

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Jim McDonald, Cultural Services Director
Solara Clark, Business Support III
Ted Hewitt, Legal

SUBJECT

Resolution 2023-054 Approving Fort Fund Grant Disbursements – Organizational Support Category.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to approve Fort Fund grants from the Cultural Development and Programming Account for the selected community events in the Organizational Support category, based upon the recommendations of the Cultural Resources Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

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 programs available: Organizational Support, Project Support, and Project Support II.

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, supporting the city as an overall tourist destination and promoting the health and well-being of all residents and visitors.

May 25, 2023 Funding Session

At their May 25, 2023 funding session, the Cultural Resources Board reviewed nine (9) Organizational Support applications with total requests equaling \$350,000. Nine (9) applications were found eligible and recommended for funding for \$185,000.

The following table summarizes the Organizational Support requests, available funds, and grant award amounts:

Grant Requests	Available Funds	Grant Awards
\$350,000	\$185,000	\$185,000

The Cultural Resources Board scored each application using the funding criteria outlined in the Fort Fund Guidelines and discussed the applications at its May 25, 2023 meeting. The 2023 grant application specifically included a question on how applicants would produce their project if COVID-19 restrictions were still in place. This aided the Board with its review of the project feasibility. The Board discussion is outlined in the draft minutes. (Attachment 1) The Board is recommending disbursement of \$185,000 to the eligible applicants as outlined in Exhibit A to the Resolution.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

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 \$185,000 from the Cultural Development and 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 2023 budget. Lodging tax is collected pursuant to Section 25-242 of the City Code.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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.

Exhibit A to the Resolution presents the allocations recommended by the Cultural Resources Board to the Council for Organizational Support funding.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Exhibit A to Resolution
3. Cultural Resources Board Minutes (Draft), May 25, 2023