



CITY OF CONCORD

Report to Mayor and City Council

DATE: March 7, 2024
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Thomas J. Aspell, Jr., City Manager
SUBJECT: FY 2024 Event Funding

Recommendations:

Accept this report.

Background:

In the FY 2024 City budget, City Council allocated \$150,000 for event funding, to be distributed to organizations holding new and free public events in Concord.

Discussion:

The City received several requests for event funding. A committee made up of City staff have met with event organizers and reviewed proposals. To date, the following funding has been approved:

- Intown Concord, First Friday: \$10,500
- Northeast Coffee Festival: \$22,500
- Capitol Center for the Arts (Sound & Color Arts Festival, Community Concerts at the City-Wide Community Center: \$50,000
- New Hampshire Book Festival: \$20,000
- CommUNITY at the City-Wide Community Center: \$20,000

Included is information on each event that has been allocated funding.

Intown Concord First Friday

Intown Concord's First Friday events include evening entertainment, food trucks, art, music, and family-friendly fun. Some businesses stay open until 8 p.m. and offer incentives. Monthly and seasonal themes are being planned.

Northeast Coffee Festival: May 10-11, 2024

"The 2024 Northeast Coffee Festival is heading to Concord, NH with the City Host: Revelstoke Coffee! Our team at Wayfarer Coffee Roasters - Laconia, NH, organizers of the Northeast Coffee Festival, is committed to highlighting different communities throughout New England, using the love of coffee to bring people together and build communities. Attendees can expect expanded educational offerings over this two-day event as well as a Latte Art Throwdown. The Coffee Educational Programming will be hosted at the Bank of NH Stage, The Hotel Concord, and the Red River Theatre in downtown Concord. Revelstoke is excited to showcase their City of Concord and its growing coffee scene through a Community Market, Live Music, Food Trucks, and more! We can't wait for NECF on May 10-11, 2024." Additional partners and sponsors are also supporting this event.

Capitol Center for the Arts - Sound & Color Arts Festival – October 18-19

While this event is still in the planning stages, it is slated to include arts of all kinds, music, food and other entertainment with a goal of making arts accessible for all. A group of representatives from several area organizations are represented on the planning committee including: Capitol Center for the Arts, Intown Concord, Concord Community Music School, Red River Theatres, Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, and PILLAR Gallery. Additional partners and sponsors are also supporting this event.

Capitol Center for the Arts - Community Concerts at the City-Wide Community Center

The Bank of NH Stage and Capitol Center for the Arts held some free community concerts at the City-Wide Community Center in the fall of 2023 as part of the William H. Gile Concert Series. They featured a diverse array of musicians and music genres. They plan to hold some additional concerts in the fall of 2024.

New Hampshire Book Festival: October 4-5, 2024

"The New Hampshire Book Festival is an annual statewide book festival with the mission to bring published authors together with readers to celebrate literacy, conversation, and community." This event is being held in Concord for the first time in 2024 and includes additional sponsorships from businesses and organizations, as well as partners Gibson's Bookstore, Center for the Book/NH State Library and Capitol Center for the Arts.

CommUNITY

This new, 10-week program will be held at the City-Wide Community Center on Saturdays and Sundays beginning in February 2024. Concord Parks and Recreation Department staff will coordinate activities in the gym (basketball, soccer, floor hockey etc.) and adult volunteers will help with general supervision and a room for board games and other activities.