

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**02-152**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**AGENDA:**

**SYNOPSIS -**

MARCH 18, 2002

Approval of Grant Application to the Iowa Arts Council's Iowa Community Cultural Grant for financial support for the Community Garden Fall Harvest Festival in 2003.

**SUBJECT:**

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

IOWA ARTS  
COUNCIL GRANT  
APPLICATION -  
COMMUNITY  
GARDEN FALL  
HARVEST  
FESTIVAL

The City is eligible to receive \$25,000 from July 2002 - June 2003.

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval.**

**TYPE:**

**BACKGROUND -**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

Each year the Botanical Center honors the hard work of community gardeners by hosting a harvest celebration. In 2003, a bigger community-wide celebration is planned that would consist of a "Puppet Parade". Each community garden would work with an artist to develop a puppet (average size 15 feet) with a theme that best illustrates their project and/or community. It may be literal such as a butterfly puppet for a group with a butterfly garden or it may be more abstract. Each of these groups will come together on Saturday morning in the fall of 2003 joined by musicians and other artists and parade together through the Downtown Farmer's Market. This is an opportunity for each group to be proud of their work and to highlight their efforts to the greater Des Moines community. This is one event to make them aware they are part of a growing movement that is making our community better.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

DONALD M. TRIPP  
PARK AND  
RECREATION  
DIRECTOR

The grant money would help pay for an artist and two apprentices to work with each of the interested community gardens in developing the concept for and construction of their puppet. The artist would also act as the event planner.

Currently, the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department works with over 100 community groups assisting in grassroots community greening efforts. Groups such as neighborhood associations, schools, community centers and low-income housing providers are growing food on vacant lots, beautifying street corners and building connections between people.

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