



City Council Report

Date: May 16, 2022
To: City Council
Through: Scott J. Butler, Deputy City Manager, Government Relations
From: Sharon Skinner, Grants Coordinator
Subject: Resolution of support for the submittal of a grant application by Desert Sounds Performing Arts to the Tohono O'odham Nation in the amount of \$15,000 for their Mariachi Sones del Desierto program and approving 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 Desert Sounds Performing Arts application to Tohono O'odham Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$15,000 in funding their Mariachi Sones del Desierto 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.

The Mariachi Sones del Desierto targets k-12 children who want to perform and play traditional mariachi in the community.

The goal is to have 40-60 Mesa children participate in this multi-tiered year-round program to help students develop a sense of belonging, learn self-confidence and feel a connection to the community.

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 Tohono O'odham 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.