



# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

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## STAFF

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Solara Clark, Project Coordinator  
Eileen May, Cultural Services Director

## SUBJECT

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**Resolution 2024-124 Approving Fort Fund Grant Disbursements.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The purpose of this item is to approve 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 – September Deadline category, based upon the recommendations of the Cultural Resources Board.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

## BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

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The 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 Fort Fund for cultural and/or tourism event support. The Cultural Resources Board is authorized to review grant applications based on approved guidelines and make recommendations for Fort Fund disbursements to Council, pursuant to Section 2-145 (b) of the City Code. There are three funding categories available and a total of five deadlines: Special Event Grant (January and July deadlines), Program Support Grant (March and September deadlines), and Cross-Sector Impact Grant (October deadline).

Fort Fund 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.

### **September 26, 2024, Funding Session**

At their September 26, 2024, funding session, the Cultural Resources Board was unable to vote on the Program Support Grant – September Deadline applications due to a lack of quorum. A special funding meeting was scheduled for October 3, 2024, for review and a vote on recommendations for the Program Support Grant – September Deadline.

### **October 3, 2024, Special Meeting Funding Session**

At their October 3, 2024, special meeting funding session, the Cultural Resources Board reviewed eleven (11) Program Support Grant – September Deadline applications with total requests equaling \$188,112. Eleven (11) applications were found eligible and recommended for funding for \$100,000.

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

<b>Grant Requests</b>	<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>Grant Awards</b>
\$188,112	\$100,000	\$100,000

The Cultural Resources Board scored each application using the funding criteria outlined in the Fort Fund Guidelines and discussed the applications at its September 26, 2024 meeting and its October 3, 2024 special meeting. The Board’s approval and discussion is outlined in the draft minutes (Attachment 1 and 2). The Board is recommending disbursement of \$100,000 to the eligible applicants as outlined in Exhibit A to the Resolution.

**CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

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The 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 \$100,000 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 2024 budget. Lodging tax is collected pursuant to Section 25-242 of the City Code.

**BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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The Cultural Resources Board is 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 Cultural Resources Board to the Council for Program Support Grant – September Deadline funding.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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None.

**ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Exhibit A to Resolution
3. Cultural Resources Board September 26, 2024, Minutes (draft) (PDF)
4. Cultural Resources Board October 3, 2024, Minutes (draft) (PDF)
5. Award Letter