

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF FY 2021/22 COMMISSION ON THE ARTS ANNUAL GRANT CONTRACTS

BACKGROUND:

The City Council authorized the Commission on the Arts (COTA) to allocate up to \$193,093 in arts agency funding for FY 2021/22. In February, the City Council received COTA's recommendations for annual grant awards and a special project grant reserve. **At that time, the City Council modified its original budget appropriation for FY 2021/22 COTA funding from \$193,093 to \$223,733.** This increase was proposed in light of the hardships faced by arts organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The increased total COTA funding was incorporated into the FY 2021/22 City Budget. The City Council then referred the grant amounts to COTA for further consideration.

COTA prepared modified recommendations for agencies and presented them to the City Council. These amounts consisted of the Commission's original Annual Grant recommendation for each agency and a separate one-time COVID supplement recommendation for each agency. The one-time COVID supplement was in the amount of 15.9% over the original COTA recommendation for each agency, but in no case did the supplement allow the agency to receive more funding than it requested for the year.

COTA recommended retaining \$16,341 as a reserve for special project grants. COTA presented its revised recommendations to the City Council, which has approved them. Contracts were prepared, which distinguish between the COTA-recommended operating funds and the one-time COVID supplemental funds. These contracts have been mailed to arts organizations and returned with signatures and are now presented for City Council approval.

A summary of the original COTA recommendations, the one-time COVID supplement amounts, and the total COTA funding for each agency appears on the next page:

COTA 2021-22 Annual Grant Contract Amounts

Organization	Orig. COTA Recom.	One-time COVID Supplement	TOTAL COTA Funding
ACTORS	\$ 16,890	\$ 2,686	\$ 19,576
AIOFA	9,260	740	10,000
Ames Chamber Artists	4,858	642	5,500
Ames Children’s Choirs	12,948	1,052	14,000
Ames Choral Society	3,610	390	4,000
Ames Community Arts Council	11,004	996	12,000
Central Iowa Symphony	12,170	1,935	14,105
Dancercenter Dance Company Foundation	4,050	644	4,694
Friends of Ames Strings	4,010	638	4,648
Good Company	1,825	125	1,950
India Cultural Association	10,175	1,618	11,793
KHOI Community Radio	5,704	907	6,611
Kids Co’Motion	2,716	284	3,000
Octagon Center for the Arts	47,114	2,386	49,500
Story Theater Company	23,913	3,802	27,715
Town & Gown	17,288	1,012	18,300
Agency Award Subtotal	\$ 187,535	\$ 19,857	\$ 207,392
Reserve for Special Project Grants	5,558		16,341
TOTAL COTA FUNDING	\$ 193,093		\$ 223,733

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the COTA Annual Grant contracts as recommended by the Commission on the Arts.
2. Request further information from COTA prior to approving these contracts.

CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The City Council has allocated funding in the City Budget to fund arts activities, and the Commission on the Arts has received applications and made awards that meet the criteria for COTA funding. Contracts are required to define the scope of services that will be met by each organization receiving funding.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.