

MPAC Worksheet

Agenda Item Title: Community Placemaking grant program update

Presenters: Dana Lucero and several Community Placemaking grantees

Contact for this worksheet/presentation: Dana Lucero, Metro Planning, Development and Research, dana.lucero@oregonmetro.gov

Purpose/Objective

Update MPAC members on Metro's Community Placemaking grant program, hear firsthand stories from community members supported by the program and share the 2022 grant award winners.

Outcome

Staff welcomes suggestions for outreach for future grant cycles and invites MPAC members to share the grant opportunity with constituents.

What has changed since MPAC last considered this issue/item?

Metro sustains its commitment to community-led, equity-centered, arts and culture based efforts through our Community Placemaking grants. These grants support creative solutions to regionally significant and complex issues. Metro has awarded just over \$1 million in 58 grants to community groups since beginning the program in 2017.

In the 2022 cycle, we received 82 applications requesting more than \$1.7 million in funding. As you can see in the attached document, the proposals once again are deeply personal and address the most pressing issues facing our region. The grant review panel, comprised of a Metro Council member and six people of color who work at the intersection of arts and culture and social justice, selected 11 groups to receive a total of \$193,000. The 2022 grants support Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Japanese, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Trans, Queer communities, culturally specific small business owners, farmers of color, women who have experienced trauma and BIPOC elders and youth. The efforts will occur across the Metro region in places such as Gresham, Fairview, Tualatin, Hillsboro, in various locations in Portland and virtually.

A few things are notable in this cycle. Nearly half the efforts center on the intergenerational transfer of wisdom, stories and culture sharing. Four support Indigenous-led efforts, two of which will use multiple Metro parks as welcoming and accessible places to bring Indigenous artists and community members together.

Other refinements made to the program reflect community feedback and best practices in the field of equity-centered placemaking.

- In the 2021 cycle, we offered the choice to submit a video application instead of written responses.
- In the 2022 cycle, we translated application materials for the 13 most commonly spoken languages other than English and offered to accept and translate applications in languages other than English.

Applications for the 2023 cycle will open in early August, with applications due early October Grant awards announced in early January 2023. As always, staff encourages anyone interested in the opportunity to reach out for one-on-one assistance.

What packet material do you plan to include?

- Themes from the 2022 grant applications