

Public Comments – Full Arts Commission, July 7, 2025

“My name is Jena McRae, I've worked at SOMArts for 8.5 years and currently serve as Managing Director. I understand the Arts Commission is working with the Controller to align grant policies with city standards. As mayor-appointed commissioners, I urge you to advocate for artists and small arts organizations. Reimbursable grant models requiring receipts would be devastating—adding administrative burdens and delaying funds we can't afford to front. Nonprofits in NYC are owed over \$1 billion due to invoicing delays, not misuse, as reported in the *New York Times*. Similarly, SOMArts has faced delays working with MOHCD due to bureaucratic hurdles. During the pandemic, we exhausted reserves to retain staff and provide healthcare; we can't sustain additional financial strain. Unlike large contractors, we lack the capital to wait months for reimbursement. We already undergo annual compliance reviews—why multiply this burden? Please help ensure funding processes remain accessible and equitable for our community.”

Jena McRae

Managing Director

SOMArts Cultural Center

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(Gender pronouns: she, her)

[somarts.org](https://somarts.org)