



Background

From March 10 to April 30th, the Medway Cultural Council ran the community input survey. This survey is to be done every three years. The idea is that the community input survey allows the council to take the pulse of the community to shape its local guidelines for granting purposes. The local guidelines of the council influence which applications in the annual grant round receive funding. Due to the difficulties created by the pandemic, the council kept this survey digital. In the future, however, it is hoped that surveys can be done more frequently with opportunities for hard copies to be placed in strategic locations in the community. It should be noted that the MedCC wanted some open-ended questions in the survey in order to encourage new and fresh ideas from the community. Also, this is not a statistically significant, scientific survey. The people answering the survey are likely members of the community who are internet-savvy and care about arts and culture. There were 37 respondents to the survey.

Findings

Note: Link to the survey can be found [here](#) -

1. The first question looked at which MedCC programs had awareness in the community. The photo contests and artist spotlights were most commonly known programs. “None” was also a common answer to the question, showing a lack of awareness in the community about Cultural Council events and programs.
2. The second question asked the community about which of the MedCC programs were important to maintain. Artist spotlights, ArtWeek, and photo contests were the three most popular answers.
3. The third question (an open-ended, qualitative question) asked the community about which focus areas MedCC should target in its funding. Highlights from this section include: public art, performances and festivals, internationally-themed movie nights, revitalization of open spaces and neighborhoods, artist work spaces, and nature and history programming.
4. The fourth question asked which populations of the community we particularly need to serve. “All populations” ended up being the most common answer. Other common suggestions were to serve school-age children, BIPOC community, teenagers, seniors, and those with a disability.
5. The fifth question looked at whether it was known that the Medway Cultural Council provides grants. The majority of respondents said yes to this question (45.7% of respondents).

6. The sixth question asked respondents about where they get their information. The majority of people answering this question said Facebook (88.6%). Local newspapers, the Town of Medway website, word of mouth, and posters/signs around town were other common ways people answering this survey received information.
7. The seventh question asked respondents about the priorities we should have when considering grants. Programs with a community-gathering attached to it were highly desired, as well as nature/environmental educational programming. Public art projects, and projects that celebrate diversity as well as local history were also recommended.
8. The eighth question asked respondents if they were affiliated with an arts/culture organization. The vast majority of respondents (85.3%) were not.
9. The ninth question was only for those affiliated with an arts/culture organization. This question asked respondents about the challenges their organizations are facing and ways in which MedCC can help. Funding/finances and public awareness about arts were two common answers to this question.
10. The tenth question asked about how MedCC can raise awareness about its grants. Highlights from this open-ended question include: social media posts, in-person outreach at town events like Town Meetings, postcard campaign, and setting up an informational meeting.
11. The last question was a free-form space for any last comments/suggestions. One comment received was that we should partner more often with local restaurants.