

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF 2018/19 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 2018/19. In February, the City Council received COTA’s recommendations for annual grants totaling \$157,100, with an additional \$6,879 reserved for spring and fall special project grants. The City Council approved these recommendations as part of the FY 2018/19 City Budget.

Contracts have been mailed to arts organizations and returned with signatures, and are now presented for City Council approval.

**COTA 2018-19 Annual Grant Recommendations**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
ACTORS	\$ 18,950
AIOFA	9,700
Ames Chamber Artists	3,770
Ames Children’s Choirs	13,850
Ames Choral Society	3,690
Ames Community Arts Council	10,750
Ames Town & Gown	18,200
Central Iowa Symphony	9,750
Dancercenter Dancer Company Foundation	1,830
Good Company	1,950
KHOI Community Radio	3,000
Kids Co’Motion	3,000
Octagon Center for the Arts	48,100
Story Theater Company	10,560
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 157,100</b>
<b>Council Authorized for 2018/19</b>	<b>\$ 163,979</b>
<b>Reserve for Special Project Grants</b>	<b>\$ 6,879</b>

**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.

### **ACTORS, INC. (Ames Community Theater) - \$18,950**

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, Inc. (AIOFA) - \$9,700**

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, AIOFA are able to keep ticket prices affordable and offer a youth discount.

### **Ames Chamber Artists - \$3,770**

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 Association, Inc. (ACC) - \$13,850**

Ames Children's Choir (ACC) is open to children who desire to develop their singing skills. The choirs are dedicated to promoting musical excellence among the youth of Central Iowa and providing the Ames Community with quality musical performances and opportunities. It is ACC's goal to make these experiences affordable for all children in the community. COTA funds are used to provide scholarships for singers, commission new works, support music purchases, professional fees and facilities rental. During its 24th season (2018-2019), ACC will have two public performances by all choirs in

December and May. In addition, each of the three choirs will perform individually throughout the year for Ames city events, public schools, churches, assisted living, retirement and low-income residences. Anticipated main events for the 2018-2019 season include: Fall Tour, Good Neighbor Benefit Concert, Chorale School Tour to area schools, Midwest Children's Choir Festival, and the Spring Concert. (Tours are self-funded by singers.)

### **Ames Choral Society (ACS) - \$3,690**

The Ames Choral Society (ACS) benefits Ames by providing a community chorus open to all interested singers in the Ames area. ACS performances include diverse, high-quality secular and sacred choral literature. Members are high school age and older. COTA funding allows the ACS to purchase music for special compositions and to hire additional instrumentalists and solo vocalists. The funds also allow ACS to keep dues affordable and assist with the rising costs of publicity. Now entering its 54th season, ACS presents four programs each season. The December concert features holiday music, the two "cabaret" show performances consist of popular songs and musical theatre pieces, the spring concert has often included a major work for orchestra and the June concert features American music

### **Ames Community Arts Council (ACAC) - \$10,750**

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 is a member-based organization and encourages any interested individual or group to join. The ACAC serves local artists, arts and cultural organizations and businesses, and all the citizens of Ames. Its goal is 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) - \$9,750**

Central Iowa Symphony (CIS), an Ames-based community orchestra, offers superior live symphonic performances for Ames area residents. CIS provides 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).

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

Dancer Dance Company Foundation (DDCF) provides volunteer and financial support for the education, development, and advancement of dancers while enriching our community through dance. COTA funding is 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 by giving them an opportunity to perform and share their talents with the community.

### **Good Company: A Women's Choral Ensemble, Inc. - \$1,950**

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. With a membership of more than 30 women, GC holds at least two concerts a year and participates in special 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.

### **KHOI FM - \$3,000**

KHOI will enter its sixth year of broadcasting operations during the 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 cycle marks KHOI's second request for COTA funding. KHOI intends to utilize COTA funding to continue development of its soundscape program which will crowd source sounds from throughout the Ames community and Central Iowa. 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 2018, 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 Center for the Arts - \$48,100**

The Octagon Center for the Arts (Octagon) 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 30,000 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 2018, 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. In addition, to address growing interest performance opportunities for local youth, STC will be adding a "tween" show, for participants ages 9-13, to the 2018-2019 production schedule. COTA funds help support annual operational expenses, including rehearsal and performance space rentals, supplies, educational workshops, royalties, and performance licenses.

### **Ames Town and Gown Chamber Music Association - \$18,200**

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 69th season in 2018, ATG will present five concerts to be held in the Ames City Auditorium, Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall at Iowa State University, and other venues such as the First United Methodist Church in Ames. 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 a