
Question	Answers
If you did not apply to COCA's FY24 grant cycle, why?	I was trying to finish a previous award.
	First time I'm hearing about it unfortunately. I am subscribed to coca but must have missed the bugle call to attention. Maybe next year.
Communication from COCA about the grants program was helpful and clear.	Very good communication. I would like more instructions on what numbers they want for the debit transactions on the Excel spreadsheet.
	The procedure was a little difficult in FY23, not unhappily due to the additional round 2 city money. Communications have generally been prompt and topical.
Do you have any comments on the grant guidelines?	None.
	The way we must document credit card purchases could be stated more clearly.
Do you have any comments on COCA's online grant resources?	Very good.
	I don't have a problem with the resources, but I do not like the submittable platform.
Do you have any comments on the grant application process?	Would like more time for announcement that the grant is open and for deadline.
	I was busy and sick then and put it off too long.
	Continued improvement on utilizing excel-style spreadsheets with self-checking mechanisms. The combination of the 3 grants into one application (with appropriate diversions so individual grants could be addressed) was a welcome streamlining of the process.
	The process itself was easy to understand; however, some of the application instructions were not, especially when it was the excel spreadsheet for the Income and Expenses for current fiscal year and past fiscal years. The dates on the form were from 2023 as the past fiscal year, but some organizations fiscal year goes from Jan 1 - Dec 31; therefore, 2023 fiscal year for our organization would still be a current fiscal year. Perhaps, have the question to state the organization's fiscal year and have the spreadsheet reflect current, past and projected without specifying a numerical year.
	If I remember right, this grant was due at the same time as the state grant. For those that use the same project for both grants I'm sure that works great but for us it added some extra time pressure.

Question	Answers
Do you have any comments on the panel review meeting?	I believe that some panel members, were bias and was extremely harsh on the applicants, especially when the panel members could not have more time to ask questions; however, each panel should only be allowed up to 5 questions per applicant in order to maintain a timelier interview time for each applicant. One panel in particular, was not a good fit for reviewing the applicants as it felt as though it was difficult for this panel member to be open-minded about groups that the panelist was unfamiliar in the organization applying for funding, and questioned the validity of candidates being verified that the organization was following the grant rules and guidelines.
	As you all are aware, some of the panelists were a bit long-winded this past cycle. I'm sure you're making adjustments to the training to account for this.
Do you have any comments on the grant scoring and ranking process?	I'm not sure why I got some of the scores I received.
	It would be nice to have had an explanation as to why a certain score was decided, by the panelist. What questions were ranked low, what questions were ranked highest, what questions did not receive any points.
Do you have any comments about your general satisfaction with the COCA grant process?	It's good and for a good cause. Very detail-oriented. I will reach out to find out what numbers are needed for the debit transactions. That's where I am stuck in the process for the current grant process.
	These grants are a wonderful lifesaver. They have enabled us to concentrate on our art.
Do you have any other feedback about the COCA grant process or requests for COCA services?	None. This is a very good program to enhance cultural programs in the community and we are very glad to have this opportunity.
	I would like more training on marketing. What kinds of getting the word out to the desired audience are possible? Our audience is too old and too rural.
	The only thing was that this year is was a little wonky with a secondary grant that used City funds? I'm not even sure I have that phrased correctly. What I do know is that the night before the panel review I received a voicemail from COCA talking about the additional source of funding. It was unclear to me if I was supposed to do anything additional or if that would impact the regular COCA funding for which I applied. I may have just missed it when I completed my application this year, but it also many not have been explained clearly. Thanks!
	Thanks to the hard working staff at COCA!

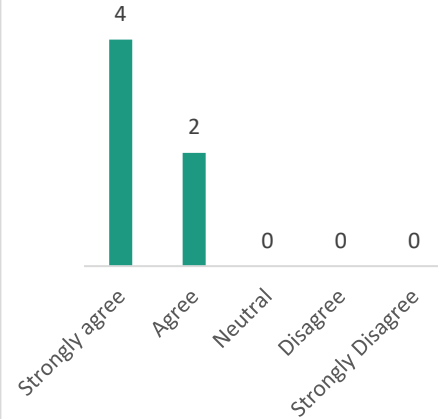
Communication from COCA about the grants program was helpful and clear.



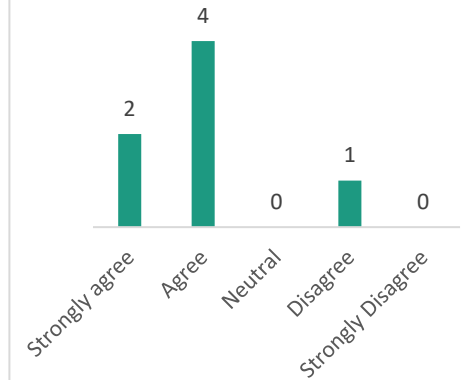
The grant guidelines were written clearly, easy to understand and answered my questions.



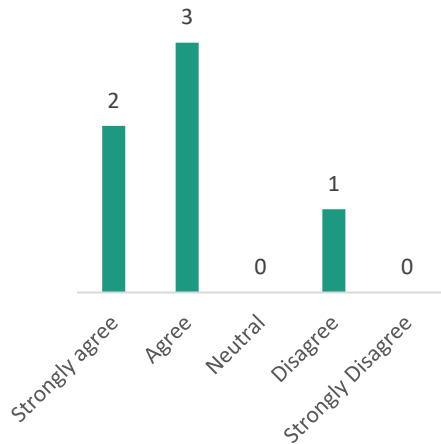
COCA's online grant resources provided helpful and clear information to applicants.



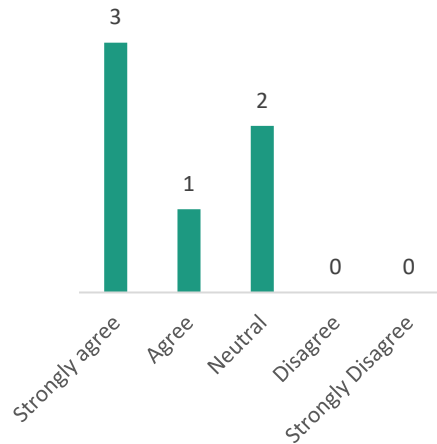
The grant application process was easy to understand and there was sufficient time to complete my application.



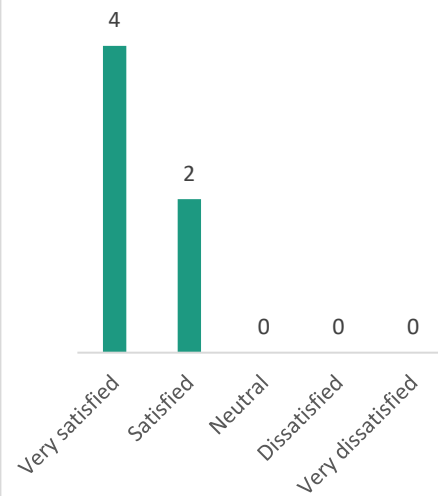
The panel review meeting was conducted in an unbiased and transparent manner.



The grant scoring and ranking process is well-defined and transparent.



How satisfied are you with the COCA grant processes?





## Summary of FY25 Grant Program Changes

### Eligibility

- As used in other Florida counties to assist in the eligibility review process, consideration of a County eligibility checklist or review panel for any applicants deemed ineligible by the County remains.

### Application & Guidelines

- Clarify how funding can be used Oct-Dec 2024 to support any Bicentennial programming. This question will not be included in the rubric.
- Add guideline language to areas of the application to better guide the applicant.
- Change “City Funds” to “Local Community”

### Funding Groups

- Review the “maximum request” levels and assess if any adjustments need to be addressed. Adjust levels to available FY25 funding pool.

Allowable Operating Income	Group #	Request (% of operating income)	Maximum Request From FY24
Up to \$50,000	4	50%	\$14,000
\$50,000 \$499,000	3	20%	\$40,000
\$500,000 \$1,499,999	2	10%	\$90,000
\$1.5 million+	1	10%	\$200,000

### Marketing

- Keep change from FY24, allowing Cultural Grant applicants to request an additional \$3,000 in funds for marketing efforts outside of Tallahassee/Leon County.
- Continue to allow applicants to apply for the Marketing Grant only.