



Date of Council Meeting: March 11, 2013

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

- Subject:** Virginia Commission for the Arts' FY 2014 Local Government Challenge Grant
- Staff Contact:** Betsy Fields, Research & Communications Manager
- Recommendation:** Recommend the Council approve the Public Art Commission's recommendations for distributing Local Government Challenge Grant funding to local arts organizations.

Issue: How should the Town distribute the \$5,000 Local Government Challenge Grant and the \$5,000 of Town matching funds?

Fiscal Analysis: The Town allocates \$5,000 of matching funds each year for the VCA Local Government Challenge Grant. This proposal would not change that allocation.

Background: Each year, the Virginia Commission for the Arts offers grants of up to \$5,000 to local governments to support local arts activities. The grants must be matched with local funds and the moneys used to make subgrants to independent arts organizations for arts activities within the jurisdiction. In January, the Town Council approved a new competitive process for the distribution of this funding.

The Leesburg Commission on Public Art invited local arts organizations to submit requests for funding. They received eleven requests. At their March 4, 2013 meeting, the Commission reviewed these requests and prepared the attached recommendation for the distribution of the \$5,000 Local Government Challenge Grant and \$5,000 of Town matching funds.

Deadline for the grant application is April 1, 2013. The Town must include in the grant application a list of the subgrants that will be made.

- Attachments:**
1. Recommendation letter from the Commission on Public Art
 2. List of funding requests received
 3. Draft resolution

March 6, 2013

Leesburg Town Council
Town of Leesburg
25 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176

Re: Virginia Commission for the Arts
Local Government Challenge Grant

Council Members:

At our March 4th meeting, the Public Arts Commission evaluated eleven applicant letters requesting grant funding for the 2013 Challenge Grant. After careful consideration we unanimously agreed to recommend the following distribution of grant funds:

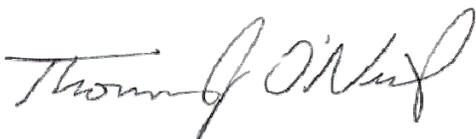
Bluemont Concert Series,	\$4,000.00
Chorus of the Old Dominion,	\$1,000.00
Loudoun Academy for the Arts,	\$1,000.00
Loudoun Lyric Opera,	\$2,000.00
Loudoun Symphony,	\$2,000.00
 Total match grant funding:	 \$10,000.00

These five non-profit organizations clearly expressed their efforts to serve the Leesburg community by providing performances, services, training and other events that enhance and promote the arts. They will perform or work at local schools, retirement homes, performance halls, and other local venues and events. We focused on groups that worked within the Town of Leesburg as much as possible.

All the applicant organizations were invited to attend our Commission meeting. All attendees were provided the opportunity to give a brief summary of what their organizations did, and questions were asked by Commission members to many of the attendees.

I will attend the Town Council work session on March 11 to answer any further questions you may have about our evaluation and selection process. I have attached a list of all the organizations that applied for the grant and the amounts requested to this letter.

Sincerely,



Tom O'Neil, Chairman
Leesburg Commission for Public Art

Local Government Challenge Grant
Funding Requests Received

Organization	Project	Amount Requested
Bluemont	program support	\$10,000
Chorus of the Old Dominion	part-time director position	\$1,000
Franklin Park Big Band	Big Band Festival	\$7,000
Friends of Leesburg Public Arts	Loudoun Street mural	\$10,000
Loudoun Academy for the Arts	ceramics & sculpture instruction programs	\$1,500
Loudoun Arts Council	Arts in the Village gallery events	\$3,600
Loudoun Ballet	general production support	\$5,000
Loudoun Lyric Opera	Hansel & Gretel production	\$10,000
Loudoun Symphony	Valentine's Day & First Night concerts	\$4,500
Master Singers of Virginia	performance venue rental & website upgrade	\$1,700
StageCoach Theatre Company	Summer Youth Musical Theatre Camp	\$750

\$55,050

Local Government Challenge Grant
Funding Requests Received

Total

PRESENTED March 12, 2013

RESOLUTION NO. _____

ADOPTED _____

A RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING STAFF TO APPLY FOR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE GRANT THROUGH THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GRANT FUNDING AND TOWN MATCHING FUNDS TO CERTAIN INDEPENDENT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, the Town Council is committed to supporting performing and visual arts activities within the Town of Leesburg and the independent arts organizations that sponsor these activities; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Commission for the Arts' Local Government Challenge Grant program will provide up to \$5,000 in matching funds to local governments in support of local arts activities; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager's proposed FY 2014 Budget includes \$5,000 of matching funds for the Local Government Challenge Grant, making a total of \$10,000 available for distribution; and

WHEREAS, the Leesburg Commission on Public Art solicited requests for funding from local arts organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Commission reviewed the eleven requests received and recommends providing funding in the following amounts to these five organizations: \$4,000 to Bluemont, \$2,000 to the Loudoun Lyric Opera, \$2,000 to the Loudoun Symphony, \$1,000 to the Chorus of the Old Dominion and \$1,000 to the Loudoun Academy of the Arts;

THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia that the Town Council authorizes Town staff to:

1. Submit an application for a Local Government Challenge Grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts in the amount of \$5,000, and, with Town matching funds of \$5,000, distribute to the organizations as recommended above by the Leesburg Commission on Public Art; and

A RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING STAFF TO APPLY FOR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE GRANT THROUGH THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GRANT FUNDING AND TOWN MATCHING FUNDS TO CERTAIN INDEPENDENT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

2. In the event the Virginia Commission for the Arts does not award the Town a Local Government Challenge Grant, or awards a grant amount of less than \$5,000, to distribute Town funds in the amount of \$5,000, plus any grant funds received, to the organizations listed above, proportionately.

PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2013.

Kristen C. Umstattd, Mayor
Town of Leesburg

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council