

Historic South Downtown community focus group, 9/13/18 from 2:30-4:30

Introductions around the room

Kathleen: HSD overview

- State-created agency, about 10 years old, formed to focus on CID and PS. Here to mitigate impacts of large-scale public developments that impact neighborhoods.
- Tomiko-Santos formed HSD
- Board is from the community, overview of board seats (flip chart)
- Funding: King County TOD process (\$4.2M to give away at this time), one-time funding

Grant Plan summary

- Guiding principles review (flip chart)
- Funding areas
 - Community development
 - Business development
 - History and Culture
 - Public realm
- Questions for the group:
 - What is missing?
 - Of these, priorities?
 - Which are unfunded?

Q: how defining “community development”, especially since does not include “capital”.

Q: Talk more about the split – why 80/20? Split over years? Multi-year applications would be possible.

Q: Funding for property owners? Thinking about URM retrofits. Could HSD help pull together folks for financing plan? HSD funding is public so under same limitations as gifting of public funds.

Q: What does “program funding” mean?

Q: Does “capital” reference all phase of capital? Does it include planning?

Q: in the CID, could it include the security cameras? Would that be program funding?

Q: Expand on what mean by “business development”? A: Supporting businesses

Q: Parking permits in PS, given the loss of parking with construction? A: Would need to have identifiable community benefit.

Q: Organizations submit more than one grant at a time and/or receive more than one grant at a time?

Q: Ground floor commercial funding? Build out commercial space.

Q: Parking- parking garage at Charles Street – and income goes back into neighborhood? Would we fund this? Feasibility study for this.

Q: Community facilities not included? Health clinic, etc. Capital not currently included under “Community Development”.

Q: Negative impacts for transportation projects? How should applicants look at the line of what transportation agencies should be funding, and unfunded need?
Example of building a barrier that SDOT should be funding.

Q: How interact with NMF? HSD funding can be used as a match. HSD not considering requiring a match.

Q: Community review panel – what is it, how recruit, etc? HSD in process of recruiting potential participants.

Q: Not requiring a match, but can't realistically ask for 100% of a \$5M project?
[Need to have more guidance on capital requests, e.g. max amount]

Suggestion – applicants reference other plans and programs (city or neighborhood). This can sometimes be a barrier though, if trying to get a new project.

Q: Established evaluation criteria for the grant yet? A: not yet, suggestions and/or barriers?

- Non-profit status
- Language (and culture) when don't have great facility in English. For example, family associations.
- Criteria around community empowerment, community ownership, community leadership to align with values of Equity, Neighborhood Self-determination → preference to see investments go to empower and build up two neighborhoods

Overview of RFP process

- Fall/Winter 2018 RFP opens
- RFP open for 6 weeks
- Free technical support available
- Translated material and interpreters available
- Open office hours in each neighborhood for consultation (plus email)

Discussion: Do you prefer a letter of inquiry or a self-screening tool? Self-screening preferred by group

Letter of inquiry – helps whittle down the pool potentially (2 page LOI versus full application), also helps address issues

What struggle to get funded?

- Education nonprofit
- Advocacy hard to get funded – very happy to see this will be funded

- Areaways under sidewalks – hard for property owners to get funding for this. Would group wrestle with how to get funding for this?

Ranked list, or partially fund applications?

- Partial funding better than none, depends on the project. More program funding available than capital funding. There could be some projects where capital funding could be useful (it could be useful to leverage other funding). If say only fund capital projects fully, might miss some opportunities.
- Wren: going to take information of unmet need and communicate with state partners as part of advocating for additional funding.

Q: Public realm funding area – example, program funding for senior meal program in park.

Example – exercise equipment in Hing Hay Park would fall under public realm

Q: Same community advisory committee across all the areas?

[Need to make sure we have adequate expertise to address all the areas. Might need to have a larger review committee.]

Q: Seniors in Action interested to apply for security cameras. Where would this fit?

Q: Public art – what funding area would that be? If you put it in the wrong bucket will that impact you?

A: it will be set up so this would not be a “fatal flaw”

Q: Scoring criteria – are partnerships or working in collaboration help with score or get scored more highly? A: looking at this but still grappling with how will impact RFP. Collaboration is important,

Balance between neighborhoods

- Lisa: look at it long-term, since RFP around the corner

Project ideas:

- Chief Seattle Club – Pioneer Square, purchasing building next door, demolishing existing building, building 9 stories of affordable housing, will include community facilities such as health clinic and expanded space for CSC. Also integrate indigenous design. \$10M capital campaign (raised \$2.9 M so far).
- LIHI – working on renovation of the Frye building. Interested in some partnerships around the alley and streetscape (not sure what it would look like). Not sure yet what it looks like.
- Taschiro Kaplan artist lofts – need capital improvements to community room (PA, lighting system) so people could put on some performances.
- Seniors in Action – security cameras (14 cameras) in the CID - \$500K estimate
- Pioneer Square – more benches in the neighborhood to have places where people can rest.

- Chinese expulsion memorial – might be interested in
- One World Now – afterschool language programs
- Jackson Hub next steps – not sure about timing since the final report will come out about the same time as the RFP
- Panama Tea House – restore bath house to original condition (privately owned) – how could this fit in? Question around privately-owned space, if there could be nonprofit management.
- Path with Art – doing a capital campaign for permanent home, there will be period of time without space and competing with market rents, could consider paying for interim space?
- Lid I-5 – expand feasibility to include CID/PS, work with community to consider what want for the space, advocacy with BNSF. Lid BNSF tracks for public use.

Q: Would HSD consider funding groups outside neighborhood, working on project in neighborhoods, or partnering with groups in neighborhood.

- Look at work around new kinds of partnership agreements that transfer benefits of capital asset to community over time (potential as evaluation criteria). Push to HSD to move beyond old models of partnerships, whereby community-based organizations do all the engagement work, etc.

Multiyear grants, or phased grants (for newer developing projects) – both of interest.

Suggestion that HSD provide feedback on applications – what did well, what would make it stronger