

ITEM #: 17  
DATE: 08-12-25  
DEPT: ADMIN

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

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

**BACKGROUND:**

On June 2, 2025, the Commission on the Arts (COTA) finalized its recommendations for Fall 2025 Special Project Grants. Three grant requests were received totaling \$2,500. COTA has \$9,562 in funding available for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 Special Project grants. The requests and COTA's recommendations are described in the table below:

ORGANIZATION	REQUEST	PROJECT	RECOMMENDATION
Ames Community Arts Council	\$1,000	Empty Bowls Workshop	\$900
Ames Town and Gown	\$500	Beijing Guitar Duo Outreach	\$500
Story Theater Company	\$1,000	Fall Musical: Once Upon a Mattress	\$900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>		<b>\$2,300</b>

Copies of the contracts were sent to the awarded organizations for approval and have been returned. The contracts are now presented for the City Council's approval.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the Fall 2025 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:**

Special project grants 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 noted above.