



## Strategic Partnership Grants Committee

November 12, 2020

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

### **In attendance:**

Committee Members: Annie Carpenter; Doug Clarke; Kevin McAbee; Chuck Rosenblum; Rebecca Strimer; Liz Ward;

County Staff: Rachael Nygaard; Angelyn Johnson; Amanda Stratton; Heather Parkinson

Other: Sunshine Request

### **Opening Remarks**

Rachael reminded everyone that Committee meetings are open meeting and are being recorded and live streamed by Sunshine Request. Please identify yourself when speaking. All votes will be conducted by roll call.

Doug appreciated the site visits, both virtual and in-person, that had taken place. Annie agreed that we learned a lot, even in the virtual platform. Rebecca found them very helpful and is interested in how the Committee will use the post-survey information. Angelyn said she would summarize the post-visit surveys and share with the Committee at the December meeting, after all visits are completed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chuck Rosenblum made a motion to approve the minutes from September 3 and Doug Clarke seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote. Kevin McAbee made a motion to approve the minutes from September 17 and Rebecca Strimer seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **Old Business**

Doug asked about the vacant District 1 seat. Rachael said that the County received 3 applications. In the hopes for a more diverse applicant pool, the Commissioners have opted to keep that seat open longer. The Committee and the County will attempt to advertise the seat to a broader audience to increase applicants. Rebecca will reach out to Davidson about his ideas for a replacement as well.

### **New Business**

- Equity in Grant-making presentation & discussion – County staff, Amanda Stratton and Heather Parkinson, facilitated a process review of the Strategic Partnerships Committee grant-making cycle through an equity lens.
  - Equity – just and fair inclusion in which all can participate and reach their full potential;
  - Diversity – presence of diverse and different participants and opinions;
  - Inclusion – authentic participation with a sense of belonging
  - Equity Lens – being deliberately inclusive in the decision making process
- The notes from this session is included as part of these mutes.
- Kevin, Chuck, and Rebecca volunteered to evaluate the scoring and criteria categories to consider a more equitable process for applicants.

### **Announcements**

There were no announcements



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### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments

### **Next Meeting**

December 3, 2020; 1:00 – 2:30 pm; Virtual Meeting



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# Grant Application Opens

## Consider:

- Funding priorities
- Funding requested
- Application
  - Communication
  - Criteria
  - Questions
  - Attachments
  - Online portal



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## Feedback:

- Technology barriers – be aware of these differences
  - Provide assistance
  - Question early on that asks if they would like assistance
- Grant writing process – be aware of differences in ability/experience
  - Provide assistance
    - Contract with someone to provide this?
- Reubric – reflects the grant writer's ability to write well vs. the quality of the program
- How is the program announced/advertised?
  - Should we look at this by focus area to ensure diversity across those areas?
  - Word of mouth is helpful
  - Consistent use of press release – worded in a way that encourages organizations who haven't applied before to apply
    - Use the focus area language in a way to get interest
  - Tag-team with other county entities
  - Review which institutions are receiving the press release



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- If not happening county-wide, include as a part of this process
- Identify black-led organizations who have historically not had access to this kind of funding (ex. Cothinkk) and target them for outreach
- Grant funding amounts
  - Offer standardized amounts of grant funding
  - could help stratify organizations in to different groups vs. giving funds to the groups that score the highest overall
    - make sure the good grant writers are not necessarily the ones receiving all of the funds
    - option: level funding between focus areas



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# Community Engagement Session

- Consider:
  - Communication
  - Purpose
  - Format
  - Timing



- Do we want to do this as part of this committee's process?
- Is this moot because the community helped weigh in on the Strategic Plan priorities?



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# Grant Writing Workshop

- Consider:
  - Communication
  - Purpose
  - Format
  - Timing
  - Staff Support
  - Number of Sessions



Who does it impact?  
Individuals/community  
disproportionately affected?  
Perpetuate or dismantle  
barriers?  
Any disparities?



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- It feels like grant writing is the “fence” – is this really the “ramp/box” part of the process?
- Is there a way to make staff assistance more formal?
  - Calendar where organizations can sign-up?
- Have a second session that’s more detailed:
  - Specifically talk about what the committee is looking for with each question
  - Tips for grant writing
- Working session with volunteer grant writers/make those connections
- Submit bullet points and have someone available to help craft that in to a narrative
- Include automatic availability of translation and live interpretation



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# Applications Due

- Consider:
  - Communication
  - Timing
  - Staff Support
  - Application Details
  - Online Portal



- Review of application questions and scoring criteria needed
  - Volunteer: Chuck, Kevin, Rebecca
- Recommendation: Ask whole committee for feedback on the questions/criteria and then have the subcommittee do some of the consolidation/re-write
- Review of the evaluation section of the application needed (ongoing evaluation of the program/project)
  - Improve the prompt
  - Could possibly merge with results
  - A place where people might have taken a 10 or 20 point hit
- Sustainability – are we asking about a revenue stream/diverse portfolio/other grants in the works? How does this rubric work? Does this favor more well-resourced nonprofits?
- Survey to grant recipients who are not currently well-represented to get their feedback
- Ask Commissioner Edwards for feedback



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# Applications Reviewed by Committee

## Consider:

- Purpose
- Scoring criteria
- Review by committee members
- Follow up questions
- Timing
- Legal review
- Grantee involvement



Who does it impact?  
Individuals/community  
disproportionately affected?  
Perpetuate or dismantle  
barriers?  
Any disparities?



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- Large amount of applications to review within a short timeframe
  - Could this be a year-round process?
  - Possibly a quarterly review by focus area?
  - Would allow for better review with equity lens/
  - Need additional time for preparation before conversations about the applications
- Need to provide better understanding about the committee's time commitment to this process
- Balance time available to applicants and to the committee
- Cut in half the number of scores to give to each grantee?
- Increase the size of the committee and not everyone reviews the same areas?
  - Join the committee by a specific focus area





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# Committee Funding/Grant Recommendations

### Consider:

- Communication
- Purpose
- Format
- Timing
- Criteria



Who does it impact?  
Individuals/community  
disproportionately affected?  
Perpetuate or dismantle  
barriers?  
Any disparities?



- When review scoring, review through an equity lens during that process as well
- Interview process with grantees
  - Divide between committee members
  - Committee members submit questions in advance
  - Good opportunity to get a sense of the grantees greater than what's on the page
  - Consider how to not make this a burden
- How do we incorporate participant feedback/experience?
  - Application question?
  - Interview?
- Did we capture every decision made of the scoring process so not to have to go through that again?



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### **Parking Lot**

- What about the work the group does between the awarding of grants and the application re-opening?
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