



City Council Report

Date: April 20, 2020
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 City of Mesa Arts Center to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation in the amount of \$7,500 for their Project Lit: Igniting Literacy through the Arts project 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 Art Center's application to Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$7,500 for their Project Lit: Igniting Literacy through the Arts project. 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:

City of Mesa Art Center's Project Lit is an out-of-school time program that uses poetry, spoken word, and hip hop to promote literacy and activate social and emotional learning. The program has been evolving as an offering of Mesa Arts Center for eight years to ignite, inspire, and develop literacy skills for students in Title I schools. Project Lit fits into the greater mission of the Mesa Arts Center, whose mission is to inspire people through diverse, accessible, and relevant arts experiences. Serving primarily Mesa Public Schools, more than half of all youth served are Mesa residents. Project Lit serves students in grades 7-12 in partnership with schools and community educational partners.

Awarded FMYN funding will support an estimated 12,000 program exposures through Project Lit.

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 May 1, 2020 and be considered for funding from Fort McDowell Yavapai 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.