



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, Broadnax, Interim City Manager
FROM: Ricardo Noguera, Community and Economic Development Director
COPY: Community Vitality and Safety Committee
SUBJECT: 2017 Innovative Grant Projects Summary
DATE: April 27, 2017

SUMMARY:

Community and Economic Development staff will present an overview of the 2017 Innovative Grant projects that the eight Neighborhood Councils have recommended for funding.

BACKGROUND:

Innovative Grants have been an important element of the neighborhood involvement and citizen engagement since the mid-1970s. Historically, the funding was tied to Community Development Block Grant and Real Estate Excise Tax which required that most projects be capital projects in the right-of-way; often resulting in projects such as traffic circles and speed humps.

In 2015-16, the funding source for Innovative Grants was strategically shifted to General Fund to allow citizens a path to more creative and innovative solutions to address neighborhood issues and enhance their community.

Similar to 2015-16, the current Innovative Grant round:

- is General Fund supported at \$320,000
- allows for greater project flexibility
- has even distribution (\$36,000 per Neighborhood Council)
- includes a 10% maintenance fund (\$32,000)

Enhancements for 2017-18:

- greater emphasis on equity/diversity
- two rounds in the biennium

OVERVIEW:

Projects recommended primarily meet the community's goals of placemaking, environment/trails, farmers' markets, community gardens, youth/teens projects, multicultural awareness, outreach, or community building.

This presentation will provide an overview of 2017 projects.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing.