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GREG NICKELS
LARRY PHILLIPS
LOUISE MILLER

April 11, 1997
RS:jlkc CFP97.DOT

INTRODUCED BY:

PROPOSED NO.:

97-271

MOTION NO. **10212**

A MOTION approving an Emergency/Urgent Needs application for the King County Cultural Facilities Program, in accordance with Ordinance 10189.

WHEREAS, the King County arts commission is authorized by Ordinance 10189 to administer projects in the Cultural Facilities Program, and

WHEREAS, the King County arts commission received, reviewed, and recommended approval of an application for emergency/urgent need funding from Center on Contemporary Art (CoCA), summarized in Attachment A, and

WHEREAS, the recommended funding adheres to guidelines and the financial policies approved by King County council in Motion 8797;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

The executive is hereby authorized to allocate \$15,000 to the Center on Contemporary Art from the Arts and Cultural Development Fund, as listed in the attached funding chart (Attachment B).

PASSED by a vote of 13 to 0 this 19th day of may, 19 97

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Louise Miller
VICE Chair

ATTEST:

John Masano
ACTING Clerk of the Council

Attachments:

- A. Center on Contemporary Art project summary
- B. Funding Chart

10212

ATTACHMENT A

King County Arts Commission

CULTURAL FACILITIES PROGRAM EMERGENCY/URGENT NEEDS REQUEST

Center on Contemporary Art
March 18, 1997

The King County Arts Commission's Hotel/Motel Committee met on Thursday March 13, 1997 to review an Emergency/Urgent Needs application submitted by Center on Contemporary Art (CoCA). The Committee recommends awarding \$15,000 to CoCA to replace its gallery lighting system.

Center on Contemporary Art

65 Cedar Street

Seattle, WA 98121

Incorporated: 1980

1997 Operating Budget: \$261,695

Award : \$15,000

Organization: CoCA serves as a catalyst and a forum for the advancement, development and understanding of contemporary art through the presentation of work by local, national, and international artists. CoCA presents five exhibitions annually along with related educational and performance events. Site specific installations, performance art, multi-media and multi-disciplinary programs, as well as more traditional exhibitions of visual art, are all within its programmatic focus.

Project: In February, CoCA's track lighting system failed and needs to be completely replaced. The lighting is actually three separate systems donated to CoCA from three sources when it moved from its former First Avenue location to Belltown in 1995. The first system, over twenty-five years old, was donated by Cheney Cowles Museum. The track and instruments are obsolete. The second system was donated by Henry Art Gallery. The third system was loaned by Pacific Arts Center, and includes lighting instruments that only work on a third type of track. The instruments are not interchangeable and most are no longer being manufactured. In February, while staff was installing a painting exhibit, which requires more lighting instruments than sculpture, the track sparked and flamed out. The wiring was temporarily repaired and the number of instruments was reduced, which does not present the work in the optimum environment. CoCA requested \$25,000 to replace the entire gallery lighting system.

Nature of Emergency: CoCA fears that the system is a "threat to staff safety and is a fire risk...and making do with only a portion of our lights is not an option in an art gallery."

The Committee asked the Executive Director Susan Purves and Board President Tom Trumpeter why this application was coming in March, rather than through the competitive process. Purves responded that the system was working adequately in December, at the time of the CFP application deadline. CoCA had been funded through the Cultural Facilities Program in 1995, and they thought that they would have to wait three years before applying again. They believed that the current system would last one more year, and they intended to submit a more comprehensive Cultural Facilities application in 1997 or 1998.

The Committee asked probing questions about the seeming poor planning that lead to this emergency situation. Tom Trumpeter responded that the problem wasn't poor planning, it was "being poor."

The organization has a revitalized Board, which is contributing financially to the organization's operating budget at an appropriate level, but lacks the funds to deal with this expense internally.

Recommendation: The Hotel/Motel Committee recognizes CoCA's role in the visual arts community. This is not an organization that operates with an income surplus, so the option of covering the expense out of reserve funds just doesn't exist. The Committee asked Jeff Robbins, the Committee's lighting expert and Cultural Facilities panel representative, for his perspective on how the application would have fared had it come through the annual application process. Jeff's assessment was that it would have probably done well, but that it would not have been fully funded. He felt that some of the materials could be purchased for less than outlined in the application.

With this in mind, the Committee is recommending support of \$15,000 (of a \$25,000 request) for the project, which represents about 60% of the request. CoCA has indicated that there are two foundations it will approach for additional funding, which should enable the project to be completed. In the event the other sources do not support the project, the \$15,000 should allow CoCA to install a working system which can be augmented over time.

ACTION

The King County Arts Commission recommends an award of \$15,000 to Center on Contemporary Art from the Cultural Facilities Program's Emergency/Urgent Needs fund to enable it to purchase and install a new track lighting system.

King County Arts Commission
Cultural Facilities Program

1997 HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDS
EMERGENCY/URGENT NEEDS

Emergency/Urgent Needs Funds

Balance at the close of 1996:	\$10,500
1997 5% Emergency Allocation:	\$88,630
Total Available for 1997 Emergencies/Urgent Needs:	\$99,130
Recommended Center on Contemporary Art Award:	\$15,000
Balance:	\$84,130