2021 Regional Parks System Competitive Equity Grant Program: Program Priorities

December 3, 2020

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission
Purpose of today’s discussion

- Share proposed Regional Parks System Equity Grant Program priorities based on what we learned at MPOSC, Community Development Committee, Agency meetings, and through research
- Provide opportunity for input on the 2021 program development
Equity Grant Program
Focus Areas

• Projects must advance equitable use of the Regional Parks System with a focus on one or more of the following:
  – Race
  – Ethnicity
  – Income
  – Ability
  – Age
  – National Origin
Funding for the Equity Grant Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council bonds for capital projects</td>
<td>$664,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks interest earnings for non-capital/programming projects</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,064,000</strong></td>
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Competitive Capital Projects

- Applications may range from $20,000 to $200,000
- Agencies may submit multiple grant applications, but no agency may receive more than a total of $200,000 in capital funds
- Examples include park and trail signage, mobile classrooms, bike fleets, accessible facilities, and public art
  - Engagement/outreach may be included in the budget for capital projects if it directly informs the project being proposed
Competitive Programming/Non-Capital Projects

• Applications may range from $20,000 to $200,000

• Agencies may submit multiple applications, but no agency may receive more than a total of $200,000 in non-capital funds

• Examples of programming projects include outdoor education and skill building, events, outreach, partnership-building, marketing, communications, training, translation and interpretation services, developing an ADA transition plan, and new programming staff

• Non-capital projects may include budgeting for equipment valued at less than $5,000 (such as basic essential outdoor equipment)
Review Process

• A review team will score the proposals and make recommendations for funding to the Council

• The review team will be comprised of:
  – Up to 4 Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission members
  – Up to 3 Community Development Committee members
  – Up to 2 Equity Advisory Committee members
  – Up to 3 Implementing Agency representatives
Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

• Uses criteria from 2019 pilot program for 2021 program as a foundation
  – Condensed for a simpler review process
• Prioritize programming, partnership building, and internal collaboration with outreach staff
• 5 review categories:
  – Impact on equitable use
  – Community partnerships
  – Community engagement
  – Capacity building
  – Programming initiatives
Project Timelines and Reporting

• 3-year grant terms
  – Possible one-year extension
• Semi-annual reports
• Final outcomes report prior to final reimbursement
Next Steps

• January: bring the Notice of Funding Availability to MPOSC
• February: application period opens for approximately 6 weeks
• March/April: staff review of applications
• April/May: review committee meets and provides funding recommendations
• June: staff brings funding recommendations to the Council for approval
Discussion

• Do the priorities reflect MPOS C’s thoughts/priorities?
• Are there areas that are unclear or that could use additional clarity or explanation?
• Are you comfortable moving forward with the next steps?
Questions, Comments, and Discussion

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