



City Council Report

Date: April 15, 2023
To: City Council
Through: Scott J. Butler, Assistant City Manager
From: Sharon Skinner, Grants Coordinator
Subject: Resolution of support for the submittal of a grant application by Desert Sounds Performing Arts to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation in the amount of \$21,340 for their Digital Music Technology program and approving the City Manager to accept and administer subsequent awarded funds as a pass-thru grant.

Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for Desert Sounds Performing Arts application to Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$21,340 in funding for their Digital Music Technology program. 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

Desert Sounds Performing Arts Desert Sounds is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization comprised of dedicated local community residents who understand the benefits of participating in the arts and have committed to promoting this goal, both personally and professionally.

Desert Sounds' Digital Music Technology program embodies S.T.E.A.M. educational values by intertwining Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math to teach children how to compose, record, and edit music using electronic equipment and digital tools. In addition to standard music theory, technique, and performance instruction, these students will receive hands-on training in skills that are typically reserved for post-secondary programs, such as composing music using digital audio workstations (DAWs), recording live sessions with music production software setting up and balancing a sound system, and more.

If awarded, the applicant's expectation is that at least 95% of participants will be Mesa children.

Discussion

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for the organization to file their application by the funder's deadline and be considered for funding from Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. 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 the organization 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, 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.