

STAFF REPORT

Date: December 14, 2022

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Resolution granting 14 Arts and Culture Project Grants for 2023: \$5,093 to A.V.A. Ballet Theatre; \$5,513 to Arts for All Nevada; \$5,740 to The Holland Project; \$5,250 to Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival; \$5,390 to Nevada Gay Men's Chorus; \$4,970 to Northern Nevada Rural Concert Initiative; \$5,600 to Note-Able Music Therapy Services; \$5,723 to Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts; \$5,898 to Reno Bike Project on behalf of KWNK Community Radio; \$5,635 to Reno Chamber Orchestra; \$5,320 to Reno Jazz Orchestra; \$5,425 to Reno Little Theater; \$5,320 to Reno Philharmonic Association; \$5,390 to Sierra Nevada Ballet; all to provide Arts and Cultural programs, events, and services in Reno in the total amount of \$76,265. (Room Tax)

From: Megan Berner, Senior Management Analyst

Department: City Manager's Office – Arts and Culture

Summary:

On November 21, 2022, the Reno Arts & Culture Commission (RACC) reviewed the Grant Committee of the Reno Arts and Culture Commission's ranking and scoring of 22 Arts and Culture Project Grant applications for 2023. The RACC recommended funding of 14 Arts and Culture Project Grants based on scoring in the amount of \$76,265. Staff recommends Council adoption of a Resolution and approval of the Agreements to allocate \$76,265 to 14 nonprofit arts and culture organizations for purposes described below.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

The Grants Committee of the Reno Arts and Culture Commission met November 15, 2022 to score and rank 22 Arts and Culture Project Grant applications. Projects, community festivals, special performances, exhibitions and other events may benefit all area residents, but must be of definable benefit to Reno residents. A performance, exhibit or other activity must take place within the City of Reno's city limits. If a project involves activities in a variety of areas, the portion taking place in Reno, or of primary benefit to Reno residents, will be the portion eligible for consideration. A 1:1 cash match of requested grant funds is required.

- \$5,093 to A.V.A. Ballet Theatre for 2023 Classical Ballet Productions
- \$5,513 to Arts for All Nevada for Artist in Residency
- \$5,740 to the Holland Project for Work in Progress
- \$5,250 to Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival for D.G. Menchetti Education Programs – InterACT
- \$5,390 to Nevada Gay Men's Chorus for Season Finale Spring Concert and 14th Anniversary Kick-Off Holiday Concert Extravaganza
- \$4,970 Northern Nevada Rural Concert Initiative for January 20 through May 13-- Northern Nevada String Serenade Performances
- \$5,600 to Note-Able Music Therapy Services for Community-Based Music Programs to Enhance Inclusion of People with Disabilities
- \$5,723 to Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts for Pioneer Center Youth Programs
- \$5,898 to Reno Bike Project on behalf of KWNK Community Radio for Community Voices Series
- \$5,635 to Reno Chamber Orchestra for Reno Chamber Orchestra/Northern Nevada HOPES partnership
- \$5,320 to Reno Jazz Orchestra for RJO Mentor Program & After School Program
- \$5,425 to Reno Little Theater for RLT 2023 Education Program
- \$5,320 to Reno Philharmonic Association for Reno Philharmonic Association Kids (RPAK) - Spring Semester
- \$5,390 to Sierra Nevada Ballet for SNB Reno Season Ticketed Productions 2023

Each organization will sign an individual Agreement and an Affirmation of nonprofit status for the project. Copies of the standard agreements are attached. The University of Nevada Reno's agreement includes slightly different language in a few sections to address their status as a State Agency and to disallow expenses such as staff salaries and facility charges. The City Attorney's Office has approved the agreements and affirmation.

Discussion:

This is an annual grants program undertaken by the RACC on behalf of the City. On November 21, 2022, the RACC reviewed the recommendation of the Grants Committee which had reviewed 22 grant requests. The 8 grants that scored below 70% were not recommended for funding.

These Project Grants provide funding for organizations to produce programming with a focus on Arts Access and Youth. Three years ago, the RACC initiated diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) requirements into their grants in order to reach a larger constituent base by encouraging partnerships, innovative programming, and attracting new groups to apply. This initial push for DEI requirements was accompanied with workshops for grantees and applicants led by an outside facilitator to help organizations implement DEI initiatives into their programming. The RACC continued to add DEI requirements over the last few years and, this year, added requirements for accessibility.

Financial Implications:

The Arts and Culture Project Grants in the amount of \$76,265 are included in the FY22/23 budget. The entire amount comes from the Room Tax allocation to the Reno Arts & Culture Commission. Grant agreements state they are subject to final Council approval of the agreement and contain a Funding Out paragraph to provide additional financial flexibility to the City.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law. NRS 268.028(1) states the governing body of a city or its authorized representative may make grants by resolution to non-profit organizations created for religious, charitable or educational purposes, to be used for any purpose which will provide a substantial benefit to the inhabitants of the city.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council adopt the Resolution.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

2023 Project Grants Staff Report

Affirmation of Nonprofit Organization

2023 A&C Project Grant Agreement Template

2023 UNR A&C Project Grant Agreement

Project Grant Board of Directors List