



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Jim McDonald, Cultural Services Director
Solara Clark, Business Support III
Ingrid Decker, Legal

SUBJECT

Resolution 2023-040 Approving Fort Fund Grant Disbursements – Project Support.

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 Project 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.

March 23, 2023, Funding Session

At its March 23, 2023, funding session, the Cultural Resources Board reviewed twenty-eight Project Support applications with total requests equaling \$323,625. Twenty-eight applications were found eligible and recommended for funding of \$205,000.

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

Grant Requests	Available Funds	Grant Awards
\$323,625	\$205,000	\$205,000

The Cultural Resources Board scored each application using the funding criteria outlined in the Fort Fund Guidelines and discussed the applications at its March 23, 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 project feasibility. The Board discussion is outlined in the draft minutes. The Board is recommending disbursement of \$205,000 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 \$205,000 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 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 and Tourism Programming Account.

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

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Resolution Exhibit A
3. Cultural Resources Board Minutes, March 2023 (draft)