



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – June 20, 2018 Agenda Item 3

Presentation

Presentation and Discussion of Grants Review Committee's Recommendations for the FY19 Community "Quality of Life" Grants Program

Recommended Council Action

None – Presentation and discussion only

Context with Key Issues

The Community Grants program is designed to provide financial support for specific programs, projects and events that improve residents' quality of life by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences. The primary focus of the program is to benefit residents with low and moderate incomes. Additional information on the parameters of the program is provided in the accompanying guidelines.

Responding to a call for Letters of Inquiry issued by HCD staff in January, a total of 15 organizations expressed interest in accessing funds. These organizations were invited to submit a full application following a review of their initial proposals by the Grants Review Committee. Two organizations invited to apply did not submit full applications for unknown reasons. Of the 13 full applications submitted by the April deadline, seven have been recommended for funding by the Committee.

The Chair of the Grants Review Committee, Ward 6 resident Rachel Branaman, will present the Committee's funding recommendations. Also serving on the Committee are Nadine Bloch (Ward 3), Elizabeth Boyd (Ward 6), Gary Cardillo (Ward 2), Jay Keller (Ward 3), Anand Parikh (Ward 1), Lesley Perry (Ward 2), Norka Ruiz Bravo (Ward 2) and Mark Rupp (Ward 5).

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All

Environmental Impact of Action

N/A

Fiscal Impact of Action

The FY19 budget includes \$40,000 for the Community Quality of Life Grants program. Requests for funding submitted by the 13 applicants totaled \$110,557.

Racial Equity

We believe this Council action will improve access to science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) opportunities by people of color, including immigrants and refugees, a group of people that has historically been under represented in the sciences.

Attachments and Links

- [Community Grants: Program Guidelines](#)
- [Summary Report on Funding Recommendations](#)
- [Ordinance Authorizing Award of FY19 Community Quality of Life Grants \(DRAFT\)](#)



City of Takoma Park, Maryland

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The City of Takoma Park's Community Grants Program provides funding for a range of activities. Funds are awarded by the Takoma Park City Council following a competitive application process and evaluation by the Grants Review Committee.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Purpose

The Community Grants program provides financial support for specific programs, projects and events that improve residents' quality of life by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences.

Targeted Beneficiaries

The primary focus of the proposal must be on providing benefit to individuals and households with low and moderate incomes, defined as 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Specifically, at least 51% of participants must meet these income requirements. In addition, at least 75% of the participants must be residents of Takoma Park.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects include arts and humanities focused projects and events; and Science, Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) programs and events. Examples of eligible projects include: science and/or math clubs, robotics clubs, computer programming classes, concert and film series, public art, maker spaces, and technology-based internship and/or apprenticeship programs.

Eligible Applicants

Funding is available to nonprofit organizations and business associations. The use of a fiscal agent is permitted for those organizations that have applied for but not yet secured their 501c3 determination from the IRS. Individuals and for-profit enterprises are not eligible for funding.

Grant Awards

Minimum grant award: \$5,000 / Maximum grant award: \$10,000

Match Requirement

A minimum of \$1 per \$1 match is required. The required match must be documented and may include cash, in-kind donations or volunteer hours. Volunteer time is valued at \$26.79 per hour as determined by Independent Sector for the State of Maryland.

Funding Limitations

Grants will be awarded for a period not to exceed 12 months. Applicants are limited to one grant award per funding cycle.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Living Wage Requirements

All business associations and nonprofit grant recipients, regardless of the amount of the grant award or their individual exemption status, are required to pay each employee assigned to the approved project or program a living wage as determined by City Code, Chapter 7.08 Article 5 *Living Wage Requirement*.

Reporting Requirements

Both grantees and partners will be required to provide quarterly accounting of all grant activity. A final narrative, due upon completion of approved project or programming, is required.

Disbursement of Grant Funds

The disbursement of grant funds will be negotiated on a case by case basis and may include reimbursement of expenditures by grantee, direct payment to vendors, or quarterly disbursement of grant funds following submission of required reports.

Funds are available on a reimbursement basis only. Grant recipients will be required to submit original documentation of all grant expenditures, including administrative and overhead expenses, and required match contributions.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A Preliminary Application is required of all applicants. If selected for further consideration, the applicant will be contacted by the Grants Review Committee and invited to submit a full application for funding. Unsolicited applications will not be considered. Applications will be evaluated based on established funding priorities, program guidelines and available funding. Recommendations of the Grants Review Committee will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration. The final determination of all grant awards is the sole responsibility of the Takoma Park City Council.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT

City of Takoma Park Housing and Community Development Department
301-891-7119 / grants@takomaparkmd.gov

**FY19 Community “Quality of Life” Grants Program
SUMMARY REPORT ON FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following is a summary of the projects recommended for funding by the Grants Review Committee for the FY19 Community Quality of Life Grants Program. Narratives describing the proposed activity have been provided by the organizations.

Organization	Total Project Budget	Grant Request	Recommended Award
Carpe Diem Arts	\$ 20,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
CREATE Arts Center	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Crossroads Community Food Network	\$ 72,040	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Dance Exchange	\$ 53,150	\$ 10,000	-
Docs in Progress, Inc.	\$ 16,795	\$ 8,175	\$ 5,000
Ghandi Brigade	\$ 11,386	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Literacy Council of Montgomery County	\$ 23,200	\$ 10,000	-
Let’s Play America	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
Montgomery County Collaboration Council	\$ 19,870	\$ 9,935	-
Moveius	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	-
Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center	\$ 16,125	\$ 7,500	-
RhizomeDC	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,500	WITHDREW
Story Tapestries	\$ 19,893	\$ 9,932	-
Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School	\$ 10,190	\$ 5,016	\$ 5,000
TPES PTA	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	WITHDREW
Totals	\$ 343,149	\$ 123,057	\$ 40,000

**FY19 Community “Quality of Life” Grants Program
SUMMARY REPORT ON FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

Organization: **CARPE DIEM ARTS**

Project Name: *Healthy Families: Parent Support Project*

Potential Number of People Serving: 200

Request: \$10,000

Recommended Funding Level: \$5,000

To provide meaningful community engagement and arts activities for the residents of Essex House in Takoma Park, including children, teens, parents and families and other adults, while also inviting Takoma Park neighbors to participate in some of the programs as a way of promoting unity and building relationships across race, class, and economic boundaries.

Organization: **CREATE ARTS CENTER (CREATE)**

Project Name: *smARTkids at TPES*

Potential Number of People Serving: 25

Request: \$5,000

Recommended Funding Level: \$5,000

CREATE Arts Center (CREATE) is seeking support for its smARTkids program at Takoma Park Elementary School (TPES). smARTkids is a free after-school art program that aims to positively impact the learning abilities and success of at-risk students by using visual art techniques and art therapy principles. We focus on increasing students’ positive social skills, problem solving and conflict resolution abilities, while enhancing their self-confidence, empathy, and resilience.

In 2005, smARTkids began as a pilot program with eight students and has since served over 600 students in seven Montgomery County public schools. This program has specifically served over 75 TPES students since it started there in 2014. Our efforts have proven successful in motivating students and improving their attitudes towards learning, school, and themselves. The program strengthens language and literacy skills, and students develop stronger peer relationships, increased self-esteem and positive social skills, improved problem solving and critical thinking skills, while enhancing their self-confidence, empathy, and resilience.

Organization: **CROSSROADS COMMUNITY FOOD NETWORK (CCFN)**

Project Name: *Healthy Eating Program Expansion*

Potential Number of People Serving: 2,000

Request: \$10,000

Recommended Funding Level: \$10,000

The Crossroads Healthy Eating Program has encouraged positive healthy lifestyle changes and increased environmental literacy in and around Takoma Park since 2010. Now taught in a series of four classes, the program provides a holistic view of the food systems, featuring topics including seasonality, eating the rainbow, food production, food labels, agricultural and climate problems relating to food consumption, and the factors that influence our food choices. Educating approximately 1,000 community members annually, the Healthy Eating Program has been well-received by people of all ages at local schools and other community sites such as the Crossroads

FY19 Community “Quality of Life” Grants Program SUMMARY REPORT ON FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Farmers Market and Franklin Apartments. To better meet the growing demand from the community, we hired a new part-time educator, Ariel Rothman, early this year. This grant will support Ariel’s time along with other program expenses to expand to new sites and double the number of participants served annually.

Organization: **DOCS IN PROGRESS, INC.**
Project Name: *Documentary Dialogues Takoma*
Potential Number of People Serving: 350
Request: \$8,175
Recommended Funding Level: \$5,000

Documentary Dialogues Takoma uses film and video as a vehicle for reflection, self-expression, and empowerment by engaging Takoma Park residents through a combination of screenings and hands-on video production activities. These will include film screenings followed by discussions, the Community Stories Film Festival which spotlights local stories and filmmaking camps for youth and elders. All events will take place at the Takoma Park Community Center and will be coordinated in collaboration with the City’s Arts Coordinator and Recreation Department.

Funding from the City will help support costs associated with fees to teaching artists and intern teaching assistants, honoraria for filmmakers presenting their films, advertising and marketing these programs in the community, and staff time dedicated to this programming.

Organization: **GHANDI BRIGADE**
Project Name: *Takoma Promoters*
Potential Number of People Serving: 20
Request: \$5,000
Recommended Funding Level: \$5,000

We are seeking funding to train Takoma Park youth about digital media arts and community engagement.

We intend to offer a media training program, to underserved middle and high school age youth at the Takoma Park Community Center. We currently serve over 200 students through ten Promoters programs throughout the County. We intend to run a fall and spring program during the 2018/19 school year. Each program will run for twelve weeks with a two-hour session held each week for ten to fourteen participants. Our program will help participants learn new skills or strengthen existing skills in script writing, camera work, sound, and editing as they work on short term media projects. The students, working with our staff, decide the content for their media projects and then begin a process of research, conversation and exploration. The culmination of each session will be the students showing and discussing their work before friends, family and the community.

Organization: **LET’S PLAY AMERICA (LPA)**
Project Name: *Community Play Days*
Potential Number of People Serving: 400
Request: \$10,000
Recommended Funding Level: \$5,000

FY19 Community “Quality of Life” Grants Program SUMMARY REPORT ON FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

During the month of July 2018, Let’s Play America, Ltd. (LPA) proposes to organize and lead eight play events at eight different playgrounds in Takoma Park. Each event will focus on at least two of the STEM categories: science, technology, engineering and math.

Over the past 10 years, Let’s Play America has conducted 90 play events in Takoma Park, most recently the 8th Annual Mid-winter Play Event. Many low and moderate children do not have access to summer camp or other summer programs. Parents, grandparents and caregivers report how much children and adults enjoy these events. One hundred per cent (100%) of play events are staffed by volunteers.

Four play events will be held in the late morning and four in the evening at playgrounds near apartment buildings and areas where low and moderate-income children and their families can easily join us to play. At each play event STEM specialists play advocate Pat Rumbaugh will lead, teach and play basic concepts in their fields.

Organization: **TAKOMA PARK COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL (TPCNS)**

Project Name: *#Optoutdoors*

Potential Number of People Serving: 100

Request: \$5,016

Recommended Funding Level: \$5,000

#Optoutdoors will create an outdoor nature immersion and refuge program for at-risk students aged 6-10 during school holidays or MCPS professional days in which children are not at school. The aim of the program is to facilitate access to nature for children who are under-represented in nature and scientific fields. This program will immerse young Takoma Park residents in the natural world available in their own backyards, at the same time providing mixed age opportunities for scientific observation, documentation, and experimentation.

Participants will hike, explore, observe, and learn to identify common local flora and fauna, including, i.e. trees, animal track identification, common feeder birds, pollinators, etc. Sessions run throughout the year in eight sessions and led by Cooperative School staff and volunteers (in most cases, trained educators) and will be held in locations along the tributaries of the Anacostia Watershed.

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

Organization: **DANCE EXCHANGE**

Project Name: *Dance Exchange 2018/19 Youth Programs*

Potential Number of People Serving: 300

Request: \$10,000

Recommended Funding Level: \$0

Dance Exchange is seeking support for our Youth Programs for the 2018/19 season, which includes weekly classes at our studios for youth ages 8-18 (Youth Exchange and Teen Exchange); a series of STEAM-based, arts-integrated environmental education workshops and camps (Moving Field

**FY19 Community “Quality of Life” Grants Program
SUMMARY REPORT ON FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Guides); and an end of season performance, featuring work by Youth and Teen Exchange as well as other local teens (Youth Arts Night). As research for a partnership between Dance Exchange and Public Works, Youth Programs will investigate the theme of "work" and will be learning about the environmental initiatives of the community made possible by the Takoma Parks Public Works.

Organization: **LITERACY COUNCIL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

Project Name: *Math & Literacy Tutoring for Adult Learners*

Potential Number of People Serving: 50

Request: \$10,000

Recommended Funding Level: \$0

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County (LCMC) will coordinate volunteer tutors to help adult learners improve their numeracy (math) and literacy skills in 1:1 and small group settings. Many adult learners approach math with anxiety and frustration, often due to previous negative educational experiences. This barrier is compounded by low literacy skills, which make self-instruction difficult and discourages many learners from enrolling in formal classroom settings. Volunteer tutors, trained by LCMC staff, will meet weekly with learners. LCMC provides all books and materials at no cost to students beyond a one-time \$15 registration fee.

LCMC seeks to fill a gap in existing community services to make GED attainment an achievable goal for low-income adults. Our research in the county points to the fact that historically, many of Takoma Park’s apartment complexes have under-served and under-skilled adults who could benefit from a program that helps them navigate their communities better and gets them closer to economic self-sufficiency through training and education. With respect to the educational landscape of the county, nearly all our local pre-GED classes start at an 8th grade level and as a result, many in the county often have had nowhere to go next. LCMC will close this gap by providing basic numeracy and literacy instruction for all adults, especially those at the 5th and 6th grade levels. Besides using individual tutors, and going into housing complexes to provide services directly to students, we will also be incorporating basic digital literacy skills into our curriculum. In addition to basic academic needs, the learners we work with struggle with basic computer skills that also prove to be an impediment to getting work.

Organization: **MONTGOMERY COUNTY COLLABORATION COUNCIL**

Project Name: *Jump Start STEM Program*

Potential Number of People Serving: 25

Request: \$9,935

Recommended Funding Level: \$0

The Jump Start STEM Program will operate for 4 weeks, Monday through Thursday from 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. beginning the first day of school for elementary school students. The Project will take place in the Community Center of Essex House in Takoma Park, Maryland. During this time period, STEM activities will take place with the goal in mind to assist students in “catching up” to their grade levels after summer learning loss which most students experience. STEM activities will provide assistance with math, science along with other STEM projects. It is expected that after the Jump Start STEM Program, the current ACE Academy at Essex House will begin and continue for 30 weeks, dependent on grant funding from MSDE. The Jump Start STEM Program will employ highly

FY19 Community “Quality of Life” Grants Program SUMMARY REPORT ON FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

qualified staff that will include a Site Manager, Site Coordinator/Educator, experienced STEM Instructors and STEM Assistants.

Organization: **MOVEIUS CONTEMPORARY BALLET**

Project Name: *Dance for Youth*

Potential Number of People Serving: 280

Request: \$10,000

Recommended Funding Level: \$0

MOVEIUS's Dance for Youth program is a dance education and performance program that introduces students from Takoma Park to contemporary dance forms. The program features a preparatory dance history and culture workshop; a professional performance and dance- mini-workshop hosted at our Dance Loft on 14 performing arts complex located in Ward 4's Upper 14th Street Corridor; and complementary Family Passes for students and their families to attend a future Dance Loft Theater performance.

Organization: **STORY TAPESTRIES**

Project Name: *Amplify US! Using the Arts to Build Cultural Bridges*

Potential Number of People Serving: 200

Request: \$9,932

Recommended Funding Level: \$0

Powerful stories can be used for self-advocacy and self-defense. We want to harness the arts - in this case, storytelling, poetry, photography and video - to support racial equity and build community in Takoma Park.

Organization: **PYRAMID ATLANTIC ARTS CENTER (PYRAMID ATLANTIC)**

Project Name: *Pump House Pop-Up 2*

Potential Number of People Serving: 500

Request: \$7,500

Recommended Funding Level: \$0

An eyesore becomes an attraction. Nestled in the slope of Hillside Road sits a mysterious structure. It faces the defunct Sligo Waterworks 1900-era pumping station site and is adjacent to Takoma Park's high density Maple Ave. apartment neighborhood. In the first year of funding, we have transformed the concrete box to an outdoor “pop-up” gallery. Pyramid proposes a second year with two more exhibitions and increased community outreach and participation.

WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

Organization: **RHIZOME DC**

Project Name: Music Camp for People with Special Needs

Potential Number of People Serving: Not provided at Preliminary Application stage

Request: \$7,500

FY19 Community “Quality of Life” Grants Program SUMMARY REPORT ON FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The main aim of this project is to develop new ways of musical expression for people with special needs. Workshop activities comprise a series of musical sessions designed for students with mental and/or physical disability. The workshop will be conducted by Alan Courtis, who lives in Argentina, and has been teaching music for people with special needs since 1993.

Sessions focus on music practice rather than on theory so that the workshop requires active and constant involvement by participants. Our approach is oriented to develop all the possibilities of this and improvisation takes a very important role. Additionally, some of the exercises we have designed include other art forms such as visual arts and poetry.

The workshops will take place in multiple sessions according to available funding. We hope to be able to offer at least one week of sessions for best outcomes, though two weeks would be even better. The workshops will end with a public concert open to the entire community.

Organization: **TAKOMA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA**

Project Name: TPES Artist-in-Residence

Potential Number of People Serving: 620+

Request: \$5,000

The Takoma Park Elementary School (TPES) Parent Teacher Association (PTA), administrators and staff will welcome an Artist-in-Residence (AIR) during the 2018-2019 school year to guide the creation of a permanent, student-generated mural on a prominent wall inside the school. The theme of the mural is a celebration of the diverse student body's rich cultures, traditions, and friendships. The AIR will incorporate ideas, sketches, values and artistic contributions of students and their families throughout all stages of the creative process.

The AIR will be a professional muralist and experienced art educator for young children. Kick-off school assemblies will introduce the project to 620+ TPES students and the AIR will visit all 33 classrooms in the fall of 2018. Parents and family members will assist the AIR during classroom visits, help prepare and finish the wall used for the mural, and plan a community event to celebrate the completion of the mural in the spring of 2019.

Updated June 10, 2018

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-XX

**AUTHORIZING AWARD OF FY19 COMMUNITY
QUALITY OF LIFE GRANT FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the Community Quality of Life Grants program, established by Resolution 2016-14 on June 15, 2016, provides financial support for specific programs, projects and events that improve residents' quality of life by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences; and

WHEREAS, the availability of grant funding was announced in January 2019; and

WHEREAS, a total of fifteen preliminary applications and initial funding requests totaling \$123,057 were submitted to the Grants Review Committee (the "Committee"), fifteen of which were invited to submit a full grant application; and

WHEREAS, thirteen applications requesting a total of \$110,557 in grant funds were received and forwarded to the Committee for review and evaluation; and

WHEREAS, a total of \$40,000 has been budgeted for the FY19 Community Quality of Life Grants Program; and

WHEREAS, the funding recommendations of the Committee were presented to the Council for consideration on June 20, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Council concurs with the Committee's funding recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT

SECTION 1. FY19 Community Quality of Life Grants are awarded for the following projects:

- a) Carpe Diem Arts: *Healthy Families: Parent Support Project* (\$5,000)
- b) CREATE Arts Center: *smARTkids at TPES* (\$5,000)
- c) Crossroads Community Food Network: *Healthy Eating Program Expansion* (\$10,000)
- d) Docs in Progress: *Documentary Dialogues Takoma* (\$5,000)
- e) Ghandi Brigade: *Takoma Promoters* (\$5,000)
- f) Let's Play America: *Community Play Days* (\$5,000)
- g) Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School: *#Optoutdoors* (\$5,000)

SECTION 2. The City Manager is further authorized to execute any documents, and take any action necessary to carry out the intent of this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall become effective July 1, 2018.

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2018 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

DRAFT