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Four-Point Arts Plan Announced

The Advisory Council for the Cultural Arts today announced a comprehensive plan for the support and encouragement of the arts in Rhode Island for the next fiscal year.

Implementation of the four-point program, which will cost \$117,000, will depend on General Assembly approval of a \$67,000 supplementary request to the state Department of Education's budget and qualification for \$50,000 of federal matching funds under the National Endowment for the Arts.

The four major areas of the program are:

—Establishment of a program of providing \$30,000 financial assistance to local non-profit groups which undertake sponsorship of professional performances and exhibits in their communities.

—Creation of a \$35,000 program for financial assistance

Turn to Page 27, Col. 6
Arts

BM 3/17/66

4-Point Program for Year Announced by Arts Council

Arts

Continued from Page One

for free or low-cost performances and exhibits by local cultural organizations.

—Support of research and development projects designed to solve problems common to the entire cultural community with \$25,000.

—Establishment of a \$10,000 program of technical assistance to local amateur organizations.

The remaining \$17,000 will be used for administration by the division on cultural arts. The division was created by General Assembly last year under the Department of Education with Dr. William P. Robinson, state education commissioner, as its titular head. It will not be inde-

pendently staffed until the program is implemented.

The program was to have been officially announced this afternoon during a meeting of the Rhode Island Fine Arts Council at the Providence Preservation Society headquarters on Meeting Street. However, Bernet Fain, chairman of the seven-member advisory council appointed by Governor Chafee last October, detailed the group's plans as follows this morning:

Under the program to assist local non-profit groups, Mr. Fain said support will be given by providing funds to enable a greater number of performances and exhibitions to reach audiences throughout the state.

He said priority will be given to geographical areas which ordinarily do not have easy access to the kind of productions which may be proposed for support. Representatives of fine arts groups have been invited to a meeting Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Journal Auditorium to be given guidelines on applications for support. At that time, the application forms for aid will be distributed.

Applications must be filed by April 7. The state plans must be submitted to Washington by May 1 to be eligible for the

National Endowment for the Arts funds.

Applications for grants under the assistance to non-profit groups program must be made by sponsoring groups such as arts foundations or councils, Mr. Fain said. Civic organizations, art of music clubs, PTA, schools and colleges also are eligible, he added.

The only stipulation is that the production or exhibit should be available to the general public. Sponsors will have the responsibility of planning the program, providing the audience and arranging publicity and technical details. The agency will subsidize the difference between the projected earned income and the total presentation cost.

The program for free or low-cost performances, Mr. Fain said, is intended to allow local educational institutions, particularly those in communities which are not presently participating in Title 3 of the Federal Aid to Education Act, to provide professional productions and exhibitions for pupils.

In addition, Mr. Fain said, it is intended to support traveling exhibitions for libraries or other public facilities in the state. Although the council seeks the establishment of new goals and imaginative projects, Mr. Fain said, it recommends that existing programs receive additional support for purposes of expansion.

The program to support research and development projects, Mr. Fain said, will encompass certain problems which cultural organizations normally are unable to cope with alone. These, Mr. Fain said, might include the need to determine audience characteristics and potential, the need for professional advice in matters of publicity and fund raising, and the inability to meet subscription campaign and annual fund goals.

Mr. Fain said the division will provide for attempts at imaginative solutions to these problems. The council recommends that the funds be provided as much as possible on a matching basis with the participating arts organization.