



City Council Report

Date: December 9, 2019
To: City Council
Through: Natalie Lewis, Assistant to the City Manager
From: Cindy Ornstein, Director
Arts and Culture Department
Subject: 2019-20 National Endowment for the Arts – Artworks Grant (Citywide)

Recommendation

Approve Resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to accept a \$60,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support community workshops and Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's summer 2020 exhibition, led by artist Cannupa Hanska Luger, which will consist of 7,000 unfired clay beads that examine the impact of human migration patterns, installed with works by other artists.

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. The requested grant will support community beadmaking workshops lead by a team of indigenous artists, including nationally-renowned artist Cannupa Hanska Luger, and will culminate in the creation of a new work debuting as part of Mesa Contemporary Art Museum's summer 2020 exhibition. This installation will stand with artwork by Tanya Aguiñiga, Thomas 'Breeze' Marcus and Dwayne Manuel in varying levels of collaboration in Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's Summer 2020 exhibitions. The project is also supported through Mesa Arts Center Foundation with funding from the Arizona Community Foundation.

Discussion

In November 2019, the National Endowment for the Arts notified the Arts and Culture Department director of approval of reduced scope funding of the project. The grant guidelines require only a Final Report to be submitted at the end of the fiscal year. The award will support public workshops from January through May 2020 and the art installation at Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum in May through August 2020.

Alternatives

The alternative would be to not accept the grant and cancel the project.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact from this grant. All programs associated with this project are free to the public.

Coordinated With

Mesa Arts Center staff is willing and able to complete the programs outlined, some of which are provided in partnership with artists and community organizations.