

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Eileen May, Arts and Culture Director
Solara Clark, Lead Specialist
Carisa Clinton, Grants Admin Manager

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 055, 2026, Making a Supplemental Appropriation for Grant Revenue from the State of Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade Creative Industries Division for the Fort Collins Creative District.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to appropriate \$7,500 of unanticipated grant revenue from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade's (OEDIT) Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) Division for the Fort Collins Creative District.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

On April 23, 2026, the Fort Collins Creative District was awarded a \$7,500 grant through OEDIT's Colorado Creative Industries (CCI). The Creative District Project and Technical Assistance Grant, offered by CCI, is designed to help sustain and strengthen Colorado's state-certified creative districts. The grant provides flexible funding to support day-to-day operations, organizational capacity, and strategic initiatives, allowing districts to focus on fostering local arts, culture, and creative economies. Funding will support artist-led programs, workshops, and marketing that keep the district active and accessible to the community. It will also help fund public art projects and collaborative efforts with local partners. In addition, funds will support events like Art Week Downtown that bring people into the district and boost visibility for local artists and businesses. The City's Arts and Culture Department partners closely with the Creative District to support programming, coordination, and long-term planning that aligns with community goals. The City serves as a key partner and fiscal agent, ensuring public funds are used effectively to support the district's economic and cultural impact.

The Fort Collins Creative District is a geographical area of the City, designated by the City as a hub for arts, culture and creative entrepreneurship. The City made this designation under its authority provided by Colorado Revised Statutes Section 24-48.5-314. The State of Colorado's Office of Economic Development and International Trade, Creative Industries Division has certified the City's Old Town as a Creative District. This State certification allows the State to provide funding and technical assistance to the City for the Creative District.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The item appropriates \$7,500 in unanticipated grant revenue for the Fort Collins Creative District to support artist-led programs, workshops and marketing that highlight local creatives and bring consistent activity to the district. There is no match requirement on behalf of the City.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS / LINKS

1. Ordinance No. 055, 2026