ARTS COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RAP TAX ARTS GRANT AWARDS

TO: Ivins City Council

FROM: Ivins City Arts Commission

DATE: January 15, 2026

The Ivins City Arts Commission met for a regularly scheduled meeting on January 14, 2026, to review three RAP tax applications. The three applications came from Ivins City nonprofit entities, Ivins Inspired, 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, $10,000 Kayenta Arts Foundation and $10,000 Ivins City Arts Commission for public art throughout the Ivins Community Arts Districts); 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, $22,010.90 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, 2025. Notice was also made in the City Newsletter and the Arts Commission's Website and social media postings. Applications were digitally available through the Ivins City Arts Commission website.

The Arts Commissioners had an opportunity to review each application and project budget prior to our public meeting on January 14, 2026.

The Arts Commission met for our regularly scheduled meeting on January 14, 2024, to review three RAP tax grant applications which were received before 12/31/2025. Six commissioners were in attendance. One commission member recused themselves from the discussion due to a stated conflict 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 an evaluation form for previously granted RAP funding?

Kayenta Arts Foundation (KAF): KAF requested $20,000 to support free Spring 2026 events; **Kayenta's Street Painting Festival** (April), **The Native Arts Market** (May), and six monthly **First Friday Events** (February through July). Executive Director, Miranda Wright, was available to provide feedback regarding the impact these events 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. The Native Arts Market celebrates the depth and richness of Native American cultures across the Southwest. The First Friday Events provide Ivins residents an opportunity to enjoy music provided by local musicians, stroll through booths and the village galleries and attend documentary films which are presented in partnership with DOCUTAH.

The Arts Commission discussed KAF's request to support these free community events. 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 fact that the events are free and open to the public.

We recommend funding $6,005.45 of the $20,000 request.

Tuacahn Center for the Arts (Tuacahn): Tuacahn requested $20,000 to help improve the backstage areas that make productions possible. The project will focus on two main needs: updating the stage lighting and creating better spaces for scenic storage and sets. The Development Director of Tuachan, Darren Winn, spoke 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 broad reach beyond Ivins City, Washington County, and the State of Utah.

We recommend funding $6,005.45 of the $20,000 requested.

Ivins Inspired: Ivins Inspired requested $10,000 for “Safety in Art: Enhancing Safety and Connecting Generations”, a collaborative public art and pedestrian safety project at the exiting roundabout and four crosswalks at Center Street and Red Mountain Boulevard/N 200 E. The Executive Director of Ivins Inspired, Tiffany Wynn, spoke on behalf of the application. Tiffany presented safety data from other communities which supports the project’s stated goal to increase driver awareness, reinforce yielding behavior, and support safer pedestrian crossings in a high-use, multi-generational setting.

The Arts Commission discussed the request from Ivins Inspired. We found that the applicant met the eligibility requirements, the budget was clearly presented, and the project would benefit the community.

We recommend funding $10,000 or the $10,000 request.

SUMMARY:

The RAP funds available to grant were reduced this cycle because the Arts Commission moved to a Fiscal Year calendar in June of 2025 to coincide with the Ivins City Fiscal Year calendar. The City Council passed Resolution NO. 2025-05R which allotted $10,000 annually to Kayenta Arts Foundation, Tuachan Center for the Arts and the Ivins City Arts Commission. These unrestricted funds are awarded off-the-top prior to funding grant applications. A total of $52,010.90 RAP tax funds were available for the arts. Each of the three arts organizations mentioned received $10,000; that left us a balance of $22,010.90 to grant.

The Arts Commission recognizes that the $10,000 unrestricted funding is important to each arts organization. Both Darren Winn and Miranda Wright confirmed that their applications do not anticipate the use of the unrestricted funds as they budgeted their projects. We also recognize that the decreased amount of available funds was not what each organization requested.

The rationale for our recommendation to you to fully fund the application from Ivins Inspired is that it will continue to benefit the whole community for many years to come. We like the efforts that Ivins Inspired has made to gather safety data, serve multi-generations and the collaboration they sought between Ivins City, the Santa Clara – Ivins Police Department, Utah Tech students, and the Ivins City Arts Commission.

AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ivins Inspired: $10,000

Kayenta Arts Foundation: $6,005.45

Tuacahn Center for the Arts: $6,005.45

Total Recommendation: $22,010.90