



*Caring People ♦ Quality Programs ♦ Exceptional Service*

# MEMO

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Brian Phillips, Assistant City Manager  
**Date:** January 31, 2020  
**Subject:** FY 2020/21 COTA Funding Recommendations

The Commission on the Arts (COTA) has prepared its FY 2020/21 funding recommendations. The City Council authorized COTA to allocate \$183,898 for the next fiscal year. This is a \$15,000 increase over the budgeted amount for the current FY 2019/20 fiscal year. COTA has recommended allocating \$178,494 directly to agencies for FY 2020/21 annual grants, and reserving \$5,404 for spring and fall special project grants.

A total of 18 agencies submitted applications for funding this year compared to 17 in FY 2019/20. This year, one organization requested funding (Central Iowa Touring Ensemble) that had not done so in the past. On the following pages are the individual agency recommendations and brief descriptions of their activities.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>2019/20 Adopted</b>	<b>2020/21 Requested</b>	<b>2020/21 Recommended</b>
ACTORS	\$ 17,177	\$ 20,000	\$ 16,330
AIOFA	9,760	10,000	9,900
Ames Chamber Artists	4,048	5,500	4,742
Ames Children's Choirs	13,770	13,000	12,800
Ames Choral Society	3,878	4,000	3,704
Ames Community Arts Council	10,391	11,750	11,288
Ames Chapter of Des Moines Metro Opera Guild	1,225	1,175	1,105
Central Iowa Touring Ensemble	-	4,550	4,025
Central Iowa Symphony	9,474	15,000	10,910
CoMotion Dance	3,000	4,000	3,239
Dancercenter Dance Company Foundation	-	3,000	2,568
Good Company	1,950	1,950	1,750
India Cultural Association	6,054	15,000	8,951
KHOI	3,000	7,500	5,130
Kids CoMotion	3,000	3,000	2,900
Octagon Center for the Arts	47,220	49,500	47,583
Story Theater Company	11,251	20,635	13,530
Town & Gown	18,140	18,750	18,039
<b>Annual Grants Total</b>	<b>\$ 163,338</b>	<b>\$ 208,310</b>	<b>\$ 178,494</b>
<b>Reserve for Spring/Fall Special Grants</b>	<b>\$ 5,560</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,404</b>
<b>Total COTA Budget</b>	<b>\$ 168,898</b>	<b>\$ 208,310</b>	<b>\$ 183,898</b>

## **COTA 2020-21 Paragraphs**

### **ACTORS, INC. (Ames Community Theater) - \$16,330**

The Ames Community Theater (ACTORS) produces five main stage shows each year that appeal to all aspects of the community. ACTORS invites community members to participate in live theater as performers, technicians, musicians, artists, and/or audience members. All positions at ACTORS are staffed with volunteers. Additionally, the cast and crews are not charged a participation fee. The income produced by each show is applied to the cost of staging the production including a prorated portion of the overhead of the building. COTA funding is used to supplement the actual cost of staging ACTORS five main stage productions each season. For its 65th season, ACTORS will be planning several special events.

### **Ames International Orchestra Festival Association, Inc. (AIOFA) - \$9,900**

The purpose of AIOFA is to inform, educate, and foster awareness among audiences of the value of classical music. This is achieved by providing financial support for and promoting live performances of outstanding orchestra as part of the Performing Arts Series at Stephens Auditorium. The goal is to reach audiences of all ages, enhance concert attendance, and increase awareness of the value of classical music performances. COTA funding is used to underwrite artists' fees, outreach activities, and special discounts targeted at youth, students, and those who might never have attended a classical music concert. For the 2020-21 season, AIOFA will host the Siberian State Symphony Orchestra. Also, they hope to bring back the festival-type engagement, where performance groups interact in educational and community outreach.

### **Ames Chamber Artists (ACA) - \$4,742**

The Ames Chamber Artists (ACA) is an auditioned choir for 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 performed, as well as the number of performances offered to the community. It has long been a purpose of ACA to promote lifelong choral singing to young people, so ACA seeks opportunities to perform with school choirs and children's choirs. For the 2020-21 season, ACA will be looking to work with the Gilbert High School Choir.

### **Ames Children's Choirs Association, Inc. (ACC) - \$12,800**

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 their 26th season (2020-21), ACC will continue to provide outstanding artistic and educational experiences for youth in Ames and the surrounding communities. To increase program inclusivity in the younger choirs, seven-year-old children have been invited to join the Preparatory Choir. To increase inclusivity with older singers with changing voices, ACC created a fourth choir: Singers, a 3- to 4-part mixed voice ensemble. ACC will give public performances by all choirs in December and May. In addition, each of the choirs will perform individually throughout the year for Ames city events, fine arts organizations, church services, public schools, low-income residences and retirement residences.

#### **Ames Choral Society (ACS) - \$3,704**

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 55th 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) - \$11,288**

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. 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.

#### **Ames Chapter of Des Moines Metro Opera Guild -- \$1,105**

The Ames Chapter of the Des Moines Metro Opera Guild has been active in Ames for over 30 years. Its goal is to educate the community about opera through monthly programs, host local opera events, and promote the Des Moines Metro Opera's Summer Festival. The summer festival is a popular event with Ames opera-fans, though many older residents face difficulty with transportation to the performance. The COTA grant will help with transportation for these residents, as well as anyone else who would like to take advantage of a planned shuttle service.

#### **Central Iowa Touring Ensemble - \$4,025**

The Central Iowa Touring Ensemble is a relatively new organization composed of high school students. For the FY 2020-21 season, the Central Iowa Touring Ensemble will conduct its annual musical. The organization also plans to present several special projects. The goal of the special projects is to bring a fun and energizing piece of theater to schools, libraries and other arts organizations. The organization is trying to bridge the gap in the community by targeting the youth specifically. The organization plans to hold three special projects in FY 2020-21.

#### **Central Iowa Symphony Association (CIS) - \$10,910**

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.

#### **Co'Motion Dance Theater -- \$3,239**

Co'Motion Dance Theater is a professional modern dance company based in Ames. It was founded in 1978 in response to the limited availability of modern dance opportunities outside the university setting. Co'Motion Dance Theater produces high quality, professional dance performances and workshops in Ames and other Midwest cities. The company offers an on-going program of dance classes, seminars and performance workshops. COTA funds allow the company to rehearse and stage

performances and workshops as well as fostering a creative outlet for all dancers in Ames.

**Good Company: A Women's Choral Ensemble, Inc. - \$1,750**

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.

**Dancer Dance Company Foundation - \$2,568**

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.

**India Cultural Association - \$8,951**

The India Cultural Association (ICA) was formed in 1992. Its mission is to assist and promote educational, youth, literary, charitable, and cultural activities with the intent to maintain, preserve, and foster the cultural and secular heritage of India and also to enhance friendship and understanding with people from various cultural backgrounds. It also strives to share the secular and rich culture of India with Ames and surrounding areas. The organization plans to bring "Naatak - America's Biggest Indian Theater" to Ames to perform a play in English to showcase India's cultural heritage with all Iowans.

**KHOI FM - \$5,130**

KHOI will celebrate its eighth year of broadcasting operations during the 2020-2021 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. KHOI intends to utilize COTA funding to expand live music events featuring

local musicians and to commission a visual work of art to complement special audio programming concerning central Iowa's watershed and its critical role in the local environment. These programs will be open to any interested parties throughout the Ames community and Central Iowa.

### **Kids Co 'Motion - \$2,900**

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. 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 - \$47,583**

The Octagon Center for the Arts (Octagon) is a non-profit community arts organization that has offered art exhibits and quality educational programs for children and adults since 1966. The Octagon also holds special events and has a retail art shop promoting local artisans. The Octagon partners with the Main Street District, Ames Community Arts Council, local schools, Mainstream Living, ISU, YSS, United way, the Ames Public Library and the Boys and Girls Club of Story County. COTA funds enable the organization to reach 32,000 people a year in some form of art experience and expression, by providing annual operational support for workshops, supplies, marketing, shop artists, etc.

### **Story Theater Company - \$13,530**

Founded in 2006, the mission of the Story Theater Company (STC) is to increase the number of theatrical opportunities for the children of Ames and surrounding communities through performances and workshops, and to expose children to positive role models from the ISU theatre department who teach the fundamentals of theatre while encouraging self-confidence, responsibility and teamwork. In 2019-2020, STC will produce two full-scale productions for ages 9-18; a full-scale "mature" show for participants aged 13-18; and, to address the growing interest in performance opportunities for local youth, STC will again produce a "tween" show, for participants ages 9-13. 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 - \$18,039**

Ames Town and Gown (ATG) Chamber Music Association is dedicated to presenting the finest solo musicians and small ensembles -- internationally renowned performers, as well as rising young stars -- to Ames citizens of all ages and demographics. For its 70th season in 2019-2020, 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 and quality by supporting artists' fees, rental of concert halls, printing costs, publicity, etc.

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