Town Council
Regular Meeting
Agenda Item 7.d.

Agenda Item: **Resolution 26-G-21 to authorize the Town Manager to submit a Creative Communities Partnership Grant Application to the Virginia Commission for the Arts**

Meeting Date: March 24, 2026

Category: Consent

Prepared by: Bob Williams, Parks and Recreation Director

Description:
The Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) matches local government contributions up to $4,500 for grants to independent arts organizations for arts activities in the locality through redistribution to nonprofit arts organizations. The Town of Herndon submits an application to VCA to support local arts organizations.

Background/Timing Impact:
The Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) offers matching grants of up to $4,500 to local governments for distribution to independent arts organizations operating within their localities. To promote the program and solicit applications, press releases were distributed to local media outlets and nonprofit arts organizations located within the Town were notified. Four local arts organizations submitted applications.

A cross-departmental staff committee reviewed all submissions against established criteria, including: clearly defined artistic and programming goals; demonstrated community impact; emphasis on engaging underserved, under-resourced, and under-represented communities; and financial need for partnership assistance. Based on this review, the committee recommends submitting an application for the Creative Communities Partnership Grant application for Dark Horse Theatre Company in the amount of $4,500.

This is a request to authorize the Town Manager to submit an application to the Creative Communities Partnership Grant program to VCA for a grant for Dark Horse Theatre Company.

Timing Impact:
The application deadline for the VCA grant is April 1, 2026.

Strategic Focus Area:
Secure and Interconnected Community
Thriving Community

Fiscal Impact:
The Partnership grant matches an equal expenditure of funds for arts activities given by the Town to any arts organizations. This is accomplished through the Town Council's approved budget allocation for arts programming. A local government that has not approved its budget by the grant deadline may apply conditionally and confirm the application as soon as the budget has been approved. The Town then receives the Creative Communities Partnership grant and redirects the funds to the arts organization(s).

Legal Impact:
Code of Virginia Section 23.1-3223 outlines the duties of the Virginia Commission for the Arts in the Commonwealth.

Staff Recommendation/Next Steps:
Staff recommends approval of the attached resolution, as proposed.

Attachments:
1. Resolution (proposed)