

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF COMMISSION ON THE ARTS (COTA) SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS FOR FALL 2020**

**BACKGROUND:**

On June 1, the Commission on the Arts (COTA) met to finalize recommendations for Fall 2020 Special Project Grants. Four grant requests were received, totaling \$3,570 in requests. There is \$5,404 available in the FY 2020/21 budget for both Fall and Spring Special Project Grants.

Based on the merits of the applications and the criteria established for Special Project Grants, COTA recommended the following allocations:

**COTA FALL 2020 SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT REQUESTS**

Organization	Project	Request	Award
<b>Octagon Center for the Arts</b>	Chalk the Block at Octagon Arts Festival	\$750	\$738
<b>Story Theater Company</b>	You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown	\$1,000	\$700
<b>Story Theater Company</b>	Frozen, Jr.	\$1,000	\$725
<b>Town and Gown Chamber Music Association</b>	Mertz Trio Elementary/Middle School Outreach	\$820	\$788
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$3,570</b>	<b>\$2,951</b>

Contracts were prepared and sent to the organizations. These have been signed and returned for three of the grants. **On June 15, the Octagon Center for the Arts announced it would not be holding the Octagon Arts Festival in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, this grant contract will not be approved. The total amount to be awarded in contracts is therefore \$2,213.** Funds allocated to this project will remain available for spring 2021 special project grants. Octagon representatives expressed interest in seeking COTA support for next year's Octagon Arts Festival.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the COTA Special Project Grant contracts as recommended by the Commission on the Arts, with the exception of the contract with the Octagon Center for the Arts.
2. Refer these contracts back to COTA for further information

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The Commission on the Arts receives special project grant applications each year. The applications have been reviewed to ensure they meet the criteria outlined in the application instructions. The Commission has recommended that the contracts 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 as described above.