

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – LEO Events, LLC

Background:

For the year of 2023 and 2024, Denver Arts & Venues (DAV) issued an RFP that was awarded to a nationally recognized event management company, LEO Events, LLC, for production of the Five Points Jazz Festival. This single-day annual event that is held on Welton Street between 25th and 29th Ave in the city's Five Points neighborhood and is free and open to the public. In 2023, the festival will take place Saturday, June 10th with a TBD date for 2024. Attendance estimated at 100,000 per festival.

Current Request:

Denver Arts & Venues is asking City Council to approve contract request for \$1,300,000, an estimated \$650,000 per year.

The Five Points Jazz Festival (5PJF) is an annual event held in the City of Denver's Five Points neighborhood that honors the city's history of jazz. Once referred to as the "Harlem of the West," Five Points hosted notable musicians such as Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald. The festival seeks to acknowledge the importance of the neighborhood and its historic cultural importance to Denver while recognizing the discriminatory circumstances that led to such a notable history. Additionally, the use of neighborhood services providers is required due to specialized celebration of jazz in the Five Points neighborhood and the historical importance of that race played in leading to the neighborhood's historical notoriety.

In 2021, Denver Arts & Venues determined that the festival has grown large enough in scope it was necessary to employ a festival producer rather than handling all festival aspects such as safety and security, emergency health services, audio, staging, vendor management, permitting, licensing, and other necessary festival needs in house and a one-year contract was awarded to Mile High Festivals, LLC.

We are asking the City Council to approve an Agreement with LEO Events, LLC for the production of the 2023 and 2024 Annual Five Points Jazz Festivals for \$1,300,000.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

David McCammon
Denver Arts & Venues
Administrator I

Sonia Rae, Brooke Dilling
Denver Arts & Venues
Manager, Cultural Programs