

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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Action: Approval of Neighborhood Matching Grants for Fiscal Year 2014

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Meeting Date: April 14, 2013  
Department: City Manager's Office  
[www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods](http://www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods)

Agenda Item Number: 2D  
Staff Contact: Cindy Clarke  
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### ISSUE STATEMENT

The City Council is asked to approve the fiscal year 2014 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. 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 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 \$540,000 in matching grants has funded 101 neighborhood improvement projects community-wide. When the "match" portion of all projects is considered, the value of these projects well exceeds \$1.2 million. The benefits of the program go beyond the financial investment and are an investment in building community. As one applicant eloquently stated: *"When community members work together in any capacity, they strengthen relationships. When people work together on enhancing a public space, they not only enhance relationships, but build a community legacy that benefits everyone."*

Grant applications for neighborhood projects were solicited through earned media, direct outreach to neighborhood associations, community organizations, and previous grant recipients beginning in August of 2013. All project descriptions and budgets are required to go through a “pre-review” process in an effort to provide the applicant guidance and feedback regarding the project so that the applicant had all information necessary to submit a complete application by the deadline. Final applications were due January 13, 2014. All applicants were invited to meet with the advisory committee on February 24, 2014, in order to respond to questions from the advisory committee. After the applicant interviews, each project is 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 underrepresented or vulnerable populations or by promoting safety, cultural awareness, and building of community relationships. Nine applications were initially submitted for pre-review consideration with seven projects submitted for the final review by the advisory committee. Six projects are recommended for funding:

- 1) Friendly Area Fruit Tree Project
- 2) Kaufman House Raised Bed Educational Project
- 3) Whilamut Gateway Area Improvements
- 4) Alder Street Art Project
- 5) SUNA Street Sign Project
- 6) Whiteaker Fermentation District Guest Education Project

The six proposals recommended for funding total \$30,000 in requested grant funds and are described in Attachment A. When combined with the value of the match provided by the applicants the total value of all projects is almost \$94,000.

### **RELATED CITY POLICIES**

Implementing a neighborhood matching grant program was a high-priority action item identified in the Neighborhood Empowerment Initiative. By leveraging neighborhood and community resources, the 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.

### **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 2014 Neighborhood Matching Grant proposals as recommended by the department advisory committee.

**ATTACHMENTS**

A. Neighborhood Matching Grants 2014 – Department Advisory Committee Recommendations

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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