



City Council Report

Date: May 19, 2025
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 Compudopt to the Tohono O'odham Nation in the amount of \$19,000.00 for their Tiny Techs – Zoo Squad digital literacy 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 Compudopt application to Tohono O'odham Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide \$19,000.00.00 in funding for their Tiny Techs – Zoo Squad digital literacy 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

Compudopt is a 501c(3) nonprofit. Their stated mission is to provide technology access and education to communities.

In partnership with Mesa Public Schools, Compudopt will deliver two sessions of its Tiny Techs – Zoo Squad digital literacy program to underserved Mesa students in 1st and 2nd grade. This semester-long, STEAM-focused after-school enrichment initiative prepares young learners to engage with the digital world through fun, hands-on lessons. Students act as “zookeepers” and develop basic computer literacy, teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills by exploring animal-related challenges across modules such as “Feeding Time,” “Play Day at the Zoo,” and “Coding for the Tigers.” Each session includes 20–25 hours of instruction facilitated by two experienced Compudopt trainers, along with all necessary technology and supplies provided at no cost to families.

This program will serve 30 early elementary students and with an anticipated extended impact of ~120 residents in Mesa, equipping them with foundational technology skills,

increasing access to STEAM education, and providing participants with a computer.

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. Mesa's participation in Proposition 202 Indian Gaming Grants has returned over \$1 billion to Arizona communities since its passage in 2002 from 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.