



Date: December 5, 2019

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Wanda S. Page, Deputy City Manager
From: Bertha T. Johnson, Director, Budget & Management Services
Andrew T. Holland, Budget Engagement Manager
Subject: Participatory Budgeting (PB) – Grant Agreement to fund
STEM Equipment and Entrepreneurship Education Programming

Executive Summary

eMerging Entrepreneurs, Inc. was selected by residents during the City’s Participatory Budgeting (PB) process and approved by the PB Steering Committee to receive a \$99,121 grant. The grant will be used to purchase STEM equipment and entrepreneurship education materials to expand its STEM youth programming in Ward 1. The STEM equipment and training will take place at the following Ward 1 locations: **Emily Krzyzewski Center**, 904 W Chapel Hill St, Durham, NC and **Partners For Youth Opportunity**, E.600 Umstead Street, Durham, NC. The goal is for eMerging Entrepreneurs, Inc. to engage underserved youth (ages 9-17) through a classroom-style training platform along with online entrepreneurship and coding programs. Moreover, the eMerging Entrepreneurs, Inc. will engage youth via a LEGO Robotics program. These trainings will better prepare underserved youth in Ward 1 to acquire the essential skill sets in an ever growing competitive economy. Based on this rationale, we seek approval from the City Council to execute a grant agreement for the City to provide funding to eMerging Entrepreneurs, Inc. to purchase STEM equipment and entrepreneurship education materials.

Recommendation

The Budget and Management Services Department recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute the attached grant agreement with eMerging Entrepreneurs, Inc. for the grantee to receive funds to purchase STEM and entrepreneurship education materials to provide training for youth in Ward 1.

Background

During the Participatory Budgeting (PB) idea collection phase, residents submitted over 500 project ideas to enhance communities throughout the City of Durham. Volunteers, also known as budget delegates, then vetted and developed these ideas into project proposals. Through the approval of the PB Steering Committee, approximately 40 projects were put forth on a public ballot for voting with over 10,000 residents voting. Winning projects were then announced and approved by the PB Steering Committee last June. Amongst the 18 winning projects, the STEM and Entrepreneurship project was one of the top vote receivers for funding

at \$99,121. Upon the approval by City Council, the city would grant eMerging Entrepreneurs, Inc. \$99,121 to purchase STEM equipment and entrepreneurship education materials. This equipment and entrepreneurship materials are to be used to train and educate underserved youth in Ward 1.

Issues and Analysis

According to the U.S Department of Education, “If we want a nation where our future leaders, neighbors, and workers have the ability to understand and solve some of the complex challenges of today and tomorrow, and to meet the demands of the dynamic and evolving workforce, building students' skills, content knowledge, and fluency in STEM fields is essential”. Through the purchase of STEM equipment and entrepreneurship educational materials, eMerging Entrepreneurs, Inc. would provide STEM and entrepreneurship training to underserved youth in Ward 1 to better prepare them in an ever-changing and increasingly complex world.

Alternatives

City Council could not approve the grant agreement and provide further direction to the City Manager.

Financial Impact

The City of Durham will provide \$99,121 of the \$2.4 million appropriated by City Council for PB projects to eMerging Entrepreneurs, Inc. to purchase STEM equipment and entrepreneurship education materials with the goal of expanding youth STEM programming and entrepreneurship training in Ward 1. In addition, the \$99,121 will be disbursed in quarterly payments of \$24,780.25. Performance measures have been developed to ensure eMerging Entrepreneurs, Inc. are meeting or exceeding quarterly goals. If these goals are not met, future funding could be potentially suspended.

Equal Business Opportunity Summary

N/A

Attachments

Agreement to fund STEM equipment and entrepreneurship, education programming provided by eMerging Entrepreneurs, Inc. using City of Durham grant funds.