



City Council Report

Date: September 18, 2017
To: City Council
Through: Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager
From: Cindy Ornstein, Director
Arts and Culture Department
Subject: 2017-18 Arizona Commission on the Arts Community Investment Grant
(Citywide)

Recommendation

Approve a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or his designee to accept a grant up to \$47,000 from the Arizona Commission on the Arts to support engagement and education programs at Mesa Arts Center.

Background

The Arizona Commission on the Arts (ACA) grants provide operating support to arts organizations throughout the state to ensure the arts are accessible to all, despite economic or other barriers. ACA receives and administers funds from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts. ACA directs this funding to programs that contribute to the growth and stabilization of the arts, impact student learning, nurture and develop artists' craft and skills, preserve the rich traditions of Arizona communities, and encourage participation by citizens of all ages and abilities.

A grant from ACA supports basic operating costs for arts organizations, giving them a strong foundation to help bring the arts to the community. Grant requests to Arizona Commission on the Arts are submitted annually by Mesa Arts Center (MAC) staff in the spring. The requested grant will continue to support education and engagement programs at MAC, as has been the case with previous year's grants.

Discussion

In July 2017, Arizona Commission on the Arts notified the Arts and Culture Department director of the award. The grant guidelines require only a Final Report to be submitted at the end of the fiscal year. The award will support MAC programming including festivals, classes, engagement programs and free and/or low costs programs.

Alternatives

The alternative would be to not accept the grant and either not to provide as many low cost or free arts programs, or to charge fees, allocate additional funding or obtain additional donations so costs would be recovered.

Fiscal Impact

The ACA grant requires MAC to provide the programs and services at a low cost and/or free, as outlined in the grant proposal. These programs have been included in the approved MAC budget for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year.

Coordinated With

MAC staff is willing and able to complete the programs outlined, many of which are provided through area schools and in partnership with artists and community organizations.