

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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### Approval of Neighborhood Matching Grants for Fiscal Year 2011

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Meeting Date: March 14, 2011  
Department: City Manager's Office  
*www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods*

Agenda Item Number: 2D  
Staff Contact: Cindy Clarke  
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5272

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#### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

The City Council is asked to approve the fiscal year 2011 Neighborhood Matching Grants proposals recommended for funding by the department advisory committee.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On June 12, 2000, the City Council adopted Resolution 4632, adopting guidelines for operation of a Neighborhood Matching Grants program. Grant-funded projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Physical improvement projects that involve recreation or public safety facilities, natural resource features, public art and spaces, or community gardens. Projects that improve universal accessibility are also encouraged.
- Public school partnership projects that benefit school children and the immediate neighborhood.
- Neighborhood-based events and celebrations.
- Capacity-building initiatives that serve to create, diversify, or increase participation in a neighborhood-based organization or promote an understanding of issues important to neighborhood residents.

All neighborhood-based groups are eligible for funding, including neighborhood associations, business associations, school site council, or an ad hoc neighborhood group formed to work together on a specific project.

To date, more than \$450,000 in matching grants has funded 85 community projects spread among all 19 neighborhood associations. When the "match" portion of all projects is considered, their combined value exceeds \$1 million. Since fiscal year 2010, the council has not allocated dedicated funding for matching grants and Neighborhood Services has maintained the program by shifting resources from other areas and funding it within its annual budget appropriation.

Grant applications were solicited through media releases, print advertisements, and outreach to neighborhood associations, community organizations and previous grant recipients. Seven applications were initially submitted for consideration, but three withdrew for various reasons before the final review and selection process. Staff will be evaluating additional ways to promote the program throughout the community to enhance interest in the next cycle.

Four proposals were submitted for final consideration:

- 1) Skinner City Farm, strategic planning (Whiteaker Community Council);
- 2) South University Multi-Modal Traffic Study (South University Neighborhood Association);

- 3) Flow-through Worm Bin Demonstration Project, Amazon Neighborhood Sustainability Subcommittee (Amazon Neighbors); and,
- 4) West Eighth Collaborative, Community Center for the Performing Arts/Food for Lane County/Metro Housing (Downtown Neighborhood Association)

The Neighborhood Matching Grants Department Advisory Committee met with all four applicants on Feb. 14, and recommend all for full funding. The four proposals total \$32,590 in grant requests, and are described in Attachment A.

### **RELATED CITY POLICIES**

Implementing a neighborhood matching grant program was a high-priority action item identified in the Neighborhood Empowerment Initiative. The program also promotes the Council Vision and Values, with individual projects supporting a safe community, sustainable development, accessible and thriving culture and recreation, effective and accountable municipal government, and fair, stable and adequate financial resources.

Grant applications are scored by the advisory committee based on the following criteria: tangible neighborhood benefit; neighborhood community involvement; project readiness; and sustainability values. Sustainability values are based on the City's triple-bottom-line framework and include impacts to environmental health or ability to address climate change; impacts on the local economy and/or use of public resources; and project contributions to social equity through benefits to under-represented or vulnerable population or by promoting safety, cultural awareness, and building of community relationships.

### **COUNCIL OPTIONS**

The council may approve, amend, or deny the grant recommendations.

### **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

The City Manager recommends the City Council approve all of the grant recommendations.

### **SUGGESTED MOTION**

Move to direct the City Manager to fund the fiscal year 2011 Neighborhood Matching Grant proposals as recommended by the department advisory committee.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

A. Neighborhood Matching Grants 2011 – Department Advisory Committee Recommendations

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**Attachment A  
Neighborhood Matching Grants 2011 - Department Advisory Committee Recommendations**

Project	Applicant	Neighborhood Association	Amount
<b>2011 Strategic Planning Initiative</b>	<b>Skinner City Farm</b>	<b>Whiteaker Community Council</b>	<b>\$13,430.00</b>

The Skinner City Farm proposal covers the development of a strategic plan for Skinner City Farm to secure the necessary resources and community support for the long term enhancements identified in the 2001 Parks Master Plan for Skinner Butte Park. These enhancements include a preservation center, orchards, and greenhouse. Outreach for the plan includes one three day strategic planning session and two three-hour community involvement events and will involve members from the Whiteaker Community Council on Sustainability, the board of the Skinner City Farm, and Public Works Parks and Open Space Division.

Project	Applicant	Neighborhood Association	Amount
<b>South University Multi-Modal Traffic Study</b>	<b>South University Neighborhood Association</b>	<b>South University Neighborhood Association</b>	<b>\$4,980.00</b>

The multi-modal traffic study project involves data collection and analysis of bicycle, pedestrian and motorized traffic between the South University Neighborhood and the UO Campus. The study will provide baseline data to determine whether additional pedestrian and bike safety improvements are warranted. The study includes a multi-modal traffic report and related maps and graphics. The final report will include possible next steps for any improvements identified including potential funding resources.

Project	Applicant	Neighborhood Association	Amount
<b>Flow-through Worm Bin Prototype</b>	<b>Amazon Neighborhood Sustainability Subcommittee</b>	<b>Amazon Neighbors</b>	<b>\$939.00</b>

This prototype worm bin includes a demonstration, enclosed, flow-through bin for worms that will accommodate food waste from four households. The project will allow for the refinement of a replicable system that composts food scraps and produces a safe and valuable byproduct on private property at the Masonic Cemetery in an area highly visible and ideal for the public education component of the project.

Project	Applicant	Neighborhood Association	Amount
<b>West 8th Collaborative</b>	<b>Community Center for the Performing Arts; Food for Lane County; Metro Housing</b>	<b>Downtown Neighborhood Association</b>	<b>\$13,241.00</b>

This project is a collaboration between community organizations and business partners in the area near the WOW Hall and includes the implementation of crime prevention techniques such as additional lighting for safety, enhancements to the landscaping in the right-of-way consistent with current downtown design standards, and additional bicycle parking.

**Total Amount: \$32,590.00**