



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of January 21, 2012**

DATE: December 6, 2011

SUBJECT: Grant Award – National Endowment for the Arts

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize the County Manager to accept \$10,000 in federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to conduct folklore research, do photographic documentation, and present exhibitions and performances pertaining to the arts and culture of Arlington's Bolivian community.
2. Appropriate \$10,000 in grant funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts to revenue (101.340000.86024) and expenditure (101.424000.86024) to Arlington Economic Development for personal service fees and supply expenses associated with conducting the above-mentioned programs.

ISSUES: As part of the regular process, the Board is being asked to accept federal funding that will enhance the capacity of the County's Cultural Affairs Division to present programs of artistic excellence that raise awareness of the cultural heritage of Arlington's diverse citizenry.

SUMMARY: The Cultural Affairs Division will undertake an agenda of activities, including folklore field research, public programs and interpreted performances aimed at raising awareness of the Bolivian cultural heritage as represented by Arlington's Bolivian community. Activities will take place at Lubber Run Amphitheater, Columbia Pike Library, and Artisphere.

BACKGROUND: This is the ninth time that the County, through the Cultural Affairs Division, has requested funding from the NEA for programs that recognize and expand art opportunities in the County to include diverse populations and to recognize traditional art forms and diverse cultural viewpoints. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, CAD/PRCR was awarded \$35,000. In FY 2008 CAD/PRCR was awarded two grants totally \$38,000. In FY 2007 CAD/PRCR was awarded \$20,000. In FY 2004 CAD/PRCR was awarded \$55,000. In both FY 2003 and FY 2001 CAD/PRCR was awarded \$20,000, and in FY 2000 CAD/PRCR received an initial award of \$40,000.

County Manager:

BMD/mjs

County Attorney:

BRC

[Signature]

Staff:

27.

DISCUSSION: Arlington County is home to a Hispanic community of over 33,000 individuals, with Bolivians making up 20% of that population. Since the 1990's, numerous Bolivian dance groups have been active within and around the County. Currently 11 groups (with a combined total of over 1,000 individual members) are formally coordinated by the non-profit *Comité Pro Bolivia*, whose mission is to “preserve and showcase the Bolivian folkloric and cultural heritage” and also to “engage (youth) in constructive activities outside the school environment”. Although these performance groups have been highly visible throughout the years at public events in the region, there is still little understanding outside of the Bolivian community about the genesis, underlying meaning, and resulting cultural importance of the dance traditions being presented. These grant activities also will address why cultural preservation is an important part of place making for both newcomers and long-time residents of Arlington. Fieldwork and documentation will advance a dialog between the Bolivian community and the broader Arlington citizenry about belonging, tradition, and cultural norms with the goal of both sides recognizing a new, shared sense of place.

FISCAL IMPACT: No new net tax support is required to support this grant. The County, through Arlington Economic Development, will provide the required in-kind match of \$25,273 in the form of the services of existing personnel.