



# Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission

Agenda Item: 5

## Advisory Information

**Title:** **Community Innovation Fund**

Action  Discussion  Informational

**Date:** September 24, 2013

**Prepared By:** Howard Blin, Community Engagement Manager

**Attachments:** Minutes of the June 16, 2013 NCEC Committee of the Whole

## Requested Action

No action is requested. The commission is asked to provide general direction in development of the Community Innovation Fund.

## Background

The Community Innovation Fund was first proposed in the 2008 *Framework for the Future* Report. The full report is attached. Below is an excerpt of the section in the Framework which describes the fund:

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*The Community Innovation Fund:*

*Grant Funding to Encourage Innovations for City-Identified Priorities*

*A Community Innovation Fund will be established as a companion fund to the Neighborhood Investment Fund. The innovation fund will provide grants to officially designated neighborhood organizations to seek out innovative and locally-relevant approaches to City-identified goals or problems.*

- ♦ *The City Council and Mayor will set priorities for this fund on a biannual basis. The Neighborhood and Community Advisory Board will then work with the Council and Mayor to ensure that the design of grants is accessible and relevant to localized programming.*
- ♦ *Guidelines for these grants should place a high priority on proposals that reflect collaboration between two or more neighborhood organizations or between neighborhood organizations and other community-based organizations.*
- ♦ *The Advisory Board will review proposals and recommend grant awards to the City Council and Mayor.*

From: Framework for the Future

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In the *Framework for the Future* an emphasis was placed on fostering collaboration between neighborhoods and other organizations. The Framework also envisioned the fund as a means to advance innovation in addressing city goals.

In 2010 the NCEC adopted a document titled a Proposal for a Process which calls for the Committee of the Whole to develop programs such as the Community Innovation Fund. An excerpt from that document is as follows:

Rationale:

*There is insufficient time available to develop new funding programs using the regularly scheduled monthly two hour meetings of the NCEC. The NCEC has matters it must consider and take action on other than new funding program development. Further, a more informal work group setting is more conducive to the level of interaction and detail that will be necessary in creating proposals for the CPP, NIF and CIF.*

*Active engagement of all NCEC members in the creation of these new funding programs is important for the perspectives each member brings and a sense of ownership of what is proposed by the NCEC. A task force or committee made up of a subset of NCEC members does not achieve that; a Committee of the Whole does.*

At the June 16, 2013 meeting of the NCEC Committee of the Whole the Commission discussed the CIF and brainstormed possible City priorities the program should address. A summary of that discussion is shown in the attached minutes of the meeting.

## **Discussion**

In developing the program, there are several issues the Committee should address:

- **Funding Priorities.** The Committee of the Whole should consider recommendations to the full NCEC on the preferred process to define funding priorities for the program, to be recommended to the City Council.
- **Program Guidelines.** A set of guidelines for the program will be necessary. These will address eligibility of grant recipients, eligible costs, the process and criteria for reviewing applications, as well as other matters.
- **Engagement Process.** The Committee should determine the process for engaging neighborhood organizations on all aspects of program development.

## Schedule

The Commission should agree on a schedule for developing the program. To facilitate that discussion, the following general schedule is suggested.

- September/October 2013 – Committee develops schedule and engagement strategy
- November 2013 – Preliminary discussion with City Council to gain concurrence on broad outline of program.
- Early 2014 – Begin outreach process with neighborhoods and others to get ideas on program design. Process could follow that used for development of the Community Participation Program where NCEC members and staff conducted listening sessions with neighborhood organizations prior to drafting preliminary guidelines.
- Spring 2014 – Committee drafts preliminary program guidelines and continue engagement process. 45 day review period for public and neighborhood organizations.
- Summer 2014 – Finalize guidelines, present budget proposal to City Council.
- Fall 2014 – Solicit funding proposals.