



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-2660, **Agenda Item #:** 106.

7/29/2020

Posting Language

Approve ratification of a contract with Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts to administer the Creative Worker Relief grant program to disburse emergency funds to individual creative workers in need of relief as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 with an option to amend and extend the term and adjust the administrative fee should additional grant funds become available.

Lead Department

Economic Development.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

May 7, 2020 - Approved Resolution No. 20200507-023 directing the City Manager to develop an initial program directed towards sustaining small and local non-profit organizations and businesses using a portion of federal dollars designated for pandemic-related relief, and partner in the creation of a regional Economic Response Dashboard.

June 4, 2020 - Approved Resolution No. 20200604-40 adopting the COVID-19 proposed spending framework for the use of all available federal and local funding that leverages and maximizes the benefit of federal COVID-19 relief funding and local funding.

June 4, 2020 - Approved Resolution No. 20200604-049 authorizing the City Manager to review the process for providing direct financial relief to underserved communities based on the RISE Fund framework and to adjust that process to streamline the intake and management of the funding for the benefit of the individuals being served; and directing the City Manager to return with a budget amendment if necessary to add funding to the RISE Fund.

For More Information:

Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Director, Economic Development Department, 512-974-3131.

Additional Backup Information:

In response to financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, City Council established the Creative Relief Fund to help local, low-moderate income creative sector workers. Following the City Council's direction, the Economic Development Department (EDD) sought a third-party non-profit to administer this relief program. EDD evaluated third parties based on their experience providing direct program delivery and administration assistance, including managing local, state, federal or private funding to assist in grant administration.

EDD selected Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts ("the Contractor") to administer this program. The Contractor is expected to meet with EDD project management representatives regularly, as identified in the scope of work and deliverables. The Contractor will provide administrative oversight, facilitation, and holistic program delivery in issuing recovery grants to eligible grant applicants of programs.

The Contractor will provide direct financial assistance to individual creative workers located in the City or extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) that have been impacted by COVID-19 and who are eligible to receive funding through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.