

ITEM #: 18  
 DATE: 12-10-24  
 DEPT: ADMIN

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON THE ARTS (COTA) SPRING 2025 SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT CONTRACTS**

**BACKGROUND:**

On November 4, the Commission on the Arts (COTA) finalized its recommendations for the Spring 2025 Special Project Grants. These grants are in amounts up to \$1,000 for unforeseen or unique opportunities that support arts in the community. This season, five grant requests were received, totaling \$4,975 in requests. COTA has \$4,405 in funding available for these grants.

Based on the merits of each application and the criteria established for the special grants, COTA recommends the allocations indicated below. Contracts were sent to the awarded organizations for approval and have been returned. The contracts are now presented for City Council approval.

<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>REQUEST</b>	<b>AWARD</b>
Dancercenter Dancer Company Foundation	Illuminate Contemporary Dance Concert	\$1,000	\$1,000
Good Company	Enhanced Marketing Resources	\$975	\$975
Des Moines Metro Opera Guild, Ames Chapter	OPERA Iowa "Cinderella" and "The Billy Goats Gruff"	\$1,000	\$1,000
Story Theater Company	Magic Elements for "The Last Illusion"	\$1,000	\$1,000
India Cultural Association	Indian Sports Mela	\$1,000	\$430
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4,975</b>	<b>\$4,405</b>

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the COTA special project grant contracts as recommended.
2. Refer the contracts to COTA for further information.
3. Do not approve the contracts.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

These projects help advance participation in and awareness of the arts in the Ames community, which is a key goal of the Commission on the Arts. COTA has reviewed the requests and has recommended the approval of the contracts now presented to the City Council. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.