



Agenda Item:

035

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 02/09/04

Communication

No.: 04-052

Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Department

SUBJECT—

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs' Iowa Arts Council Grant to fund a portion of the 2004 Annual School and Community Garden Conference.

SYNOPSIS—

Approve the application and contract for an Iowa Arts Council organizational grant in the amount of \$1,500 to underwrite speaker honorariums and travel expense for the Third Annual School and Community Garden Conference, which is hosted by the Community Gardening Program of Des Moines Parks and Recreation.

FISCAL IMPACT—

Total conference cost is \$13,110. A 19.8 percent cost share is anticipated for the Parks and Recreation Department, including \$1,600 in-kind staff and Botanical Center space value and \$1,000 City Print Shop charges. Other in-kind services include Friends of the Botanical Center newsletter promotion value - \$900, and volunteer time value - \$1,000. Expenses for speaker honorariums/travel, food and materials total \$8,610. The Iowa Arts Council Grant of \$1,500 and attendee registration fees will cover these cash expenses. Any additional registration fee revenue that remains will help to provide program funding for the Des Moines Community Gardening Program.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

The Des Moines Community Gardening Program plays an active role in recruiting, instructing, and supporting group leaders in organizing and maintaining productive community gardens by coordinating with area agencies and helping to supply each garden's needs. As part of its education mission, the Park's Department Community Gardening staff is hosting its third annual School and Community Garden Conference to bring together and inspire gardeners throughout Iowa and put them in contact with a variety of resources. This year's regional conference serves the Midwest and is March 12-13 at the Des Moines Botanical Center. Approximately 125 teachers, low-income housing and youth shelter staff, community and home gardeners, senior center members and representatives of the region's diverse ethnic and minority populations and neighborhoods will attend it.

The theme for this year's conference is "Art in the Garden," and focuses on community art projects. Through this theme, staff hopes to encourage gardeners and other community members to become directly and personally involved with the creation of artistic projects in their communities and encourage the use of art in all garden areas. The Metro Arts Alliance of Greater Des Moines has joined the Department's conference planning, therefore creating a partnership of community gardening staff, local artists, gardeners and a wide variety of volunteers.

It is this unique theme and focus that has qualified the City's Community Gardening program for a grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.