

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF COMMISSION ON THE ARTS (COTA) SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS FOR FALL 2017

BACKGROUND:

In June, the Commission on the Arts (COTA) met to finalize recommendations for Fall 2017 Special Project Grants. Four grant requests were received. The organizations requested \$2,000 in funding. There is \$4,000 available in the FY 2017/18 budget for both Fall and Spring Special Project grants.

Of note this year, COTA has adjusted the criteria to allow for special project grants of up to \$1,000 per project. The previous limit was \$750. COTA members expressed interest in offering greater support for special project grants, which are often unique and creative opportunities that could not be pursued through the annual grant funding process.

Based on the merits of each application and the criteria established for the special project grants, COTA recommended the following allocations, which were then sent to the organizations in contract form. The contracts, having been signed by the organizations, are now presented for City Council approval.

COTA FALL 2017/18 SPECIAL GRANT REQUESTS

Organization	Project	Requested	Recommended By COTA
ACAC	Ames Contra Dance Partnership	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Co'Motion Dance Theater	Dance Showcase	1,000	1,000
Total		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000

The Commission takes seriously its charge to verify that the proposal for funding will be completed and that there is a public benefit. If these contracts are approved, \$2,000 in funds will remain available for Spring 2018 Special Project Grants.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the COTA Special Project Grant contracts as recommended by the Commission on the Arts
2. Refer these contracts back to COTA for further information

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Commission on the Arts receives special project grant applications each year. These applications have been reviewed to ensure they meet the criteria outlined in the application instructions. The Commission has recommended that they be approved to accomplish the Commission's goal to further the performing arts in the Ames community.

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