

Agenda Report

July 27, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Housing Department
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF PASADENA ASSISTANCE FUND GRANT AWARDS FOR 2020 & 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council take the following actions:

- 1) Find that the recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines per Section 15061 (b) (3), the General Rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment; and
- 2) Approve Pasadena Assistance Fund allocation for grant award in the amount of \$100,000 for program years 2020 and 2021.

ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

On July 8, 2020 the Human Services Commission recommended that City Council approve the staff recommendation to award the 2020 & 2021 PAF grants.

BACKGROUND:

On March 1, 2013 the City of Pasadena transferred \$1.7 million from the Human Services Endowment Fund to the Pasadena Community Foundation (PCF) to create the Pasadena Assistance Fund (PAF). The PAF is an endowment fund managed by PCF. The City retains authority over awarding grants from earnings generated by the fund. All donations to the endowment become part of the principal and remain in the fund forever. Profits are grown from the principal through investment tools utilized by PCF. Those profits are then granted to Pasadena non-profit agencies that provide human services to Pasadena residents. The PAF represents a partnership between the City and PCF to

and PCF to serve the local community. Since inception, the fund has grown to over \$2.58 million, and has awarded over \$350,000 to Pasadena non-profit agencies. Those who wish to donate to the endowment fund may do so by searching for the Pasadena Assistance Fund at the Pasadena Community Foundation website www.pasadenacf.org.

As a supplement to the federally-funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the PAF was included as a funding source in the amount of \$100,000 in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) that was issued on November 1, 2019, and advertised to the public of the opportunity for non-profits to apply for funding. A total of four applications were received for PAF grant funding in the 2020 and 2021 program years (PY). One application was deemed ineligible for not meeting the non-profit organization requirement. Program applications were evaluated by a scoring committee made up of Housing staff and Human Services commissioners. The table below is a summary of the three eligible applications in ranking order.

#	Non-Profit Agency	Project Description	Score
1	Armory Center for the Arts	<u>Pasadena Community Programs for Kids & Teens</u> This program will offer high quality, multi-session arts instruction courses to over 300 young people. Course are provided throughout the year free of charge at easily accessible neighborhood centers, social service organizations, and schools as extracurricular activities.	<u>94.8</u>
2	Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena	<u>Arts with an "S"</u> This program will offer innovative and enriching arts programming to over 475 young people. Multiple 10-week sessions will focus on visual arts, performing arts, and digital arts.	<u>83.3</u>
3	Armenian Relief Society	<u>Community Social Service Programs</u> This program will provide case management services to over 200 young adults and seniors targeting those with limited English capability.	<u>78.8</u>

Through the NOFA, two (2) grant awards are available, each in the amount of \$50,000 (with \$25,000 to be disbursed annually for PY 2020 and PY 2021). Staff recommends that PAF funds be awarded to the two highest ranking program applicants - the Armory Center of the Arts, and Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3), the "General Rule" provision of CEQA which applies to projects which may have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is

no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The approval of the proposed Pasadena Assistance Fund grant awards is a funding mechanism only and is excluded from the definition of "project" pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4). Furthermore, the action proposed herein will not have a significant effect on the environment and, hence, is not subject to CEQA.

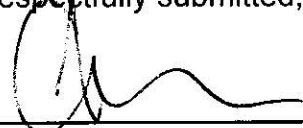
COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This proposed action supports the City Council Strategic Planning Three-Year Goals in the areas of improving, maintaining, and enhancing public facilities and infrastructure; improving mobility and accessibility throughout the City of Pasadena; and supporting and promoting the quality of life and the local economy.


FISCAL IMPACT:

The recommended actions will have no direct fiscal impact. Approval of the Pasadena Assistance Fund PY20 & PY21 awards by the City Council will support the endowment fund's purpose to help Pasadena residents build better lives through grants to local human service organizations serving Pasadena.

Respectfully submitted,


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Housing Director

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for RANDY MABSON
Program Coordinator

Approved by:


STEVE MERMELL
City Manager