ARTS COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RAP TAX ARTS COMPETITIVE GRANT AWARDS

To: Ivins City Council
From: Ivins Arts Commission
Date: January 15, 2021

At our January 13, 2021, meeting, we reviewed a written request from the Director of Finance on behalf of Ivins City and two applications from Ivins nonprofit entities for RAP tax arts funds. Our recommendations and rationales are presented below.

Background:
Utah Code Title 59, Chapter12, Section 701 states the purpose of RAP tax funds as:

> . . . to permit the counties of the state of Utah to enhance public financial support of Utah's publicly owned or operated recreational and zoological facilities, and botanical, cultural and zoological organizations owned or operated by institutions or private nonprofit organizations.

Washington County residents chose to establish a RAP tax with allocation to the County and cities within the County. Ivins City Resolution NO. 2015-03R establishes the formula and process for distribution of RAP tax revenues received by the City. Resolution NO. 2015-03R reserves "the first $5000 of RAP tax revenue" for future RAP tax purposes; divides the remainder equally between parks, recreation and arts; provides for distribution of RAP tax funds by agreement and a competitive process. Section 5 of Resolution NO. 2015-03R limits distribution of RAP tax funds to "entities located within Ivins City or which provide a significant tax revenue to Ivins City."

City Ordinance NO. 2015-20, charges the Arts Commission with recommending to the City Council the allocation of RAP tax arts funds under the competitive process. Resolution NO. 2019-15R, adopted by the City Council on recommendation of the Arts Commission, establishes a public notification, application form and process for the awarding of RAP tax funds for the arts.

2020 RAP Funds Available for Distribution Under the Competitive Process: $27,383

Process

We made the Arts RAP Tax Application available on the City's website by October 1, 2020, and published Notice of the opening of the competitive process in the Ivins Newsletter and on the City's website. Each of us had an opportunity to review the nonprofit applications and the City's request. We invited each applicant to attend our January 13th meeting to answer any questions raised by its application. No applicant attended the meeting.

Recommendations

We recommend the $27,383 RAP tax revenue available for distribution via the competitive process be as follows:

> **Kayenta Arts Foundation**: by unanimous vote: $10,000 to be expended as delineated in the application
> **Tuacahn Center for the Arts**: by unanimous vote: $10,000 to be expended solely for production costs associated with its spring concert series
> **City of Ivins from Director of Finance**: by unanimous vote: $7,383 to be expended solely for costs associated with relocation of the round-about statue

We recommend: The City Council commit to providing us the opportunity to make recommendations on any acquisition and placement of public art by the City prior to such actions and in accordance with our charge under Ordinance 2015-20.

Rationales

Kayenta Arts Foundation (KAF): KAF requested $10,000 to support its summer student arts academy. KAF requested $6500 for scholarships for students to participate in arts academy and $3500 for the production costs associated with the academy's public production of *Wind in the Willows.* The arts academy involves students in classes and sessions with professional actors and production staff and culminates in a public performance. First offered in 2019, the arts academy was well received, COVID-19 notwithstanding, and KAF provided parent comments supporting this program. Given its success, KAF proposes to expand the program to 6 weeks for 80 students and 4 weeks for 40 students. We discussed KAF's success in having an arts academy during COVID-19 and its plan to increase participation in 2021. We find that KAF's proposal meets the requirements of Resolution NO. 2019-15R and is consistent with the purpose of the RAP tax. We recommend funding at the requested amount of $10,000.

Tuacahn Center for the Arts (Tuacahn): Tuacahn requested $10,000 to support marketing its spring concert series and for its COVID-19-compliance efforts. We discussed Tuacahn's value to the community. We questioned whether RAP funds were appropriate for Covid-19 compliance. We found that Tuacahn's application did not delineate how the requested amount would be divided between marketing and Covid-19 compliance. Further, we found that Covid-19 compliance, though important, was outside the purpose of RAP tax revenues. We recommend funding at the requested amount of $10,000 with the condition that such funds be used solely for direct costs of its spring concert series.

Ivins City from Director of Finance: The Director of Finance, on behalf of the City, has requested the "remainder" of RAP tax funds for the arts for costs associated with relocating a round-about statue to the new City Hall and "other arts projects to be identified". The City has not provided estimated costs or any indication of the content of these other art projects which have not yet been identified. We discussed that the new City Hall is under construction; that we fully support moving the round-about statue and other public art in and around the new City Hall; that other applicants are actively providing arts events to the community. We found that funding art for the new City Hall is a valid public arts goal and that to fund future yet unidentified arts projects is premature, particularly when valid applications have been submitted for ongoing arts in Ivins City. Further, as the Arts Commission charged, under Ordinance NO. 2019-05, with providing guidance to the City Council on implementation of the Arts Master Plan, we should have the opportunity to fulfill this charge as the Arts Master Plan addresses public art acquisition and purchase. We recommend awarding the City the remainder of RAP tax funds for the arts in the amount of $7,383, on condition all funds support moving the round-about sculpture to the new City Hall. We also recommend that the City Council commit to providing us the opportunity to make recommendations on any acquisition and placement of public art by the City prior to such actions and in accordance with our charge.

Conclusion: We were pleased to receive requests for RAP tax funds for the arts for three valid arts projects. We believe that it is appropriate stewardship of public funds to award such funds to entities actively engaged in providing art education and experiences to Ivins' residents and others and/or tax revenue to the City. We respectively urge the City Council to accept our recommendations as consistent with the purposes of RAP tax revenues for the arts and the City's Arts Master Plan.