

TOWN OF WINDSOR

Town Elected Officials
 Carita J. Richardson, Mayor
 Clint Bryant-Vice Mayor
 Durwood V. Scott
 Greg Willis
 N. Macon Edwards, III
 Patty Fleming
 Tony Ambrose



Established 1902

Town Manager
 Michael R. Stallings

Town Clerk
 Terry Whitehead

Town Attorney
 Wallace W. Brittle, Jr.

January 26, 2016

Memorandum

To: Michael R. Stallings, Jr. Town Manager
 Hon. Mayor Carita J. Richardson
 Town Council

From: Dennis W. Carney, Planning and Zoning Administrator

Subject: Virginia Commission on the Arts Challenge Grant

Last year, the Town applied with the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) for a Challenge Grant for the Mural project from Windsor Girl Scout Troop 1105 and Mr. Sam Welty, the artist. Because the project was moving forward prior to the grant period, we were disallowed from funding. There were strong indications that we may have been funded if the timing had been appropriate.

The successful mural project has led many varied groups and individuals within the Town to view the use of art as a means to beautify the Town and promote its economic and cultural development. This is a major thrust in the Request for Proposal to the Rural Citizens Initiative, and the "Olde Town Windsor" concept in the Draft Comprehensive Plan. Because of this, a discussion began about how and for what purposes an Arts group could be formed for the Town. We have received indications from several groups that the interest is there and that perhaps "seed money" from the VCA with matching funds from the Town could launch a private non-profit group to further the arts in Windsor.

We would like Town Council to consider permitting Staff to apply for the Challenge Grant for \$5,000 with a local match of \$5,000. Only if awarded would the local match have to be secured. If Town Council agrees, Staff will begin the writing of the application and also set up a meeting of the interested parties to see where these groups and individuals would like such an organization to go if it is formed (its name, prospective projects, etc.). If successful, the Arts group may decide to continue and expand the very successful inaugural Arts in the Park project and other arts shows with tangible awards, art on the Town's public infrastructure (such trash receptacles, fire hydrants, and other structures with the Town's consent of course) and other projects to reward budding artists. The end result that is sought is to form a private non-profit fully functioning organization. We feel that such an organization would be mutually beneficial to the interested groups, artist community and the Town.