



City Council

Approval of 2022 Neighborhood Matching Grant Award Allocations

Agenda Date: 5/24/2022
Agenda Item Number: 4.C
File Number: 22-0498

Type: decision **Version:** 1 **Status:** Passed

Title

Approval of 2022 Neighborhood Matching Grant Award Allocations

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Move to approve the Neighborhood Matching Grant proposals recommended by the Grant Review Team.

Report

Issue:

Whether to approve the Neighborhood Matching Grant proposals recommended by the Grant Review Team.

Staff Contact:

Lydia Moorehead, Associate Planner, Community Planning & Development, 360.570.3746.

Presenter(s):

None - Consent Calendar

Background and Analysis:

The Neighborhood Matching Grant program helps Olympia's Recognized Neighborhood Associations (RNAs) fund community-driven projects.

The program goal is "to encourage projects that foster civic pride, enhance, and beautify neighborhoods, expand citizen involvement, and promote the interests of the Olympia community. To accomplish this goal, the Olympia City Council will make available grant funds to Recognized Neighborhood Associations up to a 50/50 matching basis. The City Council firmly believes that community participation and commitment to accomplish improvements within our City are mutually beneficial to all Olympia residents."

2022 Application and Review Process

The City Council approved a budget of up to \$23,000 to fund the Neighborhood Matching Grant program in 2022. Grant awards range from \$500 to \$5000, can cover up to 50% of project costs, and must be matched by the RNA with direct financial contribution and/or in-kind labor and materials.

A total of seven (7) applications were received for 2022. They were reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of city staff and a city council liaison. Applications were evaluated against the following program goals:

- Result in a direct and lasting environmental benefit to the neighborhood and/or wider community;
- Enhance and beautify the neighborhood and/or wider community;
- Foster community engagement and enrichment opportunities through the use of neighborhood sweat equity;
- Ready to begin after funding has been approved;
- Likely to be completed by December 31, 2022 (or by December 31, 2023 for projects within the public right-of-way);
- Easily accomplished with volunteers; and
- Does not require extensive City staff involvement to be completed.

The attached table provides a summary of the applications received and recommended for funding.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

The RNAs continue to show a strong interest in this program. Over the last nine years, the city has funded an average of 9 applications per year. The 2022 Neighborhood Matching Grant funds will support a variety of projects including community events, beautification efforts, RNA communications, administration and gatherings, support of existing anti-graffiti programs, and landscape/trail improvements that increase community pride and sense of place. These projects bring residents together and benefit the wider community of Olympia by strengthening the vitality of our neighborhoods. The 2022 proposed projects continue a tradition to provide environmental, aesthetic, and community engagement benefits to City residents and businesses.

Options:

1. Approve the Neighborhood Matching Grants as recommended by the Grant Review Team.
2. Approve partial or full funding of a subset of grant requests that the Council finds consistent with the goals of the program.
3. Do not fund some of the applications recommended by the Grant Review Team.

Note: All options would be contingent on negotiation of agreements with recognized neighborhood associations to complete each project in 2021 (or 2022 for projects within public right-of-way).

Financial Impact:

The 2022 budget provides up to \$23,000 to fund the Neighborhood Matching Grant program. The total recommended grant level for 2022 is \$13,815.

This funding will leverage \$40,375 in projects and improvements across the City and engage 744 volunteer hours of neighbors working together to make Olympia a better place to live.

The estimated staff time to support each matching grant ranges from 10-20 hours, totaling 70-140

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staff hours for the seven (7) recommended projects.
Funding for this time is included in the City budget.

Attachments:

Grant Review Team Recommendation
Map