



City Council Report

Date: April 15, 2019
To: City Council
Through: Christopher J. Brady, City Manager
From: Scott J. Butler, Deputy City Manager, Government Relations
Subject: Resolution of support for the submittal of a grant application by Arizona Museum of Natural History Foundation to the Ak-Chin Indian Community in the amount of \$5,000 for their Foundation for their Exploration Station overhaul and authorizing the City Manager to accept and administer subsequent awarded funds as a pass-through grant.

Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for Arizona Museum of Natural History Foundation's application to Ak-Chin Indian Community for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide Arizona Museum of Natural History Foundation \$5,000 in funding for their Exploration Station overhaul. A Council Resolution supports this effort to secure a grant and commits the city to receive it on behalf of the non-profit and pass it through in its entirety to them if awarded. As these programs serve the needs of City of Mesa residents, staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

Background

Arizona Museum of Natural History Foundation is a local nonprofit agency established to directly support the Arizona Museum of Natural History (AzMNH), the premier natural history museum in Arizona with an annual attendance of 140,000, and over 30,000 schoolchildren on field trips. AzMNH aspires to be a centerpoint of community and a pinnacle of accessibility and welcome.

Many children who visit are bilingual -- in Mesa, primarily Spanish/English. Over 11% of Arizona's students are living with a disability, and over 12.5% of youth aged 3 through 21 are living with a disability.

The redesign of the Exploration Station at the Arizona Museum of Natural History (AzMNH) will transform a key area in the museum to respond to a pressing need for enhanced accessibility for those with language barriers and those living with disabilities. The upgrade will provide increased access for visually and aurally impaired visitors, and those with English as a second language, through increased open hours, the use of advanced technology, tactile exhibits, and mitigated barriers.

Total number of people served is 48,000 over the period of a year from throughout Maricopa County, of which approximately 50% will be Mesa residents. AZMNH anticipates that the majority of Mesa residents impacted by the project will be between the ages of six and thirteen.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for Arizona Museum of Natural History Foundation to file their application by and be considered for funding from Ak-Chin Indian Community. Mesa's participation in Proposition 202 Indian Gaming Grants has returned over \$1 billion to Arizona communities since its passage in 2002 from four surrounding tribal governments.

Alternatives

The only alternative to adopting this resolution would be to not adopt. Such an action would deny Mesa sponsorship for this request and require Arizona Museum of Natural History Foundation to seek an alternate local government for access to this funding source.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact on the City of Mesa, should this grant be awarded for Arizona Museum of Natural History Foundation, will be negligible except overhead expenses in accounting to accept and reissue the grant check. The City does not administer the grant and signs an MOU or IGA with each tribe to limit our liability to only the pass-through transaction.