

RESOLUTION 2026-096
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
APPROVING FOCO CREATES GRANT DISBURSEMENTS

A. Providers of lodging accommodations in the City are required by Section 25-242 of the City Code to pay a three percent tax on revenues derived from the furnishing of lodging accommodations.

B. The FoCo Creates Grant Program ("FoCo Creates"), formerly the Fort Fund Grant Program, supports projects and activities that provide arts and cultural programming to the Fort Collins community and visitors. FoCo Creates distributes 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.

C. The Artist Opportunity Grant is funded through the Tourism Fund because the program was originally established as part of the City's tourism investment strategy. The funding source reflects the program's connection to tourism and economic vitality goals, recognizing that a thriving arts community contributes to the City's cultural identity and attractiveness to visitors. While the grants are awarded directly to artists, the broader public benefit is the promotion of Fort Collins' creative sector and cultural assets. Grant recipients are required to provide a public benefit component at the conclusion of their project, such as a performance, exhibition, presentation, or other community-facing event that is free and open to the public.

D. Local non-profit organizations and local artists may apply to FoCo Creates for cultural and tourism event support. There are three FoCo Creates funding programs available to applicants: Special Events; Program Support; and Artist Opportunity Grants.

E. The City's Arts and Culture Board reviews proposals for funding from the Cultural Development and Programming Account and the Tourism Programming Account, when requested by the Director of the Arts and Culture Department, pursuant to Section 2-143(b). Additionally, the Arts and Culture Department's FoCo Creates Community Grant Panel (the "Panel") reviews grant applications based on approved guidelines and make recommendations for FoCo Creates disbursements. For Artist Opportunity Grants, the City randomly selects awardees from qualified local artists who must make their art available to the Fort Collins community as a condition of receiving the Artist Opportunity Grant.

F. City staff and the Chairperson of the Arts and Culture Board randomly selected twelve qualified artists and five alternate artists to receive Artist Opportunity Grants. The funding recommendations are set forth in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

G. The use of lodging tax revenues will provide a public benefit to the Fort Collins community by supporting cultural development and public programming activities within the City that promote the use of public accommodations within the City.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. City Council hereby finds that the distribution of funds through the FoCo Creates program as set forth on Exhibit A will promote the cultural and economic health of the community and in doing so will serve a recognized and valuable public purpose.

Section 2. Funds in the amount of Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000) from the City's Tourism Programming Account are hereby approved for distribution as set forth in Exhibit A.

Passed and adopted on July 21, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: July 21, 2026
Approving Attorney: Ted Hewitt

Exhibit: Exhibit A – FoCo Creates Artist Opportunity Grant – Drawn Applications