



Board Summary Report

File #: 22-375

Agenda Date: 6/28/2022

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To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: Michelle Halstead, Director, Commissioners' Office

Prepared By:

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Daniela Villarreal, Management Analyst I, Commissioners' Office; Trina Mosley, Board Chair, Cultural Council

Subject:

1:00 PM *Arapahoe County Cultural Council 2022/2023 SCFD Tier III Recommendations

Purpose and Request:

The purpose of this study session is to present the Arapahoe County Cultural Council's Tier III funding recommendations for 2022/2023 for Board consideration. Pending discussion, formal adoption of these recommendations is scheduled for the July 12, 2022, business meeting.

Background and Discussion:

The Scientific Cultural and Facilities District (SCFD) is a seven-county tax district created within Colorado law, approved by Colorado's General Assembly and renewed by voters multiple times over more than 30 years. SCFD distributes funds from a 1/10 of 1% sales and use tax to qualified cultural organizations throughout the Denver metro area in three ways: First, the largest cultural organizations receive specific amounts determined by a funding formula set out in state statute. Regional organizations like the City of Aurora Cultural Services Division and Wings Over the Rockies, qualify for a second formula of funding by reaching certain budget and attendance thresholds. Finally, counties that participate in the SCFD each receive a share of the tax collected and make decisions about how the tax is spent through County Cultural Councils.

The Arapahoe County Cultural Council is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to solicit and screen applications from eligible non-profit and/or governmental entities for Arapahoe County's portion of

the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District sales tax, consistent with SCFD's established grant process and timeline, ultimately making recommendations to the BOCC for approval and ratification by the SCFD Board of Directors. Over the last five years, more than \$10 million of Tier III funding has supported over 500 local art, cultural, scientific, and historical organizations that benefit Arapahoe County's citizens.

For 2022/2023, Arapahoe County's share of the SCFD tax revenue is \$2,565,581.25, a 12% increase from last year. The SCFD issued the Tier III competitive grant call for applications earlier this year. Multi-county grant deadline was March 2, 2022, and single-county deadline was March 9, 2022. Tier III funding can be used to support general operating costs as well as specific projects. The Arapahoe County Cultural Council met on a weekly basis from March 14 through May 12 to review and evaluate 81 of 84 qualified grant submittals, using established criteria from the County Cultural Council. This year, 31 general operating support (GOS) requests and 50 project requests were received and are recommended for allocation. Attached to this Board Summary Report is a summary of the ACCC's recommendations.

Alternatives: The funding allocation recommendation to the SCFD is ultimately a BOCC decision and can be revised to match the desire of the BOCC.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact to Arapahoe County Government's budget because the funds are received through the SCFD.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Be fiscally sustainable
- Provide essential and mandated service
- Be community focused

Concurrence: N/A

Resolution: See attached draft resolution.