Takoma Park City Council Meeting – July 11, 2018
Agenda Item 1

Voting Session
Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing Award of FY19 Community Quality of Life Grant Funds

Recommended Council Action
Adopt Ordinance

Context with Key Issues
The Community Grants program is designed to provide financial support for 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 on providing benefit to residents with low and moderate incomes. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis by the Council following a review by the Grants Review Committee.

The Grants Review Committee has recommended the award of FY19 grant funds totaling $40,000 to seven organizations. The following Committee recommendations were presented to the Council for consideration during its June 20, 2018 work session.

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: *Health Eating Program Expansion* ($10,000)
d) Docs in Progress: *Documentary Dialogues Takoma* ($5,000)
e) Gandhi Brigade: *Takoma Promoters* ($5,000)
f) Let’s Play America: *Community Play Days* ($5,000)
g) Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School: *#OptOutside* ($5,000)

Council Priority
A Livable Community for All

Environmental Impact Considerations
N/A

Fiscal Impact Considerations
The City’s FY19 budget includes $40,000 for the Community Quality of Life Grants program.

Racial Equity Considerations
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.
Attachments and Links

- Ordinance Authorizing Award of FY19 Community Quality of Life Grants
- FY19 Applications and Funding Recommendations – Summary Report
- FY17 Funded Organizations – Summary Report
- FY18 Funded Organizations – Summary Report
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 2018; and

WHEREAS, a total of fifteen preliminary applications and initial funding requests totaling $123,057.00 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 $110,557.00 in grant funds were received and forwarded to the Committee for review and evaluation; and

WHEREAS, a total of $40,000.00 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) Gandhi 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 11, 2018.

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

AYE:
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:
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.

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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: GANDHI 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
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.

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**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
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
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
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
The following is a summary of the projects funded under the FY17 Community Quality of Life Grants Program. Narratives describing the activities proposed under each grant, as well as the project outcomes, were provided by each respective organization.

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Organization: ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES OF GREATER WASHINGTON (ACSGW)
Name: ACSGW Thrive Initiative
Potential Number of People Serving: 15 Youth, 5+ Seniors
Request: $10,000
Grant Awarded: $10,000

Project Proposal:
Quarter #1: This grant will enable ACSGW to offer a Basic Computer Repair program at a reduced cost. 15 young people will be trained in ACSGW’s Basic Computer Repair Program. In addition to learning basic computer components and operation, participants will learn to disassemble, repair and reassemble computers. On completion of the training program these youth will engage in a paid internship repairing computers donated to ACSGW. Graduates of the Basic Computer Repair program will be offered a 5-week paid internship (3 hours per week @ $20/hour). Repaired computers will then be distributed to eligible seniors in Takoma Park.

Project Outcomes:
During the quarter November 2, 2016 to January 31, 2017 ACSGW conducted one session of the Computer Repair Class. That session will end on March 15, 2017. There were Nine (9) students in that session but none were Takoma Park residents. A new session will begin on March 22, 2017. There are currently two (2) Takoma Park residents who have registered for that session. We hope to have at least five (5) Takoma residents in the upcoming session.

I have attached to this report the promotional materials we have used to recruit students for the upcoming session. We have enlisted the support of Gregory Clark (Director of the Recreation Dept.)
Quarter #2: During the quarter February 1, 2017 to April 30, 2017 ACSGW conducted one session of the Computer Repair Class. That session will end on May 17, 2017. There were Nine (7) students in that session but none were Takoma Park residents. A new session will begin on May 24, 2017. There are currently Three (3) Takoma Park residents who have registered for that session.

Promotional materials we have used to recruit students are the same as in the first quarter. We have enlisted the support of Gregory Clark (Director of the Recreation Dept. for The City of Takoma Park) and Brandon Johns (Executive Director, M.A.N.U.P.) Montgomery Housing Partnership has been enlisted as have various tenant associations throughout the city.

Currently sessions are being offered on Wednesday evenings. There has been interest expressed in ACSGW offering daytime session. We plan to start offering a daytime session beginning the week of June 12, 2017. Five (5) individuals who have expressed interest in this daytime class are TP residents.

Word of mouth seems finally to be producing results. We still hope to process a total of 15 city residents through the program by October 31, 2017.

Quarter #3: During the quarter May 1, 2017 to July 31, 2017 ACSGW conducted two sessions of the IT Fundamentals/Computer Repair Class. There were (13) students enrolled in those sessions. Three were Takoma Park residents. All students enrolled completed the class. A new session will begin on August 30, 2017. There are currently Three (3) students who have registered for that session. None are Takoma Park residents. There are (8) total slots available.

Quarter #4: During the quarter August 1, 2017 to October 31, 2017 ACSGW conducted one full session and part of a second session of the IT Fundamentals/Computer Repair Class. There were (6) students enrolled in those sessions. None were Takoma Park residents. All students enrolled completed the class. A new session will begin on January 10, 2018. There are currently Three (3) students (2 Takoma Park residents) interested in registering for that session. There are (8) total slots available.

**Organization: ARTIVATE**

*Name: Takoma Wings Academy*

*Potential Number of People Serving: 30*

*Request: $10,000*

*Grant Awarded: $9,000*

**Project Proposal:**

Takoma Wings Academy (TWA) is a 3-week summer camp in which middle school boys and girls from low-income, immigrant families investigate the science and engineering of flight in nature, aviation, and space exploration as well as flight as a means of self-expression in the Arts through gender-specific "clubs" to maintain appeal for each group and accommodate different learning styles. The camp takes place at the Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, MD and the College Park Aviation Museum in College Park, MD.

**Project Outcomes:**
Artivate proposed the continuation of the Takoma Wings Academy, a summer-time arts-infused camp program that combined the science and engineering of flight with creative activities with Artivate teaching artists and hands-on engineering workshops with Big Learning instructors. The support of the City of Takoma Park was sought for funding that would ensure that residents of Takoma Park residing along Maple Avenue would be able to participate in the camp program. Artivate has been committed to the Maple Avenue community since the origins of the "Wings" program with Montgomery Housing Partnership over three years ago, and continuing our collaborations with The Essex House Apartments.

The core components of the summer camp program took place in July of 2017. In the final stages of planning in May and June, the decision was made to join with the Takoma Academy and their plans for a STEM camp, and ultimately move the camp to the campus of Washington Adventist University. Advent Education Specialists managed the recruitment and registration of participants, and coordinated with another summer camp in the recruitment of participants. The original program content developed by Artivate and Big Learning remained intact from our original proposal. Partnering with the Takoma Academy and Advent Educational Specials served to enhance the proposed camp content.

The direct engagement with Advent Educational Specials with the Takoma Academy allowed for a strong content basis in mathematics, as well as adding computer-aided design and 3D printing to the workshop offerings for the summer camp. Additionally, the Advent Educational Specials enhanced the “flight” theme of our original Wings Academy model through the addition of experiential learning with radio controlled drones.

Big Learning educators led the students in eight days of hands-on engineering learning that involved the construction of two models of leaping frogs. Big Learning also joined in our field trip to the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, and coordinated a final field day of activities where students challenged themselves with leaping competitions. Camp participants also had the opportunity to wear ‘kangaroo legs’ bouncing stilts to experience how another member of the animal kingdom ‘launches’ themselves from place to place.

Artivate teaching artists engaged students in explorations of flight with Alicia Cosnahan leading two workshops – one highlighting the structure of bird wings and connecting to another artist’s creation of “Angel Wings” murals in cities around the world, and the second in which students created, decorated, and launched paper rockets. In addition, photographer Joanne Miller worked with participants on photographing nature and developing photographic skills, with each student receiving a matted 8”x10” print of an image of their selection as well as a flash drive with all their photos taken. Finally, artist and instructor Denise Jones applied mathematics with culture and history through the creation of paper quilt-patter banners in which the participants applied math skills to proportion and learned about messaging along the Underground Railroad and its application to regional history.

Challenges:
There were a few challenges faced. The most predominate was the challenge related to the overall success of recruiting efforts. At total of 35 participants were recruited and were divided according to mathematics level into one group of 24, predominately middle school age youth, and a second group of 11, which was predominately high school age. The Big Learning workshops and Artivate teaching artists were prepared for a total of 24-30 divided into two groups of 12-15 participants each. The content and participation was adjusted for the large group of 24 participants, but the difficulty came in ensuring safe practices. In particular, a third adult staffer needed to be added for
the Big Learning sessions as the hands-on engineering projects involved the use of utility knives and hot glue. The extra adult was able to monitor specific work stations, and we were able to minimize injuries.

Another challenge was in the form of Mother Nature – the two weeks of the summer camp also happened to coincide with the hottest weather of the summer, with multiple days spent under a Heat Advisory. This significantly limited outdoor activities, including moving the field day event to the indoor Music Building Rehearsal Hall. We were able to get the students outdoors for the nature photography as that was scheduled during the morning hours. Extra attention was given to keeping the participants cool and hydrated. The extreme heat also effected the afternoon schedule for the Big Learning workshops.

Out of an abundance of caution, Advent Educational Specialists coordinated bus transportation to ensure that no participant would need to walk home. Coordination with the bus transportation required shortening the afternoon workshops by 30 minutes (15 minutes less in each of two workshops each day). The reschedule particularly affected the participants from the Maple Avenue apartment complexes.

**Organization: COMMUNITY BRIDGES**
**Name:** Community Bridges Makerspace Program
**Potential Number of People Serving:** 60
**Request:** $5,370
**Grant Awarded:** $5,370

**Project Proposal:**
Community Bridges and Catylator propose a year-long program to bring girls to Catylator Makerspace to help them develop more positive attitudes and confidence about STEM, and help them stay engaged with STEM so they may be better prepared to choose any career, including STEM. We will bring middle school aged young women to Catylator, in an environment that is safe, welcoming and supportive for them. The groups will be consistent with and reinforce the connections Community Bridges is already developing with the girls to help them support each other in making healthy life choices. The Program will operate for six weeks.

**Project Outcomes:**
The Elementary School Maker Day took place on Thursday, May 25 at Piney Branch Elementary School from 1-3pm. We had 23 girls participate. The girls participated in a marshmallow challenge building exercise and building crazy bots (learning about electricity, building a circuit, then building and decorating the bots). The girls learned about STEM careers and how STEM can truly be fun. The girls all created different crazy bots they moved and danced. The school was extremely happy with the day and is working with us to bring the Community Bridges Girls Program to the school next school year.

The Blair High School and Takoma Park Middle School Big Sister Little Sister Program took place on Tuesdays at Catylator from 3-5pm through June 13. The girls designed, constructed and built bags that include wearable art with circuits out of conductive thread. The partnership has been great and now we have a class of incoming freshman to Montgomery Blair High School who have a big sister at the school. The girls learned about STEM while building a trusting relationship that will allow for an easier transition into high school. We are taking the girls camping at the C&O canal on August 2nd to continue fostering the mentor relationships.
Organization: DANCE EXCHANGE
Name: Support for Youth Programs at Dance Exchange
Potential Number of People Serving: 280
Request: $10,000
Grant Awarded: $5,740

Project Proposal:
Dance Exchange is seeking support for a reboot of our Youth Programs for our 2016/17 season, which includes weekly classes at our Dance Exchange studios for youth ages 8-18; a series of off-site youth classes held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center and the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center; an end of season performance called Youth Arts Night, and our week-long Teen Leadership Institute.

Project Outcomes:
Dance Exchange received a grant of $5740 from the City of Takoma Park to support our Youth Programs during our 2016/17 season. This support helped to fund weekly classes at our Dance Exchange studios for youth ages 8-18; a series of off-site youth classes held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center and the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center; an end of season performance called Youth Arts Night.

Dance Exchange’s Youth Programs connect directly to our mission of igniting inquiry, inspiring change, and connecting people of all ages more deeply to the questions at the heart of our lives through dancemaking and creative practices. We have found our youth programs to have a catalyzing effect on youth who have little or no access to the arts and who are encouraged to bring what they’ve learned at Dance Exchange back to their communities, schools, and families. We strive to make the arts not only accessible but a vital tool for implementing change in our society. Our Youth Programs enable us to work towards our goal of developing new practitioners who contribute to the evolution of our creative practices and developing young leaders who can implement change for the good of our world. These programs are small but mighty--because of the intimacy of the class sizes, we are able to make a greater impact on each student.

Funded Programs and Outcomes
During our 2016/17 season, Dance Exchange offered Teen Exchange and Youth Exchange at our Takoma Park Studios. Sessions occurred weekly on Thursdays, 4:15-5:15 PM (Youth Exchange) and Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 PM (Teen Exchange).

Dance Exchange’s Youth Programs offer opportunities for young movers and makers, ages 8-18, to develop their dance training and cultivate their artistic voice through performance and a collaborative creative process.

Our final classes for the season were held May 24, 2017. Classes were facilitated by Dance Exchange Associate Artistic Director Matthew Cumbie, and DX artists Sam Horning and Elizabeth Johnson.

- Youth Exchange: Our Youth Exchange, for ages 8-12, introduces youth to collaborative dancemaking and performance. In a supportive, inclusive, and youth-centered environment, students can explore their creative potential through dance training and choreography. During this grant period, Youth Exchange engaged with 6 students in the Fall session (Sept. 8- Dec 15), and 6 students in the Winter/Spring session (Jan. 19-May 25.) These students all resided in Takoma Park.

- Teen Exchange: Based on the core principles and practices of Dance Exchange, our Teen Exchange
offers opportunities for youth ages 13-18 to deepen their dance training and develop their choreographic potential through studio practice, performance, and creative organizational leadership. Teens collaborated closely with each other, and with Dance Exchange company members and co-directors Matthew Cumbie and Sam Horning. Through these sessions, members of the Teen Exchange created their own choreographic work, expanded their abilities as leaders in their community, developed new friendships, participated in Dance Exchange creative projects, and helped to organize and run the annual Youth Arts Night. During this grant period, 5 students were enrolled in the Fall session (Sept. 8- Dec 15) and 7 students were enrolled in our Winter/Spring session (Jan. 19-May 25). The majority of these students resided in Takoma Park.

To culminate our 2016/17 Youth Programs, Dance Exchange hosted our annual Youth Arts Night in our Takoma Park studios. This event brought together 13 youth performers and more than 50 attendees. The evening included dance, music, theatre, and more to celebrate youth artists, leaders, and changemakers.

Additionally support during this grant period helped fund Dance Exchange’s work with the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue and Takoma Park Community Center on Maple Avenue. Workshops were held in May and June, 2017. DX worked with youth (ages 5-12) and teens using creative practices and tools to explore relationships between each other and what they are learning in school. These workshops were facilitated by DX artists Sam Horning, Michelé Prince, Matthew Cumbie, Elizabeth Johnson, and Briana Stuart. While we were unable to track the income level of these students, most of these participants were in aftercare programs and lived in Takoma Park. Cumulatively, these programs reached approximately 40 participants.

Overall, we reached more than 100 youth, and family/community members through our 2016/17 Youth Programs, with the majority of these participants residing in Takoma Park. As discussed with the program officer, Dance Exchange was unable to track the income levels for participants, but has a plan in place to do so with City of Takoma Park funded programs going forward. In addition to reaching our attendance goals, we have made great strides in re-activing interest in these Youth and Teen Exchange programs for our current year, and we are offering more performance and community engagement opportunities in our current season as a response to a stated desire from last year’s participants. We are grateful for the City of Takoma Park in helping to advance our goals for this program.

Challenges and Next Steps
Our main challenge during this grant period was around recruitment for the Teen Leadership Institute, which had to be cancelled due to lack of enrollment. We had anticipated reaching local youth through this week-long institute and providing 3 low-income youth with scholarships to attend. We are working to secure community partners for this Institute going forward to help with recruitment and facilitation. We are taking lessons learned from this challenge as we plan and implement youth-focused programs this season, both in the offerings we are making available and in the partners we are working with to help us reach diverse populations in Takoma Park and the Greater DC Region. For our currently funded program from the City of Takoma Park, we are building partnerships with local elementary schools to recruit students for our local Moving Field Guide Spring Break and Summer Camps, as well as seeking advertising opportunities that will reach all populations in the region.

Organization: DOCS IN PROGRESS
Name: Documentary Dialogues Takoma
Potential Number of People Serving: 350  
Request: $10,000  
Grant Awarded: $8,238

Project Proposal:  
*Documentary Dialogues Takoma* will further that mission by focusing our efforts in one of Montgomery County's most diverse communities. This program will harness the power of video technology to engage Takoma Park residents through screenings, discussions, and hands-on activities to explore how stories define us, express our values, relate our experiences in human dimensions, and connect us with each other and the world around us.

Project Outcomes:  
The goal of Documentary Dialogues was to use documentary film as a tool of community engagement for Takoma Park area residents to see, discuss, and document the world around them. This was to be achieved by organizing and facilitating monthly free screening programs (except for July, August, and December) and a youth summer filmmaking camp, all held at the Takoma Park Community Center.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT AND DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>DATE(S)</th>
<th>#PARTICIPANTS (estimated since not all attendees RSVP or sign in)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Community Stories Festival | November 10, 2016  
Films produced by professional documentary filmmakers about local topics ranging from bicycling culture along the Metropolitan Branch Trail to a local muralist to a cat who runs for the Senate. | 120 (to Takoma Park screening) |
| Best of the Community Stories Festival | January 12, 2017  
Featured films not previously screened in Takoma Park by adults and youth in Docs In Progress production classes and camps. Topics included the Catylator Maker Space, dance classes for senior citizens, a metalhead turned luthier, and a western wear store and braiding shop on the “New Avenue.” | 45 |
| Vintage Movie Night | February 9, 2017 | 25 |
| Demythologizing the West  
Filmmaker Paul Moon and photographer Rebecca Drobis presented and discussed two perspectives on the contemporary American West – with Paul's work juxtaposing cowboy poetry with landscapes that visualize perseverance in today's western ranch culture, and Rebecca's work focused on the experiences of young people in Montana's Blackfeet Reservation. | March 9, 2017 | 46 |
<p>| Vintage Movie Night | April 13, 2017 | 21 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 11, 2017</td>
<td>Screening of <em>A Crooked Tune</em> Filmmaker Charles Cohen presented his documentary about fiddler Dave Bing as he works to keep West Virginia old-time music alive.</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8, 2017</td>
<td>Screening of <em>Women of Maidan</em> Filmmaker Olha Onyshko presented her documentary about how women were at the forefront of the protest movement by Ukrainian students in 2013.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 26-July 7, 2017</td>
<td>Youth Documentary Filmmaking Camp This 2-week camp for middle school and high school age youth was focused on documentary filmmaking with cameras and instruction provided by Docs In Progress, using the editing stations at the Takoma Park Community Center. The campers produced three short documentaries – about a local clown artist, the founder of Takoma Plays, and Capital City Cheesecake.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 14, 2017</td>
<td>Work-in-Progress Screening of <em>Trash Empire</em> The audience became part of the creative process by providing feedback on William Reid’s documentary-in-progress about how an experiment in dumpster diving became an expose about industrial food waste and food insecurity.</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12, 2017</td>
<td>Vintage Movie Night Richard Hall curated a selection of archival film clips on the theme of how Americans envisioned the “world of tomorrow.”</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to these screening programs, we organized two youth summer camps in Takoma Park (one funded under this grant and the other contracted by the Takoma Park Recreation Department). This resulted in six short documentaries being produced about Takoma Park subjects: a local clown, the founder of Let’s Play America, Capital City Cheesecake, Busboys and Poets, the Little Free Libraries, and local vintage shops helping fight against clothing waste.

**Challenges faced:**
The main challenge was related to the new grant requirements which required us to collect demographic data from participants. Unlike some other grantees, our programs are predominantly screening programs which are open to the general public and do not require advance registration or limitation to any one specific demographic. Our audiences are accustomed to being largely walk-up rather than advance RSVP, and many prefer not to sign in, let alone complete rather personal demographic surveys. What we did to address this challenge was to pass around the surveys, being very transparent as to why we were collecting this data, and that it would be completely anonymous, and be used only in aggregate. That said, despite making it as anonymous as possible and verbally stating why we needed the data, we were unable to convince more than half of the audience to complete the demographic surveys at any
screening. Additionally, the survey data we received back was often incomplete, particularly around people being willing to check a box indicating their annual income. In terms of income diversity, it really varied widely depending on the screening program; the ones with the lowest average income were often the ones with the lowest overall attendance, but this could also be skewed by participants not feeling comfortable sharing income data.

While we expanded our outreach efforts for the screening programs, ultimately we do not have control over who attends the screenings. Takoma Park residents made up the majority from any one place for all but two of the screenings, but some of the presenters also drew their own audiences from across the Washington DC-Metro area. While we recognize that the grant is intended to support programs for Takoma Park residents, we also see our programming as an opportunity to draw more people to Takoma Park to experience the gem of the auditorium facility and arts programming in the city. We have heard many remarks from attendees about how impressed they are by the space and are even aware (anecdotally) of a few people who have moved to Takoma Park in part because of the resources dedicated to arts and recreational programming.

The other challenge related to ensuring the summer camp would include lower income Takoma Park-resident youth. We earmarked half of the camp spots to go as subsidized spots for youth whose families met the criteria for the camp. Again we expanded outreach efforts to include printed outreach materials in Spanish as well as English, and organized information tables at events such as the Crossroads Community Market. Additionally, we reached out to Takoma Park schools, asking counselors and faculty to identify youth who would be interested in participating. Ultimately, neither of these efforts resulted in much success. Only two lower income students ended up participating in the camp, and both were Silver Spring residents. That said, the grant did allow us to offer an affordable camp for local residents and this camp (along with an additional one we through an agreement with the Takoma Recreation Department) engaged 19 middle school and high school-age students in Takoma Park, as they created six short documentaries about local Takoma Park topics.

Organization: MONTGOMERY COUNTY COLLABORATION COUNCIL
Name: African Arts Culture and Education Academy (ACE) Essex House Friday Program
Potential Number of People Serving: 25
Request: $9,412
Grant Awarded: $9,412

Project Proposal:
ACE (African Arts, Culture and Education) Academy Essex House Friday Program is a 21st Century Community Learning Center project operating 4 days each week from Mondays to Thursdays at Essex House in Takoma Park, focusing on reading, language arts, and African culture for students in grades 1-5. This proposed project will allow ACE Academy to offer and focus on teacher-led, STEM activities for all participants on Friday evenings as well.

Project Outcomes:
Students at Essex House enjoyed a variety of activities. All activities involved math and/or science. Projects included: Glow in the Dark Geometry, Let’s Get Loud, Time of Your Life, Toilet Paper Olympics, Spry Training, Flying Marshmallows, Zip Line Zoo, and Bouncy Dice Explosion. These activities were in kits supplied by the Bedtime Math’s Crazy 8s Club which provided lessons and supplies for 25 1st - 2nd grade and 25 3rd - 5th grade students. Other lessons
were from Wonder Kits and the activities included Tree Talk, Gak Polymers, and Fantastic Fossils. Each kit had direction and supplies for 25 students. Other activities were Human Skeleton, Hand Bones, Search of Starch and Ph Indicators. At the end of each lesson students wrote in their journals about what they learned and their observations. Each activity was successfully completed and students reported enjoying them.

Field Trips:
ACE Academy went on 3 field trips. Two were to the Montgomery College Planetarium where students learned about the solar system and one was to College Park, Maryland, for Maryland Day. At Maryland Day several exhibits had displays and students saw parts of the campus. Several parents went to Maryland Day as chaperones.

Highlight:
The Maryland Out Of School Time organization asked ACE Academy STEM to attend the Afterschool for All Challenge at the Senate Dirksen Building and to display an afterschool project to elected officials and other attendees. 5 students from the Essex House STEM Program travelled to the Senate Building and demonstrated to an audience how to make "Gak". Three parents, ACE Academy STEM staff, Captain Collington from Takoma Park Police and Seble Seyoum, Manager of Outreach, also attended the event.

Organization: MONTGOMERY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP
Name: 7610 Maple Outdoor Mural
Potential Number of People Serving: 34+ households
Request: $6,500
Grant Awarded: $6,500

Project Proposal:
Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) will facilitate the creation of an outdoor mural at its 7610 Maple apartment property. This 36-unit affordable housing property houses a total of 80 residents, including 27 children. The mural will be painted on a retaining wall adjacent to the building’s community center and outdoor playground, and will be clearly visible from the street. Residents, in particular children ages 9-12 who participate in our site-based homework club, will play an active part in creating the mural. The artwork will be permanent, durable, weather-proof, and most importantly express the unique character of the 7610 Maple community.

Project Outcomes:
MHP wanted a community art piece that residents viewed as theirs. During their spring break, 20 teens from the City of Takoma Park created a mural that spoke to them about living in Takoma Park, the diversity the City has, and its community. According to the teen participants, Takoma Park is a place where you can be who you are and no one pays attention to any thing that makes you look different.

Organization: TAKOMA ENSEMBLE
Name: Takoma Ensemble Community Outreach Initiative
Potential Number of People Serving: 300
Request: $10,000
Grant Awarded: $5,740
Project Proposal:
The project is to directly provide tickets to low-income/underserved residents of Takoma Park for four concerts.

Project Outcomes:
Given that the amount of funding granted was less than what was requested, the Takoma Ensemble presented two concerts with this grant funding, both of which explored the diversity of our community:


Both concerts took place at Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 633 Sligo Ave. CASA was the concert partner. For the first concert, a total of 82 tickets were distributed (including sales and vouchers). The audience in attendance consisted of approximately 65 people. 14 CASA members came through our ticket voucher program. Of those, 11 names were on the official list, which included the name of the CASA staff member who vouched for them.

Attendance numbers were not provided for the second concert.

Last updated: July 3, 2018
The following is a summary of the projects funded under the FY18 Community Quality of Life Grants Program. Narratives describing the activities performed under each grant were provided by each respective organization. Final Reports are due from the grantees on July 15, 2018. As such, a final summary of grantees' accomplishments will be provided to Council later in the summer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Total Project Budget</th>
<th>Grant Request</th>
<th>Recommended Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scout Troop 33</td>
<td>$23,617</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$7,368</td>
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<tr>
<td>CREATE Arts Center</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>DC Arts Center</td>
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<td>$6,575</td>
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<td>Dance Exchange</td>
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<td>$8,000</td>
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<td>Docs in Progress, Inc.</td>
<td>$18,396</td>
<td>$9,175</td>
<td>$9,175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic Takoma, Inc.</td>
<td>$28,459</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<td>Montgomery County Collaboration Council</td>
<td>$20,206</td>
<td>$9,882</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montgomery Community Television</td>
<td>$11,350</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Real Food for Kids - Montgomery</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>$180,504</strong></td>
<td><strong>$79,834</strong></td>
<td><strong>$75,000</strong></td>
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</table>

**Organization: CREATE ARTS CENTER (CREATE)**
Name: *smARTkids at TPES*
Potential Number of People Serving: 30
Request: $5,000
Recommended Funding Level: $5,000

CREATE Arts Center (CREATE) is seeking support for its *smARTkids* program at Takoma Park Elementary School. *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.

**Organization: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ARTS CENTER, INC. (DC ARTS CENTER)**
Name: *Takoma Park Refugee Theater Project*
Potential Number of People Serving: 160
Request: $6,575
Recommended Funding Level: $6,575
The Takoma Park Refugee Theater Project will be led by Takoma Park-based theater artist / ESOL teacher Leslie Sapp, who will work with a group of 15 adult refugees, asylees, and immigrants who reside in Takoma Park. Ms. Sapp will guide the participants through a series of ensemble theater-devising techniques and direct their co-creation of an original theatrical collage based on their life stories and their hopes and dreams for the future. The project will culminate in a presentation of this original theatrical collage before a live audience in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.

Organization: **DANCE EXCHANGE**  
Name: *Moving Field Guide Summer Camp*  
Potential Number of People Serving: 150  
Request: $10,000  
Recommended Funding Level: $8,000

Dance Exchange will lead a 5-day *Moving Field Guide Summer Camp* for 30-40 Takoma Park youth in grades 3-5, with scholarships providing free tuition for 15-20 youth from low-income families. This camp will be led by DX artists and naturalist in areas throughout Takoma Park, including Sligo Creek and the DX studios in August-September 2017.

Organization: **DOCS IN PROGRESS, INC.**  
Name: *Documentary Dialogues Takoma Park*  
Potential Number of People Serving: 350  
Request: $9,175  
Recommended Funding Level: $9,175

*Documentary Dialogues Takoma Park* will provide a combination of documentary film screenings/discussions and hands-on video production activities where Takoma Park youth and seniors will learn how to document local and personal stories.

Organization: **HISTORIC TAKOMA, INC. / TAKOMA RADIO**  
Name: *Takoma Radio Presents RadioActive*  
Potential Number of People Serving: 12  
Request: $10,000  
Recommended Funding Level: $10,000

*RadioActive* is a 40-week after-school audio production course for 12 underserved Takoma Park teens. Working in pairs and supervised by mentors, selected students will gather sound, conduct interviews, and create textured audio pieces based on their life experiences. The produced pieces will be broadcast and podcasted by Takoma Radio. This hands-on weekly course builds community through storytelling. *RadioActive* builds bridges. Life skills and healthy food will be featured at every meeting.
Organization: MONTGOMERY COUNTY COLLABORATION COUNCIL
Name: African Arts Culture and Education (ACE) Academy (Essex House Friday Program)
Potential Number of People Serving: 25
Request: $9,882
Recommended Funding Level: $9,882

ACE (African Arts, Culture and Education) Academy Essex House Friday Program is a 21st Century Community Learning Center project operating 4 days each week from Mondays to Thursdays at Essex House in Takoma Park, focusing on reading, language arts and African culture for students in grades 1-5. This proposed project will allow ACE Academy to offer and focus on teacher-led, STEM activities for all participants on Friday evenings as well, meeting the needs of working parents.

Organization: MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY TELEVISION
Name: Exploring Media
Potential Number of People Serving: 20
Request: $5,000
Recommended Funding Level: $5,000

MCM proposes to bring our Exploring Media program to the City of Takoma Park. MCM will offer one (1) 12-week long after school Media Explorer program, serving 20 students at Takoma Park Middle School. Students have an opportunity to work with media professionals and learn the basics of creating content, including storyboarding, scriptwriting, filming, and editing. Working in groups, students will create a short multimedia piece, such as a public service announcement (PSA), book review, or video blog. Completed student work can be shared on MCM’s broadcast channels, on YouTube, through social media, and with Takoma Park.

Organization: PYRAMID ATLANTIC ARTS CENTER (PYRAMID ATLANTIC)
Name: Pump House Pop-Up
Potential Number of People Serving: 300
Request: $6,500
Recommended Funding Level: $6,500

An eyesore becomes an attraction. Nestled in the slope of Hilltop 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. We will transform the concrete box to an outdoor “pop-up” gallery. The Pump House Pop-Up gallery will present two shoes. Takoma Park artist(s) will receive technical and artistic support at the site and at Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center (PAAC) for the second show. Show postcards, artist talks and history tours will further convey themes and inspiration.
Organization: **REAL FOOD FOR KIDS - MONTGOMERY**  
Name: *Nutrition Science After School Program*  
Potential Number of People Serving: 15  
Request: $7,702  
Recommended Funding Level: $7,500  

*The Nutrition Science After School Program* will serve 15 low- to moderate-income children at Takoma Park Middle School during the Spring 2018 semester. There will be no cost to participants.

Organization: **BOY SCOUT TROOP 33**  
Name: *Send a Scout to Summer Camp*  
Potential Number of People Serving: 75  
Request: $10,000  
Recommended Funding Level: $7,368  

*Send a Scout to Summer Camp* project will help under-served scouts and leaders participate in a fun, safe, STEM-focused learning experience at Boy Scout Summer Camp (Camp Horseshoe). The goal is to provide funding to engage scouts from low-income families to participate in this camp experience that fosters learning and leadership development. This grant would help continue Troop 33’s legacy of fostering learning and leadership skills across a diverse group of Takoma Park’s boys and young men, promoting service to our community as well as introduce scouts from low-income families to the Boy Scout STEM and other programs at Camp Horseshoe.

*Last updated: July 3, 2018*