



City Council Report

Date: October 20, 2014
To: City Council
Through: Natalie Lewis, Assistant to the City Manager
From: Cindy Ornstein, Director
Arts and Culture Department
Subject: 2014 National Endowment for the Arts GAP: Art Works; Authorization for Acceptance (Citywide)

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of the report is to advise City Council that Mesa Arts Center was awarded a grant in the amount of \$60,000 by the National Endowment for the Arts on July 10, 2014. We respectfully request the City Council to authorize the City Manager to accept the grant offer on behalf of the City.

Background

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$5 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector. Grant requests to NEA are submitted annually by Mesa Arts Center in the fall. The requested grant will support education and outreach programs at Mesa Arts Center.

Discussion

The National Endowment for the Arts notified Randy Vogel, Mesa Arts Center's Director of Theaters and Operations, of the award. The grant guidelines require a final report to be submitted at the end of the fiscal year. The award will fund all activities associated with Jazz from A to Z, a comprehensive jazz program for students and teachers that fosters an understanding and appreciation of jazz music, its impact on history, and its importance as one of America's greatest cultural resources. The program includes professional development workshops, a Band Director's Academy, jazz clinics, a public history exhibit, jazz performances, and a regional *Essentially Ellington* Band competition.

Alternatives

The alternative would be to not accept the grant and either not provide the low cost or free arts programs, or charge so costs would be recovered.

Fiscal Impact

The National Endowment for the Arts grant requires Mesa Arts Center to implement all program activities associated with the Jazz from A to Z program, as outlined in the grant proposal. These programs were approved for the 14/15 fiscal year.

Coordinated With

Mesa Arts Center staff is willing and able to complete the programs outlined.