



# City Council Report

**Date:** May 20, 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 City of Mesa Arts Center to the Tohono O'odham Nation in the amount of \$20,000 for their Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's Summer 2020 Exhibition, *Inalienable*, and approving the City Manager to accept and administer subsequent awarded funds.

## Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for City of Mesa Arts Center's application to Tohono O'odham Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$20,000 for their Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's Summer 2020 Exhibition, *Inalienable*. A Council Resolution supports this effort to secure a grant and commits the city to receive it on behalf of the department and pass it through in its entirety to them if awarded. As this program serves the needs of City of Mesa residents, staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

## Background:

*Inalienable*, the second project in Cannupa Hanska Luger's Counting Coup series, is an ephemeral installation that will consist of 7,000+ 1-inch unfired clay beads. Each bead represents an Indigenous body found along the US-Mexico border since the 1990s. Created in social collaboration with hundreds of communities across the US and Mexico, the physical act of creating these objects re-humanizes cold, abstract data and brings the attention back to the lives that have been lost in crossing the US-Mexico border. Following the exhibition, all unfired clay beads will be transported to land along the border to be given back to the earth in a prayerful action for those who have passed.

Serving 30,000 visitors annually, Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum (MCA Museum) contributes to Mesa Arts Center's campus-wide mission to invite all people to create and discover entertaining, challenging and diverse art and arts experiences within joyous, dynamic and welcoming environments. This project builds on MCA Museum's deliberate and strategic efforts to embrace, celebrate and engage culturally diverse artists and communities as well as our interest in promoting inclusive dialogue regarding social, political, cultural and economic issues affecting not only artists but all people.

## **Discussion**

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for City of Mesa Arts Center to file their application by June 14, 2019 and be considered for funding from Tohono O'odham Nation. Mesa's participation in Proposition 202 Indian Gaming Grants has helped invest 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 City of Mesa Arts Center to seek an alternate funding source for this program.

## **Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact on the City of Mesa, should this grant be awarded for City of Mesa Arts Center will be negligible except overhead expenses in accounting to accept and manage the grant funds and project related administrative costs.