



Office of the City Manager

08

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 22, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront
Subject: Grant Application: Clean California Local Grant Program – Civic Center Plaza Turtle Garden Beautification Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to submit a grant application to the state's Clean California Local Grant Program (CCLGP) for up to \$600,000 for the Civic Center Park Turtle Garden Beautification Project, and to accept grant funds, execute resulting grant agreements and amendments, and authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In 2020, the City allocated \$300,000 in Measure T1 Phase 2 funds and \$30,000 in Parks Tax, as well as \$25,000 from the City's Civic Arts Commission totaling \$355,000 for the Civic Center Plaza Turtle Garden Beautification Project. According to the grant criteria in the CCLGP, the City must provide a local match of 37.5%, which allows the City to apply for a grant of up to \$600,000.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In December 2021, the state announced the CCLGP, administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), to provide approximately \$296 million as part of a two-year program to beautify and improve streets and roads, tribal lands, parks, pathways, and transit centers to restore pride in public spaces. Eligible projects must meet at least one of the following project goals: litter and graffiti abatement, greening and the use of native drought-tolerant plantings, improving access to public space, public engagement in project development, and projects in underserved communities. Proposals are due on February 1, 2022, grant awards will be announced in March 2022, and project must be completed by June 30, 2024.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, after an extensive community engagement process, the City approved Berkeley's Civic Center Vision and Implementation Plan (Resolution No. 69,579-N.S., September 22, 2020). This plan included a vision for the Civic Center area that supports current and future community needs while respecting and celebrating the

area's rich past and historically significant structures. The conceptual designs for the Civic Center area included the Turtle Garden Project. The Turtle Garden Project was developed by local groups over several years, and involves the conversion of the existing decommissioned fountain into an outdoor garden with native drought-tolerant plants, the installation of Loggerhead turtle sculptures (4) and Native artist-designed stone medallions (8) on the fountain. The sculptures and medallions were completed in 2007 with City funding and have been on display at City buildings since that time. For the grant proposal, the project can also include other potential ornamental features for additional beautification, as well as potential improvements to the deteriorated plaza flagstone, the Peace Wall, and additional bench amenities for an improved park visitor experience.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

All parks improvement construction projects are required to comply with the City of Berkeley Climate Action Plan, specifically in terms of reducing construction waste, as well as environmentally preferred purchasing guidelines to reduce waste and increase the use of renewable resources.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The allocation of local funds for parks improvement projects allows the City to apply for grant opportunities that require significant local matching funds.

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, 981-6703
Evelyn Chan, Supervising Civil Engineer, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront

Attachments
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S

GRANT APPLICATION: THE CLEAN CA GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE CIVIC CENTER PLAZA TURTLE GARDEN BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, in December 2021, the state announced the Clean California Local Grant Program, administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), to provide approximately \$296 million as part of a two-year program to beautify and improve streets and roads, tribal lands, parks, pathways, and transit centers to restore pride in public spaces. Eligible projects must meet at least one of the following project goals: litter and graffiti abatement, greening and the use of native drought-tolerant plantings, improving access to public space, public engagement in project development, and underserved communities. Proposals are due on February 1, 2022, grant awards will be announced in March 2022, and project must be completed by June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, after an extensive community engagement process, the City approved Berkeley's Civic Center Vision and Implementation Plan (Resolution No. 69,579-N.S., September 22, 2020). This plan included a vision for the Civic Center area that supports current and future community needs while respecting and celebrating the area's rich past and historically significant structures. The conceptual designs for the Civic Center area included the Turtle Garden Project. The Turtle Garden Project was developed by local groups over several years, and involves the conversion of the existing decommissioned fountain into an outdoor garden with native drought-tolerant plants, the installation of Loggerhead turtle sculptures (4) and Native artist-designed stone medallions (8) on the fountain. The sculptures and medallions were completed in 2007 with City funding and have been on display at City buildings since that time. For the grant proposal, the project can also include other potential ornamental features for additional beautification, as well as potential improvements to the deteriorated plaza flagstone, the Peace Wall, and additional bench amenities for an improved park visitor experience; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the City allocated \$300,000 in Measure T1 Phase 2 funds and \$30,000 in Parks Tax, as well as \$25,000 from the City's Civic Arts Commission totaling \$355,000 for the Civic Center Plaza Turtle Garden Beautification Project. According to the grant criteria in the CCLGP, the City must provide a local match of 37.5%, which allows the City to apply for a grant of up to \$600,000.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to: submit a grant application in the amount of \$600,000 to the Clean CA grant program; accept any grants; execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments; and that Council authorize the implementation of the project and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

