



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#15-0210

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: February 17, 2015

TITLE: Grant Application to the Tourist Development Tax Capital Challenge Grant
Program for War Memorial Auditorium

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission retroactively approve the City Manager's submission of a grant application to the Broward County Cultural Division for a grant to be used toward the interior renovation of War Memorial Auditorium in the amount of \$500,000.

Background

The Broward County Cultural Division administers the Tourist Development Tax Capital Challenge Grant Program (TDT-CCGP) program. The Tourist Development Tax (TDT) is a local sales tax, authorized and governed by Section 125.0104, Florida Statutes. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners is authorized to levy and impose a two percent (2%) TDT. Periodically, Broward County receives requests for financial assistance from local municipalities to support capital projects using proceeds from this tax.

Project funds may be used to acquire, construct, or renovate tourist-oriented facilities as authorized by the Local Option Tourist Development Act such as convention centers, stadiums, or auditoriums. Applicants must demonstrate how the projects will enhance Broward County as a tourist destination. An applicant may only receive one TDT Capital Challenge Grant award during any five-year period and never again for the same project. If awarded, grant funds will be used toward the renovation of the interior space at War Memorial Auditorium.

Applicants must provide a minimum 2:1 cash match. Grant funds will be matched with a \$1,000,000 local match. The application deadline is February 16, 2015. Since the deadline is prior to the February 17, 2015 Commission meeting, staff will proceed with the submission to meet the deadline. Should the Commission disapprove the submission, staff will withdraw the application from consideration.

Resource Impact

There is an anticipated positive impact to the City in the amount of \$500,000 which would allow for project implementation. Matching funds in the amount of \$596,777 have been identified in War Memorial Auditorium Renovations Project P12128.331. The remaining amount of \$403,223 will need to be appropriated from the General Fund Grant match account at the time of grant acceptance and appropriation.

Strategic Connections:

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018 initiative*, included within the *Public Places Cylinder of Excellence*, specifically advancing:

- **Goal 3:** Be a community that finds opportunities and leverages partnerships to create unique, inviting, and connected gathering places that highlight our beaches, waterways, urban areas, and parks.
- **Objective 1:** Improve access to and enjoyment of our beach, Riverwalk, waterways, parks, and open spaces for everyone

This item also advances:

- **Goal 4:** Be a healthy community with fun and stimulating recreational activities for our neighbors.
- **Objective 2:** Celebrate our community through special events and sports.

This item advances the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We are Community.

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Opportunities in the Arts Newsletter

Prepared by: Gina Rivera, Parks & Recreation Department

Department Director: Phil Thornburg, Parks & Recreation Department