

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: MODIFICATION OF 2015/16 COTA ANNUAL GRANT CONTRACT
WITH INDIA CULTURAL ASSOCIATION**

BACKGROUND:

The India Cultural Association (ICA) applied for and received Commission on the Arts (COTA) funding through its annual grant process for FY 2015/16. The grant amount is \$5,370, which the contract indicates is to be used towards the cost of securing a performance of visually impaired dancers from Bangalore, India. On October 19, COTA received an email from ICA indicating the performers named in the contract were unable to secure visas to visit the United States, and, therefore, the performance could not be held.

ICA has indicated another performer, Leela Samson and her dance group Spanda, is in the United States and is able to perform in Ames on November 20. This group performs the same dance style as originally specified in the COTA grant. **ICA has requested permission to allow its annual grant funds to be used to host this performer.**

COTA reviewed this request at its November 2 meeting, and is in support of the request. Its recommendation is to allow the revised performance to be paid under ICA's COTA annual grant contract. If approved, ICA's total allocation of \$5,370 will remain unchanged.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the request and direct City staff to accept a reimbursement request from India Cultural Association under its FY 2015/16 COTA Annual Grant for a performance of Spanda.
2. Do not approve the request

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The India Cultural Association provides an opportunity for residents of the Ames community to experience a variety of performances that explore Indian culture. The City has contracted with the organization to provide a dance performance under the COTA annual grants process. Due to an issue out of the organization's control, the original performers cannot visit, and the organization has secured an alternative. Accepting the request does not change the contract amount.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the request and direct City staff to accept a reimbursement request from India Cultural Association under its FY 2015/16 COTA Annual Grant for a performance of Spanda.



Re: Email Addresses for COTA Commissioners

Usha Sivaskandan to: Jennifer.Brockpahler, MACooper,
CGarnett6, stevesullivan5, jhpfoley

10/19/2015 10:42 PM

Cc: Cathy Gersema, Brian Phillips, Rosie Stanley

Dear Commissioners of COTA,

Greetings,

The India Cultural Association (ICA) was privileged to receive a grant of \$5,300 from the Commission On The Arts for the year 2015-16. We are deeply grateful for your benevolence and continued support of our programs.

The grant was received for Natyanjali, an Indian classical dance form called "Bharatanatyam" performed by dancers who are blind. This group is based in India and we were working with other cultural associations to bring them to the United States. Unfortunately, the visas for the group were denied and they were unable to make the trip to the United States.

Subsequently ICA came to know that Leela Samson and her dance group called Spanda are in the United States and were performing in several cities. Spanda performs the "Bharatanatyam" dance form with an evolving repertoire that is conceived and choreographed by Leela Samson. Leela Samson of Spanda is known for her technical virtuosity and is a world acclaimed proponent of the Bharatanatyam dance form. She has been the chairperson of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the national academy for performing arts set up by the Government of India. She was also a former director of Kalakshetra, a cultural academy dedicated to the preservation of traditional Indian art forms, especially in the field of Bharatanatyam dance. Attached below is a website link that provides more information on Leela Samson and Spanda.

ICA has extended an invitation to Leela and Spanda and they have graciously accepted. The event is scheduled for the 20th of November 2015 at the Ames City Auditorium.

We request your kind consideration in allowing us to apply the grant money we received for Natyanjali towards Spanda. ICA is very confident that Leela Samson and Spanda will provide the City of Ames with a Bharatanatyam dance performance that is both culturally enriching and delightfully entertaining as well. We are very excited about this unique opportunity and we earnestly request your support.

Thank you once again for your kind consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Usha Sivaskandan, RPh

President,

India Cultural Association

encl.: More Information about Leela Samson and Spanda can be found at this link

<http://www.leelasamsondance.com/spanda.html>