

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF COMMISSION ON THE ARTS (COTA) MINIGRANTS FOR SPRING 2011.

BACKGROUND:

On November 13, 2010, the Commission on the Arts (COTA) met to finalize recommendations for Spring 2011 minigrants. A total of eight grant requests were received from four different organizations. The organizations requested \$6,695 in funding, with \$3,430 being available from the 2010/11 budget.

Based on the merits of each application and the criteria established for the mini-grants, COTA recommended the following allocations, which were then sent to the organizations in contract form in November. The contracts are now being presented for Council approval.

COTA SPRING 2010-2011 MINI-GRANT REQUEST

Organization	Request	Project	Recommended
Ames Chamber Artists	\$525.00	Spring Concert - May 2011	\$430.00
Central Iowa Symphony	\$1,000.00	Artists Concert	\$855.00
Co'Motion Dance 1	\$1,000.00	Clearly – Space	0.00
Co'Motion Dance 2	\$1,000.00	Clearly – Instruments	0.00
Good Company	\$450.00	Descriptive Brochures	\$330.00
India Cultural Society	\$1,000.00	Glimpses of India - Food, Culture & Arts	\$650.00
Octagon 1	\$720.00	Matthew Coley Performance	\$350.00
Octagon 2	\$1,000.00	Project AWARE	\$815.00
Totals	\$6,695.00		\$3,430.00

NOTE: The total amount available for Spring 2011 Minigrants is \$3,430

In recommending no funding for the requests from Co-Motion Dance Theater, the Commission was unsure what space would be rented and what the final costs would be, as well as being unclear on exactly how funding would be used to either purchase or manufacture glass instruments. The Commission takes seriously its charge to be certain of how the proposal for funding will be completed and be certain that it is understood how the public is benefitted.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can approve the COTA minigrant contracts as recommended by the Commission on the Arts.

2. The City Council can hold onto these contracts and ask the Commission for further information.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

COTA has carefully reviewed the minigrant applications, and has submitted their recommendation to the Council.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the COTA Spring 2011 minigrant contracts as recommended by the Commission on the Arts.