



COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

City Manager's Office

Agenda Item:

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 09/06/2005
Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Communication No.:
Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Richard A. Clark, Acting City Manager

SUBJECT—

Approving additional \$15,000 contingent contribution to the Chinese Cultural Center of America for use in its grant application for CAT funding for the Asian Gardens.

SYNOPSIS—

This action increases the City's contribution to the Asian Gardens project from \$10,000 to \$25,000. The State Department of Economic Development who administers the Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) grant program has indicated that for the Chinese Cultural Center's application to be funded, the City of Des Moines and Polk County would both need to increase their level of support.

FISCAL IMPACT—

\$25,000 total expense (\$10,000 previously approved), tax increment financing

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval

BACKGROUND—

The Chinese Cultural Center of America (CCCA) has proposed the construction of the Robert D Ray Asian Gardens project to be located just north of the Armory building on Robert D Ray Drive. The CCCA has applied for a Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) grant from the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) to help fund the project. To support that grant application, the City of Des Moines pledged \$10,000 of tax increment financing. Polk County also pledged financial support.

IDED has indicated that it would fund the CCCA request, if the City of Des Moines and Polk County each increased their respective levels of support. Therefore, this recommendation was prepared to accomplish that.

Unresolved at this time are operational details such as how the gardens will be maintained after construction. To accommodate the IDED grant timeline, this action approves an additional \$15,000 contribution to the project (for a total contribution of \$25,000). This contribution is contingent on the CCCA entering into an agreement with the City of Des Moines that details the operation and maintenance of the project when finished.