ARTS COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RAP TAX ARTS GRANT AWARDS

TO: Ivins City Council

FROM: Ivins City Arts Commission

DATE: January 18, 2024

The Ivins City Arts Commission met for a regularly scheduled meeting on January 10, 2024, to review two RAP tax applications. The two applications came from Ivins City nonprofit entities, Tuacahn Center for the Arts and Kayenta Arts Foundation. Our recommendations and rationale are presented below.

BACKGROUND:

Utah Code Title 59, Chapter 12, 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. Under Resolution 2015-03R, Ivins City 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 ($10,000 Tuacahn, $7,500 Kayenta and $7,500 Ivins City Arts Corridor); and a competitive process. Funds available for the arts under this competitive process are those the City Council has not obligated by agreement from the arts third of RAP funds.

For this award period, $40,129.85 is available.

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.19-15R, adopted by the City Council on recommendation of the Arts Commission, establishes a public notification and application form and process for the awarding of RAP tax funds for the arts.

PROCESS:

The Arts RAP Tax Application was available on the Ivins City Arts Commission and City of Ivins websites by October 1, 2023. Notice was also made in the City Newsletter and the Arts Commission's social media sites. This year we added an online, digital application to the Ivins City Arts Commission Website.

The Arts Commissioners had an opportunity to review each application and project budget prior to our January 10, 2024, public meeting.

The Arts Commission met for our regularly scheduled meeting on January 10, 2024, to review two RAP tax grant applications which were received before 12/31/2023. All seven commissioners were in attendance. Two commission members recused themselves from the discussion due to stated conflicts. One as a board member of Kayenta Arts Foundation and the other as an employee of Tuacahn Center for the Arts. All applicants were invited to attend the meeting to briefly present and answer any questions from the Commission.

PROPOSED FUNDING RATIONALE:

The Ivins City Arts Commission evaluated each application based on the following criteria:

1. Does the applicant meet all the eligibility requirements as outlined in the Ivins City RAP ordinances?
2. Did the applicant answer all the questions on the application?
3. Was the budget clear? Were there any questions posed by the presented budget?
4. Did the applicant complete a RAP evaluation form for previously granted RAP funding?

Kayenta Arts Foundation (KAF): KAF requested $20,000 to support two Spring 2024 festivals; The Festival of the Americas and Kayenta's Street Painting Festival. The Board Treasurer, Rob Goodman, was available to provide feedback regarding the impact these two festivals have in terms of local and regional attendance. The Street Painting Festival focuses on serving children and families in Ivins City and the surrounding area. Local student groups are invited to join professional artists to create chalk masterpieces on pavement. This year KAF is adding a 5K Color Run to broaden the reach of the chalk festival. The Festival of the Americas celebrates the depth and richness of Native American cultures. The Festival of the Americas artists donate artwork to a silent auction, the proceeds are used to fund scholarships for local Native American youth.

The Arts Commission discussed KAF's request to support these two community festivals. We found that the applicant met the eligibility requirements, the application and budget were clearly presented, and the RAP evaluation form was completed. We especially appreciated the diverse reach of both festivals and the fact that they are both free and open to the public.

We recommend funding of $17,000 of the $20,000 request.

Tuacahn Center for the Arts (Tuacahn): Tuacahn requested $20,000 to help underwrite expanded seating in the Amphitheatre. Tuacahn is undergoing a major construction project with is expected to be completed by May 2024. The total estimated cost of the project is $1,860,000. According to the presented budget they have received support from the State of Utah, Washington County, Washington City, and private foundations. The total of confirmed funds received to date is $1,752,000. The Tuacahn Center for the Arts did not send a representative to speak on behalf of the application.

The Arts Commission discussed the Tuacahn Center for the Arts request. We found that the applicant met the eligibility requirements, the application and budget were clearly presented, and the RAP evaluation form from last year's grant was completed. We agree that Tuacahn Center for the Arts is an important community arts resource which has a broad reach beyond Ivins City, Washington County, and the State of Utah.

We recommend granting $17,000 of the $20,000 requested.

Ivins City Arts Commission on behalf of Ivins City: Both Tuacahn Center for the Arts and Kayenta Arts Foundation represent important cultural resources to Ivins City and Washington County. The Arts Commission strongly supports both arts organizations.

In addition, the Arts Commission is cognizant of the role Ivins City plays in the presentation of community-wide public arts programs. In 2023, the city launched the Art-on-Loan program which places locally created art in public spaces. There are currently six artworks displayed at the Ivins City Hall. Two of the currently displayed artworks will remain permanently displayed in City Hall.

In recognition of the results of the city-wide survey, the City Council has stated that all future Ivins City art program costs are to be funded through RAP funding reserved for the arts rather than coming out of the general fund.

The council previously allocated $6,000 from accumulated RAP funds to pay for the 2024 Art-on-Loan program. **To continue this program, the Arts Commission recommends that $6,129.85 be set aside and reserved for funding of the 2025 Art-on-Loan program.**

AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

Kayenta Arts Foundation: $17,000

Tuacahn Center for the Arts: $17,000

City of Ivins: $6,129.85 held in reserve for the 2025 Art-on-Loan program.

Total Recommendation: $40,129.85