



City Council Report

Date: July 1, 2021
To: City Council
Through: Natalie Lewis, Assistant to the City Manager
From: Cindy Ornstein, Director
Arts and Culture Department
Subject: 2021-22 National Endowment for the Arts – Artworks Grant **(Citywide)**

Recommendation

The City of Mesa Arts and Culture Department is respectfully requesting the Mesa City Council approve and authorize the City Manager or his designee to accept a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to support Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum's fall 2021 exhibition of work from the Visionary Art movement, featuring artwork by Alex Grey & Allyson Grey, with artists from across the United States, and free community workshops.

Background

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$5 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector. Grant requests to NEA are submitted annually by Mesa Arts Center. The awarded grant will support MCA Museum's Fall 2021 exhibition of work by **Alex Grey and Allyson Grey**, and several community engagements aimed at empowering participants with tools that will facilitate healing/coping strategies, and reconnecting in a post pandemic world.

MCA Museum's Fall 2021 season will showcase the vivid works of **Alex Grey** and **Allyson Grey**, internationally renowned leaders and educators in the Visionary Art movement and will also feature the transformative paintings of Colorado artist **Amanda Sage** and Arizona creative **Wiley Wallace**. Fourteen Visionary artists from across the country will be highlighted in the invitational, ***Divine Paradigm***. The season will launch on Friday, September 10 and coincide with Mesa Arts Center's Season Kick-off Festival, programmed around the theme *Wonderland*.

Discussion

In May 2021, the National Endowment for the Arts notified the Arts and Culture Department director of approval of reduced scope funding of the project. The award will support public workshops from September through November 2021 and the art installation at Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum in September through October 2021. The grant guidelines require only a Final Report to be submitted at the end of the fiscal year.

Alternatives

The alternative would be to not accept the grant and cancel or reduce the scope of the project.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact from this grant. All programs associated with this project are free to the public.

Coordinated With

Mesa Arts Center staff is willing and able to complete the programs outlined, some of which are provided in partnership with artists and community organizations.