# City of Asheville Staff Report

## *City Council Meeting Date:* *September 22, 2026*

## *Staff Resources:* *Promise Boseman, Workforce Development Coordinator, and Rachel Taylor, Economic Development Division Manager, Housing and Economic Development Department*

## *Action Requested:* *Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Asheville City Schools Foundation to provide funding for the after-school program In Real Life.*

## *Background:*

- The In Real Life (IRL) initiative delivers high-quality, hands-on, and inclusive after-school experiences to Asheville Middle School students.
- Since at least 2019, the after-school model has maintained a consistent partnership with the City of Asheville for financial sustainability.
- As a comprehensive programmatic resource, IRL offers dependable student support and coordinates essential transportation services through Asheville City Schools.
- The program fosters youth development by providing mentorship opportunities while cultivating advanced problem-solving capabilities and critical thinking proficiencies.
- IRL remains dedicated to facilitating equitable access that empowers students to discover personal interests and spark creative innovation.
- During the 2025-2026 academic term, the program successfully engaged a total of 203 students.

## *Vendor Outreach:*

- N/A

## *Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):*

- Thriving Local Economy

## *Council Priority Recovery Area(s):*

- N/A

## *Committee(s):*

- N/A

## *Fiscal Impact:*

- This agreement will result in the Asheville City Schools Foundation receiving $45,000 to run the after-school program In Real Life. This funding is already included in the FY 2026-27 Operating Budget.

## *Suggested Motion:*

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Asheville City Schools Foundation to provide funding in the amount of $45,000 for the after-school program, Real Life.

## *Attachment(s):*

- Resolution

# City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Asheville City Schools Foundation to accept funding for the after-school program In Real Life.

Whereas, pursuant to N.C.G.S. §160D-1311, the City is authorized to appropriate and expend funds for community development programs and activities including programs concerned with the education needs of persons of low and moderate income; and

Whereas, the In Real Life program, provides high quality, hands-on, accessible after-school programming which fosters youth development by providing mentorship opportunities while cultivating advanced problem-solving capabilities and critical thinking proficiencies. The program is open to all Asheville City Schools middle school students, and offers a sliding-scale fee option that is based upon parent/caregiver income which is supported by this funding, thereby making the program available to low and moderate income families; and

Whereas, the City has maintained a consistent partnership with the In Real Life program to ensure financial sustainability and desires to continue this funding partnership; and

Whereas, the City Council's Adopted Budget includes funding for In Real Life under the category of Non-Departmental Community and Resident Services on pages D-25 and D-26; and in the City Council's 2036 Vision under, "An Equitable and Diverse Community;" and

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Asheville City Schools Foundation to provide funding in the amount of $45,000 for the after-school program, In Real Life.

Read, approved and adopted this 22th day of September, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk