

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**           **SPRING 2022 COMMISSION ON THE  
 ARTS (COTA) SPECIAL GRANTS**

**BACKGROUND:**

On November 1, the Commission on the Arts (COTA) finalized its recommendations for the Spring 2022 Special Project Grants. This year, due to a substantial one-time increase in funding authorized by the City Council for FY 2021/22 in light of the impact of COVID-19 on arts agencies, COTA increased its maximum special project grant award from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per grant. Seven grant requests were received, totaling \$17,040 in requests. COTA has \$15,341 in funding available for these grants.

Based on the merits of each application and the criteria established for the special grants, COTA recommended 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’s approval.

<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>REQUEST</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>AWARD</b>
Ames Community Arts Council	\$ 3,000	Business of Art Webinar Series	\$ 3,000
Des Moines Metro Opera Guild – Ames Chapter	540	Ames to Des Moines Opera Shuttle	540
Octagon Center for the Arts	3,000	Art Outreach to YSS and Boys and Girls Clubs	3,000
Story Theater Company	3,000	Increased Production Costs (Fabric, Lumber, Props)	2,660
Story Theater Company	3,000	Shrek the Musical Free Matinee	3,000
ACTORS	3,000	There’s Something Going on at ACTORS – Music, Improv, etc. Workshops	1,641
Ames Town & Gown	1,500	Calmus Vocal Workshop	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 17,040</b>		<b>\$ 15,341</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.