

Request for Committee Action

To: Ways & Means
Date: 12/7/2015
From: Information Technology
Prepared by: Elise Ebhardt
Presented by: Otto Doll, Chief Information Officer
File type: Action
Subcategory: Contracts & Agreements

Subject:

Wireless Minneapolis Community Benefits Account for Pimsler Dance & Theater

Description:

Approving an application for a free Wireless Community account for Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater at 528 Hennepin Ave.

Previous Actions:

Not Applicable

Ward/Neighborhood/Address:

Ward 3, Downtown West Neighborhood, 528 Hennepin Avenue

Background/Analysis:

In continuing the efforts to make Minneapolis a wireless city that bridges the digital divide, the City of Minneapolis is accepting applications for “Wireless Community” accounts, which are free wireless Internet accounts intended for non-profit and community organizations that provide free computer access to the public and/or digital literacy training. These accounts are available as part of the community benefits agreement of the Wireless Minneapolis contract with U.S. Internet Wireless. The value of the Wireless Minneapolis Community Account is \$330 for installation and one year of Internet service.

The City’s Information Technology (IT) Department received a new request for the use of a free account at The Atrium High Rise at Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater at 528 Hennepin Avenue.

Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater (SPDT) is a performance company with the mission to create and perform new works annually at home and on tour, and to engage the public of all ages through the company’s Community-Connections Programs. As part of its Community-Connections Program, SPDT seeks to engage diverse groups of students (k-12 through college), the healthcare community (through its Arts & Healthcare programs) and social service agencies (through the company’s Temporary Shelter project in the City’s North Side). The wireless Internet service will be used for the program’s computer lab consisting of 2 workstations. Both artists and community members will be able to use the computers with Internet at the center. SPDT’s computer training includes research, digital communication, video documentation, editing and publishing, and how social media can be a powerful strategy for communicating an artist’s vision.

IT staff have reviewed the request and determined that the program meets the established eligibility criteria for the Wireless Community Accounts:

Must be non-profits located in the City of Minneapolis, and that:

- Provide public computer access (“community technology centers”)
- Provide technology literacy training, and/or
- Provide technology support for underserved communities

Eligibility criteria to apply for Wireless Community accounts:

- 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations located in Minneapolis and serving Minneapolis residents
- Nonprofits that are not 501(c)3 designated, but who have a fiscal agent
- Neighborhood, community-based, and faith-based associations or groups

Information Technology requests proper City officials to

Approve the application for free Wireless Community account for Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater at 528 Hennepin Avenue.

Financial Review:

No financial impact.

Future budget impact anticipated.

Approved by the Permanent Review Committee.

Meets Small and Underutilized Business Program goals.