



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Grants Management Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin and City Council Members

FROM: Lorrie Pearson, AICP, Community Development Services Director
Sheila Dodd, Manager, Grants Management Division

DATE: July 29, 2021

SUBJECT: A Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of an AARP Community Challenge Grant
(Growing Community Program)

Description

Urbana's Arts and Culture Program was recently awarded a grant for the Growing Community Program through AARP's Community Challenge in the amount of \$20,000. Urbana's Growing Community Initiative is a public art initiative that invites local artists to design and install artworks in selected community gardens, inclusive of installation works, murals, sculptures, and benches. Artwork will be selected through a jury process, will engage the mission of each community garden, celebrating sustainability, diversity, the local food systems, native plants, and community-building among neighbors. Selected artwork will not only engage in creative placemaking and beautification, but offer arts-based ways to amplify support for the work of Urbana's smaller community gardens and their resources.

Artworks selected through the jury process will be chosen for their creative and innovative ways they invite engagement with the dynamic local history of community gardens, showcase cultural diversity of Urbana, and create additional garden infrastructure such as benches, games, music, and vibrancy as well as improve disability access, language accessibility, and intergenerational engagement. Growing Community projects will be installed at Cunningham Township Community Garden, Victory Park Community Garden, Habitat for Humanity Community Garden, Meadowbrook Community Gardens, and the Peace Garden.

The grant is an award in the amount of \$20,000. A copy of the grant agreement explaining the terms will be attached to the resolution for review before the August 9, 2021, meeting of City Council. Staff is bringing the resolution to the Committee of the Whole prior to receiving the agreement due to the short project completion timeline; projects are slated to be completed by mid-October. As indicated, funds received by this grant will be used specifically to support the Growing Community Program.

Fiscal Impact

There will be no fiscal impact on the City General Fund, as the funding comes from AARP. All increases in revenues and expenditures related to this grant are included in the omnibus budget amendment brought forth by the Human Resources/Finance Department.

Options

1. Forward the Resolution to City Council with a recommendation for approval with suggested changes.
2. Forward the Resolution to City Council with no recommendation due to not having the grant terms.
3. Do not forward the Resolution to accept the AARP grant.

Recommendation

Staff recommends forwarding the Resolution to City Council with no recommendation until the grant agreement can be provided to Council.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF
AN AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT**

GROWING COMMUNITY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana (the “City”) is a home rule unit of local government pursuant to Article VII, Section 6, of the Illinois Constitution, 1970, and may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs, and the passage of this Resolution constitutes an exercise of the City’s home rule powers and functions as granted in the Illinois Constitution, 1970; and

WHEREAS, the City operates an arts and culture program known as the “Urbana Arts and Culture Program” (the “Arts Program”); and

WHEREAS, the City has in one or more years accepted funds from various grants in order to fund the Arts Program; and

WHEREAS, AARP Community Challenge has offered a grant (“Grant”) in the amount of \$20,000 to allow the City to install murals, sculptures, and benches in community gardens to support the Arts Program; and

WHEREAS, the City is willing to accept the Grant on the terms and conditions provided by AARP as described in the exhibit appended hereto and made a part hereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the AARP’s Community Challenge Grant to install murals, sculptures, and benches in community gardens to support the Arts Program shall be and hereby is accepted by the City and that the City shall abide by the terms and conditions provided in the exhibit attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Section 2. That the Mayor of the City of Urbana, Illinois, be and the same is hereby authorized to undertake such additional steps as may be necessary for the City to receive the Grant and to arrange for the City's compliance with the terms and conditions contained in the exhibit appended hereto and made a part hereof without further actions by the City Council.

PASSED by the City Council this ___ day of _____, _____.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this ___ day of _____, _____.

Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor