

# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



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## STAFF

Solara Clark, Lead Specialist  
Eileen May, Arts and Culture Director

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## SUBJECT

**Resolution 2026-058 Approving FoCo Creates Grant Disbursements.**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to approve FoCo Creates (previously Fort Fund) grants from the Cultural Development and Programming Account and the Tourism Programming Account for the selected community events in the Program Support Grant – March Deadline category, based upon the recommendations of the FoCo Creates Community Grant Panel and staff.

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

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## BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The FoCo Creates (previously Fort Fund) grant program, established in 1989, disburses lodging tax revenues deposited in the City's Cultural Development and Programming Account and the Tourism Programming Account in accordance with the provisions of Section 25-244 of the City Code, where 25% of the revenue from the lodging tax fund is applied to the Cultural Development and Programming Account and 5% of revenue from lodging tax is dedicated to the Tourism Programming Account. Local non-profit organizations may apply to the FoCo Creates grant program for cultural and/or tourism event support. The FoCo Creates Community Grant Panel is authorized to review grant applications based on approved guidelines and make recommendations for FoCo Creates grant disbursements to Council. There are three funding categories available: Program Support Grant (March deadline), the Artist Opportunity Grant (June deadline) and Special Event Grant (September deadline).

FoCo Creates grants support arts and cultural events that enrich the creative vitality of the community, promote local heritage and diversity, and provide opportunities for arts and cultural participation. The grants help promote Fort Collins as a creative center and tourist destination and promote the health and well-being of all residents and visitors.

### **April 6, 2026, Funding Session**

At their April 6, 2026 funding session, the FoCo Creates Community Grant Panel reviewed forty-three (43) Program Support Grant – March Deadline applications with total requests equaling \$805,497.50. Forty-one (41) applications were found eligible and recommended for funding for \$440,000.

The following table summarizes the Program Support Grant – March Deadline requests, available funds and grant award amounts:

<b>Grant Requests</b>	<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>Grant Awards</b>
\$805,497.50	\$440,000	\$440,000

The FoCo Creates Community Grant Panel scored each application using the funding criteria outlined in the FoCo Creates Grant Guidelines and discussed the applications at its April 6, 2026 meeting. The Panel’s approval and discussion is outlined in the draft minutes. (Attachment 1) The Panel is recommending disbursement of \$440,000 to the eligible applicants as outlined in Exhibit A to the Resolution.

**CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

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The FoCo Creates (previously Fort Fund) grant program, established in 1989, disburses lodging tax revenues deposited in the City’s Cultural Development and Programming Account and Tourism Programming Account in accordance with the provisions of Section 25-244 of the City Code. This Resolution would distribute \$440,000 from the Cultural Development and Programming Account and Tourism Programming Account to local non-profit organizations. Each grantee organization must provide funds to match the grant amount. These funds were budgeted and appropriated in the 2026 budget. Lodging tax is collected pursuant to Section 25-242 of the City Code.

**BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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The FoCo Creates Community Grant Panel and staff are presenting these recommendations to Council for programs and organizations to receive funding at the recommended grant amounts from the Cultural Development and Programming Account and Tourism Programming Account.

Exhibit A to the Resolution presents the allocations recommended by the FoCo Creates Grant Program to the Council for Program Support Grant – March Deadline funding.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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None.

**ATTACHMENTS / LINKS**

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1. FoCo Creates Community Grant Panel Minutes, April 6, 2026
2. Resolution 2026-058