

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

City Manager's Office

TO: Tom Markus, City Manager
CC: Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager
Katherine Simmons, Chair, Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission
FROM: Porter Arneill, Director of Arts and Culture
DATE: April 18, 2016 – Updated 04/25/16
RE: 22nd Annual Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission Community Arts Grants

Background

The Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission's Community Arts Grant program began in 1995 with the expressed purpose of providing grant funds intended as start-up money for projects or special community art-related ventures with a particular focus on encouraging the arts within the Lawrence community. Since the Community Arts Grant program inception, the Lawrence Arts Commission has provided grant funding totaling approximately \$123,000 to over 152 organizations and artists.

Project Description

This year, the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission's 22nd Annual Community Arts Grant recommendations were selected based on criteria derived from the City-Wide Cultural Plan received by the City Commission on August 18, 2016. The criteria includes: 1) Community Value - Degree to which the project meets the Lawrence Community Arts Grant Program purpose, 2) Project Quality - Qualifications and strengths of the partners involved in the proposed project, 3) Application Quality, and 4) Achieves at least one of five goals identified in the City-Wide Cultural Plan. A total of 15 applications representing requests for ~~\$83,225.20~~ **\$77,850.20** were submitted.

(Due to conflict of interests, four of the LCAC members recused themselves from participating in the grant review process.)

After the eligible Cultural Arts Commissioners reviewed each grant and provided their preliminary scores, the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission deliberated at its April 13, 2016 meeting, and unanimously agreed to recommend to the City Commission approval for the following 2016 Community Arts Grant Awardees:

| Name of Organization | Project Title | Start Date | End Date | Program Budget | Grant Amt |
|--|--|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| Confabularryum - Lawrence Unified School District #497 | Confabularryum - A Festival of Creativity and Making | 8/13/2016 | 8/13/2016 | \$ 82,666.25 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| National African American Quilt Convention | National African American Quilt Convention | 7/12/2016 | 7/15/2016 | \$ 405,000.00 | \$ 4,000.00 |
| Echoes Through A Green Space | Echoes Through A Green Space | 7/1/2016 | 4/21/2017 | \$ 31,950.00 | \$ 1,550.00 |
| Lawrence Children's Choir | Capo, Cadenza and Credenza: Intergenerational Choral Education | 8/1/2016 | 3/31/2017 | \$ 44,705.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Spencer Museum of Art | Community Reopening Celebration | 7/1/2016 | 12/31/2016 | \$ 14,000.00 | \$ 2,335.00 |
| Ballard Center - Mural | A Celebration of the Ballard Center & North Lawrence's History | 4/24/2016 | 6/4/2016 | \$ 7,350.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Van Go | Benchmark 2016 | 5/31/2016 | 7/14/2016 | \$ 74,924.00 | \$ 4,000.00 |
| Lawrence Opera Theatre | LOT2016:- Shakespeare 400 | 7/27/2016 | 8/14/2016 | \$ 32,105.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Art in the Park - Lawrence Art Guild | Art in the Park | 5/1/2016 | 5/1/2016 | \$ 8,327.20 | \$ 2,115.00 |

Project Funding

Funding for this program is through the Cultural Arts Commission budget within the Special Recreation Fund. \$25,000 was allocated for this program during this budget year.

Staff Recommendation

The Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission recommends that the City Commission authorize the 2016 Community Arts Grant checks to the grant awardees as shown in the table above. Checks will be presented at a May City Commission meeting.