



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Office of the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Date: July 13, 2015
To: Council Member Cam Gordon, Chair, Health, and Environment & Community Engagement Committee
Referral to: Way and Means Committee
Subject: **Community Innovation Fund**

Recommendation:

Authorize the Neighborhood and Community Relations Director to execute funding agreements for the Community Innovations Fund (CIF) consistent with the recommendations given in the body of this report.

Previous Directives: On August 8, 2008, the City Council received and filed the "Framework for the Future," the final report of the City Council's NRP Work Group. This report recommended the creation of a Community Innovation Fund to provide funding to neighborhood groups to encourage innovations for City-defined priorities.

On April 3, 2015 the City Council approved the guidelines for the 2005-2006 Community Innovation Fund.

Department Information

Prepared by: Howard Blin, Community Engagement Manager

Approved by:

David Rubedor, Neighborhood and Community Relations Director _____

Spencer Cronk, City Coordinator _____

Presenters in Committee: Howard Blin, David Zaffrann

Financial Impact: No financial impact, this item is included in current fund balances for neighborhood programs.

Community Impact

City Goal: *Many People, One Minneapolis.*

Supporting Information

This is the first round of funding for the Community Innovation Fund (CIF) and covers the years 2015 – 2016. The program provides funding to neighborhood organizations for projects that address City goals. Unlike the Community Participation Program, which provides funding to neighborhoods on a formula basis, the CIF would allocate funding on a competitive basis. The program places an emphasis on neighborhoods collaborating with other neighborhoods or community based organizations. In this first round of funding \$300,000 is available for the program. The source of this funding is the Consolidated Tax Increment Financing District.

Process Followed

The application period for the program began on April 15th. All neighborhood organizations were sent the guidelines and the application electronically and by mail. By the deadline of June 3rd 21 applications were received.

Members of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) and NCR staff reviewed the applications. This process involved reading all applications and then rating each application on a set of criteria included in the guidelines. A composite score was then created for each application which allowed the projects to be rank ordered. The Committee then further evaluated the top ranked applications on the overall goals of the program.

The review committee consisted of the following members of the NCEC: David Zaffrann Chair, Queen Kimmons, Denis Houle, Jeffrey Strand and Ishmael Israel. In addition, Stacy Sorenson, NCR Neighborhood Specialist, participated in rating the applications and the Committee evaluation of the applications, but did not vote on the final recommendations.

Recommendation

On June 23rd the NCEC recommended the following applications for funding in 2015.

Applicant	Amount Requested	Recommended Amount
Bottineau Neighborhood Association Bottineau, in partnership with the Concerned Citizens of Marshall Terrace and the Above the Falls Citizen Advisory Committee, is requesting funding to hire a public health intern working in the field of environmental toxicology to compile data regarding air emissions in the neighborhood. The goal of the project is to produce data which would lead to work with local industries to reduce air emissions.	\$16,000	\$16,000
Citizens for a Loring Park Community Partnering with the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association, Loring Park would utilize the funding for a community	\$30,000	\$15,000

based planning process leading to a landscape plan to improve the appearance of the Hennepin –Lyndale Avenue Corridor.

Cleveland Neighborhood Association \$30,000 \$20,000

Cleveland is partnering with local arts organizations Juxtaposition Arts and Bully Creative Shop to implement the Street Forum community engagement tool. This project will use technology and social media to involve residents in issues affecting the neighborhood.

East Phillips Improvement Coalition \$29,400 \$25,000

East Phillips is proposing to partner with the Native American Youth Arts Collective to use art as an engagement tool among youth living at Little Earth.

Holland Neighborhood Association \$20,000 \$15,000

Holland would be partnering with the Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership for work in community engagement and planning for the Great Northern Greenway, a trail corridor connecting north and northeast Minneapolis across the Mississippi River.

Longfellow Community Council \$18,000 \$18,000

Longfellow proposes to partner with the Metro Blooms, a non-profit organization which promotes gardening throughout the metro area, the Longfellow Business Association and Project for Pride in Living to develop 40 raingardens throughout the neighborhood. These raingardens are intended to improve the quality of stormwater and add greenspace to the neighborhood.

Lyndale Neighborhood Association \$30,000 \$30,000

Partnering with the Corcoran, Powderhorn Park, Central and West Bank neighborhood organizations, as well as HOME line, Lyndale would be the lead organization in developing the Minneapolis Renters Coalition. This group works on renters issues within Minneapolis.

Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association \$30,000 \$26,000

Midtown is proposing to provide startup funding for a low

power Somali language FM radio station in the Phillips area. Partnering with the Somali American Community, a non-profit which hold the license for the station, Midtown will fund the training and technical requirements for starting the station.

Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association \$30,000 \$25,000

Partnering with the Mercado Central business cooperative, Powderhorn would use the funding to continue current efforts to rebuild organizational capacity in the coop.

Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association \$29,400 \$15,000

Prospect Park is proposing to partner with residents of the Glendale Public Housing development on engagement efforts in the propose redevelopment of Glendale.

Ventura Village \$30,000 \$25,000

This project would construct an outdoor patio and picnic area adjacent to the Phillips Community Center.

Windom Park Citizens in Action \$29,537 \$25,000

Windom is seeking to expand an existing tool library. The project would involve developing storage and workshop space for the tool library in order reach more people in the neighborhood.

Projects Not Recommended for Funding

Many excellent projects were proposed for the program. The limit on available funding did not allow funding of all the applications. The following are those not recommended for funding:

Bryant Neighborhood Association – Requested \$17,600 to conduct community forums on sustainable development.

Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association – Requested \$17,500 to hold community free arts days aimed at involving low-income, immigrant and homeless residents in free public arts days.

Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. – Requested \$30,000 to partner with the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota to assess community assets and partner with immigrant business in the neighborhood.

Hawthorne Neighborhood Council – Requested \$30,000 to fund dialogs on community well-being.

Kingfield Neighborhood Association – Requested \$30,000 as part of the funding for a solar-ready low-income townhouse development.

Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Association – Requested \$9,202 to fund four scholarships for area youth.

McKinley Neighborhood Group – Requested \$30,000 to support an ongoing urban farming initiative.