

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Solara Clark, Lead Specialist
Eileen May, Cultural Services Director

SUBJECT

Resolution 2025-087 Approving Fort Fund Program Support Grant Disbursements.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 – August Deadline 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 categories available and a total of five deadlines: Special Event Grant (January and June deadlines), Program Support Grant (March and August 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 25, 2025 Funding Session

At their September 25, 2025, funding session, the Cultural Resources Board reviewed sixteen (16) Program Support Grant – August Deadline applications with total requests equaling \$261,791.50. Thirty (30) applications were found eligible and recommended for funding for \$125,000.

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

Grant Requests	Available Funds	Grant Awards
\$261,791.50	\$125,000	\$125,000

The Cultural Resources Board scored each application using the funding criteria outlined in the Fort Fund Guidelines and discussed the applications at its September 25, 2025, meeting. The Board's approval and discussion is outlined in the draft minutes. (Attachment 1) The Board is recommending disbursement of \$125,000 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 \$125,000 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 2025 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 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 – August Deadline funding.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Cultural Resources Board Minutes, July 24, 2025
2. Resolution 2025-087