LISTENING SESSION
FEEDBACK & RESPONSES

OCTOBER 2019

1. Resident Engagement definition is not specific enough. Also point system for endorsement of RFP by neighborhood organization should be more than five points --- W. Rasheed, Summerhill
We have modified the scoring system based on input from the listening session.

2. There are already festivals, historical projects, and parks. These things can be funded by donations/sponsorships. Grant should be used for impactful objectives such as education and community stability. There are 3 primary priority areas for funding which include Affordable Housing, Community Development, and Job Training. The examples provided are often considered community development activities.

3. You are not ready to move forward. This process lacks transparency and equity. The neighborhood has no voice. The committee has been tasked with a job and responsibility and is working diligently to ensure an equitable and structured process that is fully transparent and guided by community feedback. The listening session was an opportunity to hear from residents.

4. There are organizations here that know nothing about these neighborhoods. This was a public forum that was open to all that have an interest in the community.

5. Nothing over $100,000 should be awarded at this time. The committee has decided not to cap the Request for Proposal at this time but reserves the right to limit awards based upon proposals submitted.
   a. An outside organization can get the money at the expense of the neighborhoods Only organizations that will provide services that benefit the stadium communities will be funded.
   b. How will we get a response to our questions on this process from the target? A response document will be posted to the Trust website, a link will be shared with those on the Trust database, and we will also share at the RFP launch event.

6. Required supplemental documents
   a. This means it doesn't matter what the community wants. Each organization should not come to the neighborhood community association
   b. Letter of support from community → 50 points
   c. Project nature → 20 points
   d. How many points do you have to get to receive a grant?

7. Instead of a tract record in 3 key areas, require a history in at least one of these 3 areas

8. Clarify community development and education - This has been done.

9. Shouldn't have to be a 501(c)(3) if they have a track record and doing good in the community Applicants do not have to have a 501c3 to apply for funding, but will need to partner with a 501c3 as a fiscal agent.

10. Need to define record

11. Remove resident Qualifications

12. These are not the relevant needs
   a. Youth, walk-way accessibility, safety, housing/shelters - The Trust focuses on 3 areas which include affordable housing, community development and job training.

13. Define possible impact of each level

14. Structure is needed and adequate notification - A grant cycle process has been established.

15. 1-2 training sessions requirement
   a. Training session and technical assistance There will be an RFP orientation and TA assistance for anyone applying that does not receive funding to support future opportunities.
   b. There is not enough time to evaluate the sections in the time we have We understand that time was limited, however the feedback we received was immensely helpful and thoughtful and will be incorporated into the RFP process.

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Community Feedback & Responses

16. Who should offer the letter of support? Can't be the neighborhood association. The letters of support should be from individuals or organizations in the community that are aware and can attest to the credibility and work that is being done in the community.
17. Wave the letter of support for groups that couldn't potentially get a letter. See above response. It's important that potential grantees have some credibility in the community and someone that can speak on their behalf. We liken this to employee references. It adds some additional context to the narrative.
18. Get letters of support from 2 or 3 organizations
19. What does resident lead organization mean? What is a resident-led organization? Resident-led would be organizations that are headed by residents or organizations that have resident leadership. The Trust Committee for example is resident lead. All members come from the communities being served by the grant.
20. We needed more time. We understand that time was limited, however the feedback we received was immensely helpful and thoughtful and will be incorporated into the RFP process.
21. Is this agency or project budget or fiscal agent? Who's budget should be included? The budget should be for the project proposed.
22. Rate the budget and narrative slightly higher. Budget 25 and 70 for project narrative. This has been changed based on feedback.
23. Is there a cap on administrative cost? Because administrative costs are defined differently by different organizations, no cap has been established. Any budgeted administrative costs should be clearly explained in the budget narrative. They should be reasonable and relevant to the project.
24. Not 100% of funding from this source. As of right now, we do not have a requirement that we are or are not the sole funder of the proposed project.
25. The more money you have for the organization the more you should match.
26. Encourage them to build partnerships; have that possibility within points to encourage. This is a great idea. Organizations and individuals often work in silos and partnership is encouraged.
27. Consider including a rubric for scoring. This has been incorporated in the RFP but was not available at the listening session.
28. Include budget and evaluation template. This has been incorporated in the RFP but was not available at the listening session.
29. Increase points in problem or need and project goal/objectives - Based on feedback, we've restructured the scoring system.
    a. Shows priority of focus
30. What % of project budget can be spent on administration - Because administrative costs are defined differently by different organizations, no cap has been established. Any budgeted administrative costs should be clearly explained in the budget narrative. They should be reasonable and relevant to the project.
    a. Evaluation: can the project get extra points for encouraging the initial gift
31. Residential engagement points should be lower because until you implement the project you would know the level of community engagement - Based on feedback, we've restructured the scoring system.
    a. If we had to score it would be 5 points. The other 5 points should go to the problem or need
32. When are all funds to be expended according to city council regulation?
    a. Is there a cap for the request?
    b. Is 501(c)(3) too restrictive? We want to make sure that there is some level of accountability as funds are distributed. However, we understand there are some great initiatives, projects, and organizations that are doing excellent work in the community that may not have a 501c3. Applicants that don't have a 501c3 can apply under the umbrella of a fiscal agent.

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Community Feedback & Responses

Affordable Housing RFP/Process

33. Affordable housing include efforts to get past residents back into the community
34. Does it include emergency shelter or rehousing efforts or only eviction/homeless prevention? If you are applying in the Affordable Housing key area, there are currently no restrictions on the types of programs to help residents remain in the stadium neighborhoods.
35. Should include language 0-30% about affordable housing Not specifically addressed in the current RFP
36. Proposal should focus on preservation and tenant rights Not specifically addressed in the current RFP
37. Criteria /scoring by who? The Trust Committee will score and make final recommendations to the Atlanta City Council. Community grant reviewers will provide feedback on proposals.
    a. Resident input? Absolutely. We will be soliciting community grant reviewers from the community.
    b. Does each trust fund member score the proposal. The Trust Committee will help to vet applications and score proposals. Feedback will be given by community grant reviewers from the community, then decided on by the committee.
38. Verbiage regarding selection of more points for stadium neighborhood organization

Accountability & Eligibility

39. After approval, how will money be distributed, reported, and tracked? Our intention is for grantees to receive an initial grant payment, subsequent payments are determined by the mid and end of year report. Each project and its payment structure is unique. Disbursements will be planned with each grantee to ensure efficient business practices and accountability of funds.
40. Cap level 3 at some number less than 250k - The committee made a decision not to cap the amount for the initial grant cycle to assess what types of projects may be proposed; future grant cycles may be capped.
    a. Cap what they get in a year
41. Each organization is required to publicly report within 1 year of allotment
    a. Fiscal report
    b. Report out fiscal input of project
42. Under qualified bullet 5
    a. What group/person would that be for? And how would we define that track record and experience? Grantees will be required to submit periodic and final reports on how the grants were used relative to the proposal.
        i. Organizational Overview (5 points)
           Provide a brief history of the organization and its work in the stadium neighborhoods. Explain the fit between the organization's mission and the proposed project. NOTE: This is your opportunity to convey your successes and to make the case that your organization is the right one to implement this project.
43. Prioritize organization that have and are meeting the funding categories that are aligned with the legislation - All applicants' proposals must be aligned with the guidelines of the legislation.
44. Organization overview should submit financials 990; more emphasis on organization capacity - We agree. Organization capacity is very important; We are attempting to balance equity and inclusivity of organizations with requirements to ensure accountability of public dollars.
45. Clarification on 3 years of budget vs financials
46. Definition of terms - We will work on a glossary of terms for the RFP to ensure everyone has a clear understanding of what is being asked.

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Community Feedback & Responses

47. How will the funds be distributed equitably? We define equitable as opportunities and representation for all. This means equity across the board --- types of funds distributed, the amount distributed, the categories that they are distributed in, the types of programs that are being funded, the neighborhoods that are being served, and the neighborhoods that are applying for funds. We do not have control however on who applies, which is why we are making strong efforts to increase outreach and get the word out about the funds. Please spread the word to anyone doing or that can offer great services, programs or initiatives that can impact the community.

48. You all are showing PRC as a recipient they are the fiscal agent for 555 who was the actual award recipient so why is PRC being shown as an awardee? The check is written to the fiscal agent.

49. What is the ongoing audit process for the organizations? Organizations are required to provide reports based on their outcome statements.

50. When are all funds to be expended according to City Council legislation? The legislation did not stipulate a timetable or deadline for funds to be expended.

51. Whose houses in Pittsburgh did HouseProud fix (addresses are okay)? We do not provide this information.

52. Once an applicant is approved in our low income community, what's the catch to the application process ---a lien against our house? That type of condition would depend upon the policies of the grantee organization providing the service.

53. When will grant decisions be made? Final decision will be made in February 2020 and dependent on the City Council review and approval.

54. When does the funding go out to the initial 7 organizations? There is a process for awardees that allows them to draw down funds.

55. Does each organization have up to one fiscal year to perform the project? Does that year begin once the organization received the award/grant? Yes

56. How often during the course of a year is an RFP produced? At this point, the Trust committee plans two RFP awards in a year.

57. What is the process for reporting?
     a. Should it be the fiscal agent or the organization the funds were given to? It is a best practice for the fiscal agent and the organization to establish an MOU to define roles and responsibilities related to the grant. We expect that the organization in partnership with their fiscal agent will submit periodic reports.

58. I am looking to bring a professional car wash to the community (Mechanicsville) The property is currently a brown field. I would hire locally and provide training for employees. Would this qualify? Total car Wash investment with property is estimated at 1 million of course most of the money would be my funds. Thanks. Maybe this should be part of the RFP. Your project would need to fall within one of the focus areas (Affordable housing, Community Development or Job Training).

59. Can you be a fiscal agent and also apply? It could rob people of being able to apply if you can't do both. Yes.

60. Are there max amounts per level clearly stated per amount? Funding will be provided in the form of a grant in areas of job training, affordable housing, and community development. Grant awards will be made at the following levels:
     a. Level 1 $2,000 to $25,000
     b. Level 2 $25,001 to $100,000
     c. Level 3   over $100,000

61. How are the modifications made surrounding the community going to affect those who age in place?

62. How are the communities involved in the selection process? Community grant reviewers will be selected from the stadium neighbors to provide recommendations on the proposal. The Trust will make final

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Community Feedback & Responses

GENERAL FEEDBACK

63. Some felt having a one page abstract was too long based on their experience with other grants. They also stated that the evaluation was lacking. They would like to know for each project, exactly how many/how much was provided to each community. Grants are distributed by project not by community. The amount per project was shared in the presentation provided at the listening session, which is available on the website https://snctrustatl.org. They felt this should be transparent.

64. Some reported not being able to hear everyone. Some made comments about this not being a true listening session because they don't feel like they were heard. Some people didn't participate because they didn't understand what we were really doing. It was important for the committee to hear from the community, which is why the listening session was scheduled. The information and feedback received was very helpful and will be used to update the RFP.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

65. We need a Grocery Store
66. Transportation for Seniors
67. Small biz retention.
68. No more Gas Stations (2)
69. No more Liquor Stores (2) in PeoplesTown please!
70. Fix our potholes in street. Georgia Tech has laid bricks. PeoplesTown in Mechanicsville have nothing.
71. We don't need reconditioned computers in our schools.
72. Needs
     a. Youth
     b. Education k-12, post-secondary
     c. Small business retention
     d. Add grant period and timeline
          i. Grant period of 12-14 months
     e. Add housing rehabilitation
          i. energy/water efficiency and weatherization to improve comfort, health, and affordability.

Community Feedback & Responses

73. Summary of grants on website. All current grantees are listed on the website.
74. Review business plan as an option - This is a great suggestion and will be added as a document option to help support the application.
75. Audits not necessary - Because these are considered Public Funds it's important that there is a viable tracking and accountability system in place. This may or may not include an audit.
76. Recommendation: proposal should state that stadium neighborhood communities will be given priority and preferences - There is a section of the RFP that offers additional points for community applications.
77. Rubric for review committee There will be a rubric for reviewers.
78. Special training for applications There will be an orientation for interested applicants.

79. **The current trust fund committee should not vet or approve the grants. Instead, a new review and approval committee needs to be established**. The initial process was for Trust members to share funding opportunities and bring grants to the table. This process, as you have stated, has the appearance of bias. We are restructuring the process so that proposals are not presented or brought to the committee by a member. Instead we are increasing our outreach efforts to make the community aware of funding opportunities and how to access those opportunities. In addition, we will be utilizing external reviewers to support the application process and scoring.

80. **The distribution of the funds needs to be done in phases starting with limited amounts of money being distributed, with the first phase being limited to $500,000, to prevent fraud and abuse**. The committee has decided not to cap funds at this time. We hit the pause button after the initial grants were approved and are structuring the process to ensure the narrative, initiative and program is aligned with impact and outcomes. Any applications that do not align in this instance will not be funded or will be asked to resubmit at a later time.

81. **The definition of Qualified Applicants is vague, which will result in fraud and abuse**. The application has been designed to support projects, initiatives, and community organizations that have a standing in the community and can make a positive impact. Because underserved communities often have more difficulty getting access to funds we want to make funds accessible with accountability. Applicants must give a clear picture of their program, initiative, and budget, along with impact and outcomes. Organizations will be tracked and evaluated and expected to meet the outcomes and objectives they've outlined.

82. **The committee needs to take some time to understand the history of these neighborhoods and what happened the last time large sums of money were supposed to be distributed to benefit stadium communities.** There is a strong understanding of the history of the neighborhoods and the reported abuses of funding sources. In the Trust retreat, time was dedicated specifically to honor the past, present and the future as a base for moving forward.