STAFF REPORT

City Council Meeting Date: November 14, 2023

Subject: Strategic Partnership Grant Program Funding Recommendations

Staff Resources: Rachel Taylor, Economic Development Specialist

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution approving the recommended allocation of $50,000 in prior year Strategic Partnership Grant Program for the Asheville PEAK Academy and authorizing the City Manager to execute the grant agreement.

Background:

- On September 19, 2023, the Equity and Engagement Committee (EEC) reviewed two options for allocating $50,000 in remaining funds from the first round of the revised Strategic Partnership Grant.
- Following their review of the two options presented, the EEC directed staff to provide additional background information related to the applications from the first round (Summer 2022) and second round (Spring 2023) of grant funding.
- In response to this request, staff prepared a detailed appendix (attached below) that includes links to all of the materials requested by the EEC.
- The EEC also directed staff to conduct additional engagement related to the allocation of the $50,000 available from previous grant cycles.
- Following this direction, staff surveyed applicants and also included those responses in the attached appendix.
- During the October 13, 2023 EEC meeting, staff provided a brief update on the award data associated with Round 1 (Summer 2022) and Round 2 (Spring 2023) grant cycles.
    - All of the Round 2 Strategic Partnership Grant award agreements are now under contract and three of the six award agreements have requested and received payment.
- During the October 13 EEC meeting, staff also presented the committee options to reallocate the remaining $50,000 available from previous grant cycles.
- The EEC voted unanimously to recommend the allocation of $50,000 in Strategic Partnership Grant program funding for Asheville PEAK Academy.
- Asheville PEAK Academy intends to use Strategic Partnership Grant funding to support its "It Takes A Village" initiative.
- This program focuses on offering competitive wages and benefit packages to hire and retain highly qualified staff.
- This program will directly serve 10 highly qualified staff members who will educate approximately 216 scholars from public housing or low-income communities in Asheville for the current school year.

Council Goal(s):

- An Equitable and Diverse Community
- A Connected and Engaged Community

Committee(s):

- Equity and Engagement on 10-13-2023 - Heard staff recommendations; approved unanimously as described in suggested motion below.

Pro(s):

- This option allows for the redistribution of round 1 grant cycle funds based on recommendations from the Equity and Engagement Committee.

Con(s):

- None.

Fiscal Impact:

- Funding for this allocation is available in the Strategic Partnership Program.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve the recommended allocation of $50,000 available from previous Strategic Partnership Grant Program cycles for Asheville PEAK Academy and authorize the City Manager to execute the grant agreement.

Program	Agency	Recommended Funding
Asheville PEAK Academy Charter School	Asheville PEAK Academy	$50,000
	Total	**$50,000**
Total Grant Award Recommendation		**$50,000**

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Application
- Equity & Engagement Presentation-10-13-2023
- Round 1 & 2 Materials Appendix

RESOLUTION NO. 23-_____

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION OF ALLOCATION OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING AWARD AVAILABLE FROM PREVIOUS GRANT CYCLES AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GRANT AGREEMENT WITH ASHEVILLE PEAK ACADEMY

WHEREAS, the scope of the Strategic Partnership Program is to address impacts of the opportunity gap by supporting low to moderate income school-aged youth in and out of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Partnership Program is funded through the City of Asheville's General Fund; and

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 concerning the education and welfare needs of persons of low and moderate income; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations for grant program funding as follows:

Program	Agency	Recommended Funding
Asheville PEAK Academy Charter School	Asheville PEAK Academy	$50,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The recommended allocation for the Strategic Partnership Grant Program funding as outlined above are hereby approved and the City Manager is authorized to execute the Strategic Partnership grant agreement.

Read, approved and adopted this 14th day of November, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney