

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

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

SUBJECT

Resolution 2026-118 Approving FoCo Creates Grant Disbursements.

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 Special Event Grant – September Deadline category, based upon the recommendations of the FoCo Creates Community Grant Panel and staff.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The FoCo Creates grant program, established in 1989, disburses a portion of the City’s lodging tax revenues, in accordance with the provisions of Section 25-244 of the City Code, where 25% of lodging tax revenues are deposited into the Cultural Development and Programming Account and 75% of revenues are deposited into the Tourism Programming Account. Local non-profit organizations and artists may apply to the FoCo Creates grant program for cultural and/or tourism event support. The FoCo Creates Community Grant Panel (the “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 to 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 29, 2026, September Application Review

At its September 29, 2026, funding meeting, the Panel reviewed eighteen Special Event Grant applications, totaling \$115,700 requested by applicants. After discussion, the Panel scored each application using the funding criteria outlined in the FoCo Creates Grant Guidelines. The Panel determined that seventeen

applications were eligible and, further, adopted a recommendation to distribute to these eligible applicants a total of \$76,000 for the 2026 Special Event Grant cycle.

The following table summarizes the Special Event Grant requests, available funds, and grant award amounts:

Grant Requests	Available Funds	Grant Awards
\$115,700	\$76,000	\$76,000

This Resolution, if adopted by Council, would approve the Panel-recommended disbursement of \$76,000, as outlined in Exhibit A to the Resolution.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

This Resolution, if adopted, will distribute \$76,000 from the Cultural Development and Programming Account and Tourism Programming Account to local non-profit organizations.

Lodging tax revenues, including the amounts deposited into funds for the Special Event Grants, have already been appropriated in the 2026 budget. Therefore, this Resolution has no financial impact to the City. Each grantee organization must provide funds to match the grant amount.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Panel and staff recommendation to Council is to distribute from the City's Cultural Development and Programming Account and Tourism Programming Account the to the programs and organizations reviewed at the September 29, 2026, meeting of the Panel, determined eligible, in the amounts the Panel recommends, as further detailed on Exhibit A to the Resolution, for the 2026 Special Event Grant cycle.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

September 29, 2026, meeting of the FoCo Creates Community Grant Panel.

ATTACHMENTS / LINKS

1. FoCo Creates Community Grant Panel Minutes, September 29, 2026
2. Resolution 2026-118