

MPAC Worksheet

Agenda Item Title: Community Placemaking grant program update

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Purpose/Objective

Staff is pleased to provide an update on Metro's Community Placemaking grant program, including information about the 2017 grantees and the upcoming 2018 cycle opening in January.

The Community Placemaking program inspires people to tackle community challenges through creative, arts-based, equity-focused projects by providing financial resources, technical assistance and forums to support each other. Placemaking is nationally recognized and practiced as a bottom-up planning and equity tool because it allows us to look at regional issues that are complex and difficult to address and test small-scale, innovative, community-driven solutions. The program advances Metro's six desired outcomes, our racial equity strategy and the 2040 Vision.

For the 2017 pilot cycle, Metro received 53 applications from around the region requesting more than \$950,000 in funding, nearly ten times the \$100,000 available. The six funded projects are grassroots, community-defined solutions for livability. They come from and support our black, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander and youth communities. They use art and engagement to address pressing regional issues, such as:

- the damage of displacement faced by the African American community
- pedestrian safety and community pride in a racially diverse and international area
- environmental hazards in low-income, communities of color
- leadership development and exposure to opportunities for disadvantaged youth while creating ownership and responsibility for community resources

The 2018 cycle will open in early January, and up to \$160,000 is available for grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000. No matching funds are required. Information sessions are taking place around the region in December. Staff is available for individualized assistance throughout the application window. Applications are due in early February, and awards will be announced in April.

Action Requested/Outcome

Staff welcomes suggestions for outreach for the upcoming grant cycle and invites MPAC members to share the opportunity with their constituents.

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

The 2018 cycle will pilot a target area approach in addition to the region-wide grants. Investing in projects within a target area supports issues of regional significance where Metro is actively engaged. When Metro plans for public investments in an area, we affect that area in intentional and unintentional ways. Community Placemaking projects create strong, resilient communities that are more able to effect and absorb change. These projects also help Metro build partnerships with community members we may not otherwise interact with. A Community Placemaking target area

can be a specific geography, such as the Southwest Corridor area selected for 2018, or issue-based, such as affordable housing.

- Up to \$100,000 can be awarded to projects in the Metro region outside the 2018 target area described below.
- This year's target area aligns with Metro's work in the Southwest Corridor. Up to \$60,000 can be awarded to projects within or related to the target area, which includes the cities of Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood, Durham, King City and portions of Southwest Portland, Beaverton and unincorporated Washington County. Learn more about planning for a new light rail line, pedestrian, bicycle and safety improvements, and equitable development at oregonmetro.gov/swcorridor.
- There is a single application for all applicants, regardless of where the project is located.

What packet material do you plan to include?

2018 Community Placemaking grants fact sheet