ARTS COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RAP TAX ARTS GRANT AWARDS



To: **Ivins City Council**
From: **Ivins Arts Commission**
Date: **January 10, 2020**

At our January 8, 2020, meeting, we reviewed three applications for 2019 RAP tax arts funds. Our recommendations and rationales are presented below. Two additional applications, submitted on behalf of the City, are transmitted for your review with comments, but without recommendations from us.

Background:

Ivins City Resolution 2015-03R sets forth the formula and process for distributing RAP tax revenue. By Ordinance No. 2015-20, the Arts Commission is charged, with recommending to the City Council the allocation of RAP tax arts funds under the competitive process described in Resolution 2015-03R. This year is the first year we have reviewed grant applications using the published form and process approved by you. Each of us reviewed the applications, and we invited each applicant to attend our January 8th meeting to answer questions, if any. Each non-City applicant was represented at the meeting and able to adequately answer our questions.

Funds available under this competitive process are those remaining after the City meets its aggregate obligations under agreements with Tuacahn Center for the Arts and Kayenta Arts Foundation. The 2019 remainder available for distribution is $18,527. The total requested by the applicants, as of January 8th is $26,000.

Award Recommendations:

Kayenta Arts Foundation: $6,250
Tuacahn Center for the Arts: $6,250
Utah Public Lands Alliance: $4,000
City of Ivins from Director of Finance: no recommendation
City of Ivins from Arts Commission: no recommendation

Rationales:

Kayenta Arts Foundation (KAF): KAF requested $10,000 for supplies, stipends and other non-salary items critical to the expansion of its student art summer camps. KAF's summer program began in 2019 with a two- week youth program culminating in a public performance. Given its success, KAF proposes to expand the program to two two-week camps for 8-14-year-olds, again culminating in a public performance (*Suessical the Musical*). We discussed KAF's past efforts and the status of other grants. We found that KAF proposes an arts experience for youth and a public performance appropriate for RAP arts funding.

Tuacahn Center for the Arts (Tuacahn): Tuacahn requested $10,000 for a conference room in its new box office. The conference room will be used for production, board and other meetings. This project is not associated with its bond-supported construction project and includes elevator access to Tuacahn's performances. We expressed our support for Tuacahn and its value to the City. We questioned whether a conference room for meetings warranted RAP arts funds, the stated purpose for Tuacahn's request. Kevin Smith from Tuacahn responded that the box office expansion would include an elevator and increase accessibility to Tuacahn's performances. We found the use of RAP arts funds for this project would support the execution and success of Tuacahn's programs.

Utah Public Lands Alliance (UPLA): UPLA's original grant requested $7,990, but at our meeting, UPLA's Treasurer revised down this amount to $4,000. UPLA plans to replace and maintain the current 5-point seasonal lighted star

on Ivins City property with a new four-point star designed and placed for better viewing. We support the change proposed by UPLA, but question UPLA's eligibility to apply for RAP funds. Under Section 5 of Resolution 2015-03R, City's RAP funding is limited to "entities located within Ivins City or which provide significant tax revenue to Ivins City." UPLA's address in its application is St. George, though its treasure is an Ivins resident, and his address is UPLA's mailing address. UPLA provides no tax revenue to Ivins City. We also discussed whether a seasonal art piece associated with a Christian holiday was appropriate for public funding. We found that our questions were best addressed by the City Council, and, if the Council finds funding this project appropriate, we recommend an award of $4,000 of RAP arts funds.

Ivins City from Director of Finance: The Director of Finance, on behalf of the City, has requested the entire $18,527 remainder to be set aside for artwork for the new City Hall. We make no recommendation on this request. We support the inclusion of art in public areas in and around the new City Hall. We do question, however, whether public funds should be reserved at this time for the City Hall project which is in a very early stage of development when there are eligible applicants proposing current projects.

Ivins City from Arts Commission: At our December 11, 2019, meeting we decided to apply for RAP funds, on behalf of the City, for lighting and hanging systems for the student art exhibit and competition previously approved by the City Council. We originally estimated the cost of these systems to be $3,335, but now believe the total cost to be $2000. We hope you will find this project warrants RAP arts funding.

Conclusion: As with any first attempt at a new process, the competitive RAP tax arts grant process identified areas for improvement in our forms and communications. We plan to address these before the next grant cycle. We hope you will find that our process was fair and that our recommendations are in the interest of increasing accessibility and availability of the arts to Ivins residents and visitors, fostering the intent and purpose of RAP tax revenue.