

# MPAC Worksheet

**Agenda Item Title:** Community Placemaking grant program update

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## **Purpose/Objective**

Update MPAC members on the progress of Metro's Community Placemaking grant program, hear from community members supported by the program and share the newly announced 2019 grant award winners.

## **Action Requested/Outcome**

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

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

Summer 2019 will see the start of the third cycle of community-driven efforts supported by Community Placemaking grants. As you may recall, these grants help people tackle challenges through creative, arts-based, equity-focused projects. This approach allows us to look at regional issues that are complex and difficult to address and test small-scale, innovative solutions. These investments help people create or sustain the vibrant places envisioned in the region's 2040 Growth Concept. The program is also a tangible way we are fulfilling our commitment to racial equity as described in the Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the Planning and Development Department's Strategy for Achieving Racial Equity.

Program objectives were refined and simplified for the 2018 cycle.

- *Placemaking:* People's connections to each other and to places they care about are strengthened.
- *Equity:* People of color and members of historically marginalized communities have power and resources to influence their neighborhoods and communities.
- *Partnerships:* People's efforts are maximized because they work in partnership with each other and with Metro.
- *Leadership:* People participate in projects and decisions that affect them.

To date, Metro has funded 23 projects at a total of \$428,789 supporting our Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian and Pacific Islander, Muslim, at-risk youth, disabled youth, LGBTQ and immigrant and refugee communities. We see widespread enthusiasm for the program, dwarfed only by the clear and overwhelming need for this type of support. During the 2019 cycle we received 78 applications representing partnerships with 468 organizations, groups and institutions. Over the last three cycles, communities requested more than \$3.5 million.

Our approach to evolving this program includes elements of regional significance. The nearly 200 applications offer rarified exposure to how communities define both challenges and their ideas for solutions, a perspective impossible to gain when people participate through our conventional planning efforts. We will document and broadly share what we learn from this. We will invite community members to directly engage with staff and elected leaders around the most pressing themes that emerge from the application pool. Additionally, we will implement a consistent form of evaluation across the diverse grant projects, which will further inform our understanding of the impacts of these community-defined solutions.

## **What packet material do you plan to include?**

Community Placemaking fact sheet and Community Placemaking 2019 grant application handbook