

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF 2017/18 COMMISSION ON THE ARTS CONTRACTS

BACKGROUND:

The City Council authorized the Commission on the Arts (COTA) to allocate up to \$163,979 in arts agency funding for FY 2017/18. In February, the City Council received COTA’s recommendations for annual grants totaling \$159,979, with an additional \$4,000 reserved for spring and fall special project grants. The City Council approved these recommendations as part of the FY 2017/18 City Budget.

Contracts have been signed by arts agencies, and are now presented for City Council approval. The amounts are indicated below, and the scopes of service are attached.

COTA 2017-18 Annual Grant Recommendations

Organization	Allocation
ACTORS	\$ 17,512
AIOFA	8,768
Ames Chamber Artists	2,960
Ames Children’s Choirs	11,443
Ames Choral Society	3,250
Ames Community Arts Council	9,550
Ames Town & Gown	15,960
Central Iowa Symphony	9,060
Co’Motion Dance	5,000
Dancercenter Dancer Company Foundation	1,830
Friends of Ames Strings	1,844
Good Company	1,600
India Cultural Association	6,542
KHOI Community Radio	3,000
Kids Co’Motion	3,000
Octagon Center for the Arts	48,100
Story Theater Company	10,560
TOTAL	\$ 159,979
Council Authorized for 2015/16	\$ 163,979
Reserve for Special Project Grants	\$ 4,000

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the COTA Annual Grant contracts as recommended by the Commission on the Arts.
2. Request further information from COTA prior to approving these contracts.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The City Council has allocated funding in the City Budget to fund arts activities, and the Commission on the Arts has received applications and made awards that meet the criteria for COTA funding. Contracts are required to define the scope of services that will be met by each organization receiving funding.

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

COTA 2017-18 Paragraphs

ACTORS Inc. (Ames Community Theater) - \$17,512

The Ames Community Theater (ACTORS) produces five shows annually. These shows allow community members to participate in live theater as performers, technicians, musicians, artists, or audience members. ACTORS is staffed by a diverse group of volunteers, ranging from elementary school students to retirees. ACTORS produces comedies, dramas, musicals and children's theater – shows that appeal to all ages and segments of the community. COTA funding will be used to help pay the ongoing expense of maintaining the building and to defray the ongoing cost of running the theater, which keeps the ticketing pricing to a minimum.

Ames International Orchestra Festival Association (AIOFA) - \$8,768

The Ames International Orchestra Festival Association (AIOFA) promotes appreciation of symphonic and classical music by presenting high-caliber international orchestras. Its goal is to reach audiences of all ages, to enhance concert attendance with outreach activities, and to increase awareness of the value of live orchestral performance. Audiences become more globally aware through music. COTA funding is used to underwrite artist fees and outreach activities targeted at youth, students and those who might never have attended a classical concert. With the support of COTA, they are able to keep ticket prices affordable and offer a youth discount.

Ames Chamber Artists - \$2,960

Ames Chamber Artists (ACA) is an auditioned choir of men and women in central Iowa, organized to provide excellent choral performance of many styles of music to varied audiences in Ames and the surrounding area. ACA performs at least two concerts per season and often collaborates with other musicians to expand the types of music they perform, as well as the number of performances they can offer the community. Promoting lifelong choral singing to young people has long been a purpose of ACA; so ACA seeks opportunities to perform with school choirs and children's choirs. COTA funds are an essential factor in allowing ACA to fulfill its mission.

Ames Children's Choirs (ACC) - \$11,443

Ames Children's Choir (ACC) is open to children who desire to develop their singing skills. COTA funds are used to provide scholarships for singers, commission new works, and support music purchases, professional fees and facilities rental. During its 23rd season, ACC will have two public performances by all choirs in December and May. In addition, each of ACC's three choirs will perform individually throughout the year for Ames city events, public schools, churches, assisted living, retirement and low income residences. The 2017 Midwest Children's Choir Festival, a biennial festival sponsored by ACC, will include 400 youth performing at C. Y. Stephens Auditorium.

Ames Choral Society (ACS) - \$3,250

The Ames Choral Society (ACS) benefits Ames by providing a community chorus open to all interested singers in the Ames area, including Iowa State University students. ACS performances give Ames residents and visitors the opportunity to hear local choral musicians perform a wide range of repertoire. COTA funding allows the ACS to perform larger works with orchestra. Now entering its 53rd season, ACS will present four programs, including a "cabaret" show in

February and concerts in April and June. The June concert will feature American music and an audience singalong.

Ames Community Arts Council (ACAC) - \$9,550

The Ames Community Arts Council (ACAC) was created in 1976 by the Mayor of the City of Ames as an umbrella organization dedicated to celebrating the arts in Ames. The ACAC serves local artists, arts and cultural organizations and businesses, and all the citizens of Ames, to build community and promote the vibrant art scene in Ames. Many ACAC activities are free of charge. COTA funds allow the ACAC to promote cultural events, recognize excellence through annual Arts Awards, offer small grants for Arts in Education, and provide opportunities for artists to promote their work to the Ames community.

Central Iowa Symphony Association (CIS) - \$9,060

Central Iowa Symphony (CIS), an Ames-based community orchestra, strives to offer superior live symphonic performances for Ames area residents. CIS strives to provide area musicians and audiences with satisfying musical experiences and unique educational and cultural activities. The symphony and its audiences also have long been the beneficiary of the talents of young local artists—including students from the Ames School District and four other central Iowa school districts—who play in the orchestra, perform as soloists, and sing in choral groups. CIS performs concerts in October, December (holiday-themed show), March (Young Artists show), May, and August (admission-free pops concert). Funds from COTA provide CIS with the means to cover annual expenses including marketing of concerts, rehearsal and concert hall rent, guest artists, and music and equipment fees. Admission is now free for children and students, and there are also initiatives offering complimentary admission to other community members (parents of Ames School District music students, students in ISU's Osher Lifelong Institute for Seniors).

Co' Motion Dance Theater (CMDT) - \$5,000

Co'Motion Dance Theater (CMDT) brings high quality modern dance performances and education to Ames and other Midwest communities, promoting dance education and exposure through classes and workshops. In 2017-18, CMDT plans to present three fully-produced concerts at Ames City Auditorium and the Betty Toman Studio/Theater. Varying locations, along with rebroadcasting the concerts on Ames Public Access television and posting portions of them on CMDT's website and Facebook page, helps to expand audiences. Performances will include both professional and amateur dancers, as well as Iowa musicians and composers, all supported by COTA funds. The COTA grant would also allow CMDT to introduce people of all ages and backgrounds to the art of modern dance at a low cost. Children under 15 are admitted free while students and senior citizens receive discounted admission.

Dancer Dance Company Foundation (DDCF) - \$1,830

Dancer Dance Company Foundation (DDCF) is dedicated to providing volunteer and financial support for the education, development, and advancement of dancers while enriching our community through dance. COTA funding would be used for the rental of the Ames High School Auditorium for the Dancer Dancer Showcase. This free annual dance performance is marketed to the entire Ames community and features ballet, tap, contemporary, and jazz dance genres. COTA funds help eliminate the ticket-cost barrier that often exists in the fine arts, as

patrons are able to attend this premier dance event at no cost. The performance also benefits and supports aspiring Ames dancers, ages 6-22, by giving them an opportunity to perform and share their talents with the community.

Friends of Ames Strings (FOAS) - \$1,844

Friends of Ames Strings (FOAS) sponsors a two-week Summer String Workshop for local orchestra students of all skill levels. The July workshop, led by an invited director from outside the Ames area provides approximately 25-30 hours of instruction for elementary and middle school students. Participants improve skills, network with other string players, and perform in ensembles. The workshop also provides leadership opportunities for advanced players and high school-aged string coaches. This event culminates with a public concert. COTA funds are used to offset rising facility costs and provide scholarship funding to keep the programs affordable.

Good Company - \$1,600

Good Company (GC), a women's choral ensemble, was started in 1993 as a way to foster the singing of choral music written for treble voices. GC reaches out to all segments of the Ames community and the surrounding areas through performance. Comprised of 29 women, they hold two concerts a year and participate in musical performances throughout the year to benefit many diverse groups, including the Kiwanis and Good Neighbor. COTA funding supports the general operations of the organization.

India Cultural Association - \$6,542

India Cultural Association (ICA) of Central Iowa, located in Ames, was formed in 1992. ICA aims to promote the cultural and secular heritage of India and to enhance friendship and understanding with people from various cultural backgrounds. Membership in the organization is open to all. As part of its mission, ICA sponsors several events to share India's rich cultural heritage with the local and neighboring communities. ICA's 2017-2018 request would support bringing in critically acclaimed American clarinetist and composer Shankar Tucker in concert with Indian American vocalist Vidya Vox. Tucker is a popular YouTube musician with the ShrutiBox series, in addition to performing at venues such as the White House. In addition, the ICA's other programming includes local talent, as well as outstanding musical artists and dancers. ICA strives to make its programs not only entertaining, but also educational and inspiring.

KHOI - \$3,000

KHOI will enter its fifth year of broadcasting operations during the 2017-2018 cycle. The mission of the station is that of a cultural institution – to build community and promote creativity and arts in Central Iowa through over the air broadcasts, on the web, and with live performances. KHOI is committed to the celebration of diversity of culture, race, and ethnicity by promotion of unity of people in the Ames community and beyond. The 2017-2018 marks KHOI's first request for COTA funding. KHOI intends to utilize COTA funding to create a weekly soundscape program which will crowdsource sounds from throughout the Ames community and Central Iowa via a partner-developed smartphone application. The ultimate hope is to utilize the captured soundscapes in the commission of a lyric poem to be created by Iowa talent.

Kids Co'Motion - \$3,000

Kids Co'Motion (KCM), founded in 1989, offers workshops and performances to introduce and to train children ages 8-18 in the Ames area in the art of creating and producing dances, specifically modern dance. In July 2017, KCM will offer an intensive three-week performance workshop and production in Ames City Auditorium. KCM is designed to be accessible for all levels of dance experience and develops future leaders and, in addition to acquiring dance skills, participants learn discipline of collaboration. COTA support helps support this annual workshop and performance for the community.

The Octagon - \$48,100

The Octagon Center for the Arts (Octagon), which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016, is a non-profit community arts organization that offers art exhibits and quality educational programs for children and adults. The Octagon also holds special events and has a retail art shop promoting local artisans. COTA support enables the organization to reach 32,000 people a year in some form of art experience and expression.

Story Theater Company - \$10,560

The mission of the Story Theater Company (STC), founded in 2006, is to increase the number of theatrical opportunities for the children of Ames and surrounding communities. In 2017, STC will produce two full-scale productions for ages 9-18, a full-scale "mature" show for participants aged 13-18, and will continue to provide quality educational workshops. COTA funds help support annual operational expenses, including rehearsal and performance space rentals, supplies, educational workshops, royalties and performance licenses.

Ames Town and Gown - \$15,960

Ames Town and Gown (ATG) Chamber Music Association presents the finest solo musicians and small ensembles to Ames citizens of all ages and demographics. For its 68th season in 2017, ATG will present five concerts to be held in the Ames City Auditorium or in Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall at Iowa State University. ATG continues to seek innovative opportunities for outreach and collaboration within the Ames community, such as master classes in cooperation with the ISU music department, performances for students at local schools, or special "Ask the Artist" performances at the Ames Public Library. COTA funding assures programs of the highest breadth and quality.