

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**       **FUNDING REQUEST FOR 2019 SYMPOSIUM  
ON BUILDING INCLUSIVE ORGANIZATIONS**

**BACKGROUND:**

Like other cities across the country that are impacted by increased incidents of racism, vandalism, and violence against humanity; Ames/Story County is not immune from these types of issues. Therefore, in October 2018 the City of Ames, the Ames Human Relations Commission (AHRC), the Ames Chamber of Commerce, and the Iowa State University of Diversity and Inclusion partnered together to host the first “Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations” event to educate, raise awareness, and provide resources for the leaders in our community. The event was a deemed a major success with over 250 participants from the community.

On January 24, 2019, the Mayor and City Council received a letter from Dan Culhane, President & CEO of the Ames Chamber of Commerce seeking the City’s and Ames Human Relations Commission’s support to host a 2109 “Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations” event. This year’s event will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2019 and again will be held at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center. The preliminary budget for the event is approximately \$47,000.

Each primary partner is being asked again to contribute \$5,000 towards the cost of hosting the event which will help cover breakfast, honorariums, speaker fees, lunches, marketing & promotion and signage/staging. If approved by the City Council, the City’s \$5,000 contribution would be comprised of \$4,000 from Council Contingency (which currently has a balance of \$25,000) and \$1,000 from funds currently appropriated for the Ames Human Relations Commission (which received a positive recommendation from the Commission at their January 2019 meeting). The \$5,000 contribution will include 10 tickets for each organization. Besides the funding from the City, ISU, and the Chamber, revenue for the event will be generated from participant registration fees and sponsorships.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The City Council can authorize the expenditure of \$5,000 (\$4,000 from the Council Contingency account and \$1,000 from funds budgeted for AHRC activities) in support of the 2019 Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations event in partnership with the Ames Chamber of Commerce and the Iowa State University of Diversity and Inclusion.
2. The City Council can choose to not authorize the expenditure of \$5,000 (\$4,000 from the Council Contingency account and \$1,000 from funds budgeted for AHRC activities) in support of the 2019 Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations event in partnership with the Ames Chamber of Commerce and the Iowa State University of Diversity and Inclusion.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

This event offers the City the opportunity to partner with other groups and organizations to educate our citizens regarding this important topic of creating “one community.”

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby authorizing the expenditure of \$5,000 (\$4,000 from the Council Contingency account and \$1,000 from funds budgeted for AHRC activities) in support of The 2019 Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations event in partnership with the Ames Chamber of Commerce and the Iowa State University of Diversity and Inclusion.



*Smart Choice*

January 24, 2019

The Honorable Mayor John Haila  
City of Ames  
515 Clark Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010

RE: Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations

Mayor Haila,

I want to thank you, the Ames City Council, and the Ames Human Relations Commission for your support of the inaugural Symposium on Building Inclusive Organizations. The October 2018 event was a major success with 250 community members in attendance.

The overwhelmingly positive response to our first attempt at such an event has given us a clear directive to begin the planning for the second annual Symposium. The 2019 event will be held Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> of this year. I write to you respectfully seeking your partnership, once again.

Diversity and inclusivity are paramount to the success of our residents, businesses, and community so as our planning process moves forward, I request your continued partnership with a \$5000 sponsorship to support this endeavor. The Ames Chamber of Commerce will once again be financially supporting this event and a similar request is being made to Iowa State University, along with other local partners.

Our board of directors understands that making our community more diverse and inclusive is of utmost importance, and an ongoing process, with the Symposium being one way to educate and raise awareness in our community.

Thank you again for your support in 2018. I appreciate your anticipated consideration of this request for 2019 and we look forward to a great event in October!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel A. Culhane', written in a cursive style.

Daniel A. Culhane, CECD, CCE  
President & CEO  
Ames Chamber of Commerce

CC: Gloria Betcher, Ward I  
Tim Gartin, Ward II  
David Martin, Ward III