THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: April 11, 2023

Subject: Grant Funding for Pack Square Plaza Implementation

Staff Resource(s): Steph Monson Dahl, Urban Design and Long Range Planning Manager
Ben Woody, Assistant City Manager, Interim Planning and Urban Design Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution to authorize the City Manager to apply for a grant from the Mellon Foundation's Monuments Project in an amount up to $3,000,000.

Background:

- The Mellon Foundation has invited the City to apply for up to $3,000,000 in grant funds from their Monuments Project Initiative; the grant deadline is April 27, 2023.
- The grantor requested the City and County partner on three work areas (outlined below) identified by the community in the Pack Square Plaza Visioning Project community engagement process.
- The target public release date to start review of the plan is April 17, 2023; Council consideration to adopt is targeted for June 27, 2023.
- Grant funds would be used to:
    - Design and engineer 100% construction drawings for the former Vance Monument site and the surrounding plaza;
    - Design and construct a gateway corridor on S.Market Street to connect Pack Square and The Block;
    - Improve and expand programming, education and training that result in more diverse and inclusive historical narratives (primarily led by Buncombe County).
- Grant awards will be announced in June 2023; the term of the grant is approximately two years.

Council Goal(s):

- Improve/Expand Core Services

Committee(s):

- Asheville Downtown Commission - March 10, 2023 - Unanimous support
- Planning & Economic Development Committee of City Council - March 13, 2023 - Unanimous support (2-0) to apply for grant

Pro(s):

- Provides an alternative revenue source for City activities
- Supports the City's ability to implement plans in a timely manner

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- If awarded, the grant will fund design costs for future capital projects. Although funding for construction of these projects has not been identified, staff will work to assess City funding capacity and identify other funding opportunities as part of capital budget development.
- Future construction funding from the Mellon Foundation is possible.
- Matching funds are not required for this grant.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to apply for, and if awarded, execute all documents in order to accept up to $3,000,000 in grant funds from the Mellon Foundation.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, AND IF AWARDED, ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE MELLON FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S.§ 160A-17.1 to accept grants and loans; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2021 Asheville City Council adopted resolution 21-64 to approve removal of the Vance Monument; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2021 Asheville City Council passed ordinance 4362 to amend the budget in order to provide $70,000 towards a community visioning process aimed at guiding the future repurposing of the site; and

WHEREAS, The City desires to implement its plans and anticipates the Pack Square Vision Plan to be considered for adoption at Council this year; and

WHEREAS, proactively obtaining grant funds to begin implementation of the Pack Square Vision Plan will support City fiscal sustainability;

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for, and if awarded, execute all documents in order to accept up to $3,000,000 in grant funds from the Mellon Foundation.

Read, approved and adopted this the 11th day of April, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney