



Legislation Text

File #: 22-0058, **Version:** 1

Agenda Item Name:

Request Approval of the Recommended Conference Grant Awards as Presented

Presenter:

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Description:

Conference Grants are funded twice yearly through 15% of the third penny of Tourist Development Tax (TDT). Organizations are eligible for up to \$10,000 in funding for conferences incorporating verified room nights in Alachua County.

Recommended Action:

Approve the recommended Conference Grant awards as presented and authorize staff to issue the corresponding Purchase Orders for the awarded grant funding to pay the agencies, on a reimbursement basis, for allowable conference expenditures.

Accept the UF Conference Department Mycological Meeting application which was submitted past deadline and award funding to the Florida Artists Blacksmith Association.

Make the legislative factual determination that the conferences recommended for funding have as one of their main purposes, the attraction of tourists as evidenced by the promotion of the event to tourists as set forth in their respective applications, and that each grant award is primarily related to the advancement and promotion of tourism.

Prior Board Motions:

The Conference Grant application was previously approved by the BoCC on May 12, 2020.

Fiscal Consideration:

\$25,098.20 funded through 15% of one Tourist Development Tax penny.

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association: \$5,098.20

Florida Mosquito Control Association: \$10,000.00

UF Conference Department Mycological Meeting \$10,000.00.

Fund: 005.45.4530.552.82.24. There are sufficient funds available for this awards list.

Background:

Meetings and conferences are a key component of the full return of the tourism industry and as such, it is requested that two of the conference grant applications which had a deviation from program guidelines, be funded to support the ongoing recovery of the industry in Alachua County.

Authorized uses of revenue from Tourist Development Taxes require that a legislative factual determination be made that expenditures of TDT serve a public purpose and are primarily related to promoting and advertising tourism.