

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF COMMISSION ON THE ARTS (COTA) SPECIAL GRANTS FOR SPRING 2016**

**BACKGROUND:**

On November 2, 2015 the Commission on the Arts (COTA) finalized its recommendations for the Spring 2016 Special Project Grants. A total of four grant requests were received from three organizations. The organizations requested \$3,450 in funding.

Based on the merits of each application and the criteria established for the special grants, COTA recommended the following allocations. Contracts were sent to the awarded organizations for approval and have been returned. The contracts are now presented for your approval.

<b><u>Organization</u></b>	<b><u>Request</u></b>	<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>Award</u></b>
Co'Motion Dance Theater	\$ 750	"A Different Drummer"	\$ 750
The Octagon Center	750	Termespheres	750
The Octagon Center	750	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video	750
India Cultural Association	1,200	Shakuntala	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,450</b>		<b>\$ 2,250</b>

Special Project grant awards are limited to \$750 per project. However, organizations are not limited in the number of projects that may be proposed. Grant applicants are required to attend a COTA meeting to present their project. The India Cultural Association did not attend and was therefore not awarded funds by COTA. Commission staff has followed up with that organization to ensure it can meet grant requirements for future funding opportunities.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the COTA three special grant contracts as recommended by Commission on the Arts.
2. Delay approval of these contracts and ask the Commission for further information.
3. Do not approve the contracts.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

These projects help advance participation in and awareness of the arts in the Ames community, which is a key goal of the Commission on the Arts. COTA has reviewed the requests and has recommended the approval of the contracts now presented to the City Council.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the COTA Spring 2015 special grant contracts as recommended by the Commission on the Arts.