


M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 21, 2018

TO: Board of Directors
The Long Beach Community Investment Company

FROM: Patrick Ure, President 

SUBJECT: Request to Serve as Fiscal Agent and Apply for Grant Opportunities to fund the Neighborhood Leadership Program (Citywide)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve a request to have The Long Beach Community Investment Company serve as fiscal agent for grant opportunities to fund the Neighborhood Leadership Program;
2. Authorize the President to submit a sponsorship grant proposal to the Port of Long Beach to provide funding for the Neighborhood Leadership Program; and,
3. Authorize the President to execute any and all documents necessary to submit the grant application and accept funding.

DISCUSSION

The Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau has offered the Neighborhood Leadership Program to neighborhood residents since 1992. Funding for the program has traditionally been provided by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. As CDBG funding has declined over the years, staff has turned to grant funding to help fund the program. Grant funding programs often require an applicant to be a nonprofit organization. Several years ago, the Bureau entered into a relationship with Long Beach Cares who agreed to serve as fiscal agent for such grant funding opportunities. Long Beach Cares is now dissolving, and can no longer serve as fiscal agent.

Staff is requesting The Long Beach Community Investment Company (LBCIC) to serve as a fiscal agent for grant opportunities to fund the Neighborhood Leadership Program.

The Neighborhood Leadership Program is a five-month training to help neighborhood leaders to improve their skills and help improve the community. Participants learn public speaking, team building, and grant writing skills that they utilize to write \$1,000 mini-grant proposals that support class projects that they will complete along a business corridor. In 2018, the program will provide neighborhood leadership training to approximately 35 residents to help them to address concerns in their communities. Over 650 Long Beach residents have graduated from the Neighborhood Leadership Program since 1992 (Attachment A).

The Port of Long Beach Communications and community Relations Division administers a sponsorship program (Program) and partners with local nonprofit organizations to educate the community about, and promote the Port's mission as a key part of the local and international economy (Attachment B). The Program requires City departments to partner with a 501(c)3 nonprofit fiscal agent in order to apply for grant funds. The next round of funding opens on March 1, 2018. The Port of Long Beach's sponsorship grant is anticipated to support four matching grant class projects that participants will complete in North Long Beach during July and August of this year. Funds will also support the Class of 2018 Graduation ceremony that will take place on August 11, 2018.

Approval of this item will allow staff to apply for grant funds from the Port of Long Beach to support the neighborhood Leadership Program.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve Recommendations.

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Attachments:

- A. Neighborhood Leadership Program Brochure
- B. Port of Long Beach -- Sponsorship FAQ