

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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Action: Approval of Neighborhood Matching Grants for Fiscal Year 2015

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Meeting Date: April 27, 2015  
Department: City Manager's Office  
[www.eugene-or.gov/neighborhoods](http://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 2015 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, \$570,000 in matching grants funds have been provided to 107 neighborhood improvement projects community-wide. With the equivalent (or greater) "match" portion required for all projects, the value more than doubles, well exceeding \$1.25 million in community-initiated and -involved improvements. The benefits of the program go beyond the financial investment and are an investment in building community. One applicant wrote in to thank the City for its support and stated that *"...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-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.

The process for awarding and using grants starts in the fall and implementation begins after awards are finalized in the spring. The cycle for this process is as follows:

September 2014 - Grant applications solicited via releases, direct outreach to neighborhood associations, community organizations, and previous grant recipients.

October – December 2014 - Project “pre-review” process to facilitate a complete application by the final deadline.

January 20, 2015 - Final applications due

March 4, 2015 – Applicant interviews and evaluation by the Department Advisory Committee

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

1. Schoolhouse Garden Tasting Stand at Edison  
(South University Neighborhood Association, Edison PTO/4J School District, University of Oregon)
2. Conestoga Hut, Roof and Porch Updates  
(Community Supported Shelters, Jefferson Westside Neighbors, Southeast Neighbors, Far West Neighborhood, Trainsong Neighbors, Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA), Cal Young Neighborhood)
3. Skinner City Farm Heritage Initiative Project  
(Skinner City Farm, Whiteaker Community Council)
4. WOW Hall Historic Streetlamps Project  
(Community Center for the Performing Arts, DNA)

Grant recommendations total \$30,000; matching contributions are \$52,000 for a total of \$82,000 in project funds.

### **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**

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 as proposed by the Department Advisory Committee.

**SUGGESTED MOTION**

Move to direct the City Manager to fund the fiscal year 2015 Neighborhood Matching Grant proposals as recommended by the Department Advisory Committee.

**ATTACHMENTS**

A. Neighborhood Matching Grants 2015 – Department Advisory Committee Recommendations

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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