



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Finance

ACM: Cassey Ogden

DATE: March 21, 2023

SUBJECT

Consider approval of a resolution of the City of Denton approving the Art and Cultural Relief Grant program; and providing an effective date.

BACKGROUND

In March 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law providing \$1.9 trillion in funding for relief from the COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impacts. As part of the ARP, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) was established to provide support to State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments in responding to the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain impacts on their communities, residents, and businesses. The City of Denton received a total of \$23.29 million in federal aid over two years under SLFRF.

ARPA identifies non-profits, small businesses, and the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries as sectors hit hard by the pandemic. Assistance and support to these areas are allowable expenses under the SLFRF program. On July 27, 2021, Denton City Council approved \$550,000 of one-time grant funding to support local art, music, and cultural businesses based on feedback from the community.

The Grants Management Office was designated to develop a grant program using the approved funds. Staff identified three similar grant programs supporting art and culture. The City of Austin released the Austin Arts & Culture Non-Profit Relief Grant in 2021 using SLFRF to fund the program. Austin contracted with the Better Business Bureau to administer the grant. The City of San Antonio released ARPA 4 Arts Grant Program in 2022. The program distributed funds to local artists and cultural organizations. Locally, the Greater Denton Arts Council (GDAC) offers an annual grant directly benefiting the artists and arts organizations of the Denton community. All were used as models to draft eligibility criteria and requirements. A partnership with GDAC for the promotion of the grant is in progress. The partnership is expected to boost outreach and assistance to the art community.

A Notice of Funding Opportunity is planned to be released after approval of the resolution. The application period will be open for 30 days. A workshop for applicants is also planned in coordination with GDAC to provide information and assistance on the grant. Awards are expected to be made in May 2023.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 Agenda Information Sheet

Exhibit 2 Notice of Funding Opportunity

Exhibit 3 Resolution

Respectfully submitted:
Laura Behrens
Grant Administrator