

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Action: Approval of Neighborhood Matching Grants for Fiscal Year 2016

Meeting Date: April 11, 2016
Department: City Manager's Office
www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods

Agenda Item Number: 2C
Staff Contact: Cindy Clarke
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ISSUE STATEMENT

The City Council is asked to approve the fiscal year 2016 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 a Neighborhood Matching Grants program. All neighborhood-based groups are eligible for funding, including neighborhood associations, business associations, school site councils and ad hoc neighborhood groups formed to work on specific projects. Community involvement and building relationships are key components of the program and are encouraged by requiring that the project budget includes a match amount equal to, or greater than, the grant request.

Since 2000, more than \$600,000 in matching grant funds have been provided to 112 neighborhood improvement projects community-wide. With the equivalent (or greater) "match" portion included, the total value of these projects exceeds \$1.3 million. The benefits of the program go beyond the financial investment and are an important tool for building community.

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.

In September 2015, Neighborhoods Matching Grant project proposals were solicited via direct outreach to neighborhood associations, the Human Rights Commission, an extensive interested parties list that includes community organizations and other partners, and previous grant recipients.

Eight projects were initially submitted for pre-review with five proposals opting not to submit a final application for a variety of reasons. The DAC met with candidates on February 22, 2016, to discuss each of their projects.

Based on the criteria of tangible neighborhood benefit, neighborhood community involvement, project readiness, and triple bottom line assessment, the following applications are recommended for funding.

1. Friendly Toolbox: local tool library with solar power system to serve as neighborhood resilience hub.
2. Street Mural - 26th & Olive St: community building project with traffic calming elements.
3. Wayside Park Renovations: clean-up and restoration of quiet place of respite located at 15th and Charnelton. Includes bench and native plants.

Grant recommendations total \$20,007; matching contributions are \$41,184 for a total of \$61,191 in community value.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

The Neighborhood Matching Grants program supports council goals and outcomes for a safe community, sustainable development, accessible and thriving culture and recreation, and fair, stable and adequate financial resources by leveraging neighborhood and community resources.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

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 as proposed by the Department Advisory Committee.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to direct the City Manager to fund the 2016 Neighborhood Matching Grant proposals as recommended by the Department Advisory Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Neighborhood Matching Grants 2016 – Department Advisory Committee Recommendations
- B. Neighborhood Matching Grants Project list – 2000 - 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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