



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – May 17, 2023 Agenda Item 5B

### **Voting Session (Consent Agenda)**

Single Reading Ordinance Approving FY24 Community Quality of Life Grant Awards

### **Recommended Council Action**

Approve the ordinance.

### **Context with Key Issues**

The City of Takoma Park's Community Quality of Life Grants Program provides up to \$10,000 for programs, projects, and events that improve the quality of life for City residents by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and science for predominantly low-and-moderate-income residents.

The program is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, overseen by the Housing Manager, and staffed by the City's Grants Coordinator. A Grants Review Committee comprised by residents appointed by the City Council, review all completed applications and develop funding recommendations annually. Funding recommendations are forwarded to the City Council following review and deliberations by the Grants Review Committee. In FY24, the City Council allocated \$110,000 for this program from ARPA funds.

### **Council Priority**

Advancing a Community of Belonging; Community Development for an Improved & Equitable Quality of Life

### **Environmental Considerations**

The Takoma Park Mobilization project, Takoma Park Elementary School Food Forest, will work with students at Takoma Park Elementary to incorporate environmental literacy into the school's curriculum. The food forest will become an outdoor classroom that will include an afterschool gardening club and bring gardening and nutrition curriculum to students.

### **Fiscal Considerations**

The dollar-for-dollar match requirement of the Community Grant Program is met (and often exceeded) by every Quality of Life grantee. For this reason, the program's value to the City is much larger than the City's investment/cost.

If the GRC's FY24 funding recommendations are adopted, the City's initial investment of \$110,000 will be leveraged by grantees to concentrate an additional \$280,000 in funding and resources.

### **Racial Equity Considerations**

In FY24, the Grants Review Committee (GRC) continued and deepened its commitment to race equity in all decision-making. For the last five years, the Committee has provided all applicants with

the City's resolution committing itself to systematically and deliberately applying a race equity lens in all decision-making. The Committee also, again for the fifth year, required that every applicant for funding explain how their proposed project incorporates racial equity.

**Attachments and Links**

- Draft Single Reading Ordinance

Introduced by: Councilmember

Single Reading

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-XX**

**AUTHORIZING AWARD OF FY24 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 2023; and

WHEREAS, fifteen (15) applications were received and fifteen (15) eligible applications were forwarded to the Grants Review Committee for review and evaluation; and

WHEREAS, a total of \$110,000 has been budgeted for the FY24 Community 'Quality of Life' Grants Program from ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, the funding recommendations of the Committee were presented to the Council for consideration on May 10, 2023; 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. FY24 Community Quality of Life Grants are awarded for the following projects:

Grantee	Project Name	Grant Amount
Per Scholas Inc.	Per Scholas IT Job Training	\$9,000.00
CREATE Arts Center	smARTkids Afterschool Art Education Program	\$6,000.00
Montgomery Community Media	Youth Media Academy (YMA)	\$9,000.00

Community Bridges, Inc.	Community Bridges Girls Program	\$9,000.00
Enterprise Community Development	After-school Program: Arts Enrichment, Academic Support, and Services	\$9,000.00
Upwardly Global	Building a Vibrant Takoma Park Through Immigrant Workforce Inclusion	\$9,000.00
Dance Exchange	Dance Exchange FY24 Dance On Cohort	\$9,000.00
So What Else Inc	So What Else: Takoma Park	\$9,000.00
GB Youth Media	Takoma Park in (Moving) Pictures: Tell Your Story	\$8,200.00
Takoma Park Mobilization	Takoma Park Elementary School Food Forest	\$8,200.00
Carpe Diem Arts	Carpe Diem Arts' Ukes on the Move at Piney Branch	\$8,200.00
Ethiopian Community Center Inc	Ethiopian Community Center Inc	\$8,200.00
Docs In Progress	Village Reels	\$8,200.00

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, 2023.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: