



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 12, 2023

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 – State Parks Outdoor Equity Grants Program (OEP)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to submit a grant application to the State Parks and Recreation Outdoor Equity Grants 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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On December 14, 2023, the City will submit a grant application to the State Parks and Recreation Outdoor Equity Grants Program for up to \$700,000 to operate a three-year program that provides camping, fieldtrips, and other outdoor educational experiences for underserved residents in Berkeley. There is no match required. If the grant is awarded in the Spring of 2024, the funds will be appropriated in FY2024.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In the Fall of 2023, the California Department of Parks and Recreation announced round two of the Outdoor Equity Grants Program (OEP) to improve the health and wellness of Californians through new educational and recreational activities, service learning, career pathways, and leadership opportunities that strengthen a connection to the natural world. OEP's intent is to increase the ability of residents in underserved communities to participate in outdoor experiences within their community, at state parks, and other public lands. The City's Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department will submit a grant application for up to \$700,000 to operate a three-year program that provides camping, fieldtrips, and other outdoor educational experiences for underserved residents in Berkeley. This program will help the City to enhance the diversity, equity, and inclusion activities of the City to better meet the needs of Berkeley residents.

BACKGROUND

The City's Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department provides programming activities for a wide range of youth, young adults, and families in the areas of academic tutoring, pre-school readiness programs for 0-5 and families, and recreation of all types.

During the summer of 2023, the PRW Department ran a successful program that involved six paid interns from Berkeley High School and their families who were engaged in a wide range of recreational, outdoor education, and job-related activities. The PRW Department seeks to build on the success of the program and expand the program to reach a larger number of youth and their families over a three year period.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The proposed expansion of the City's outdoor education program will provide larger numbers of underserved residents with outdoor experiences that will enhance their stewardship of the environment. This program will help the City work on two long-term City of Berkeley Strategic Goals: 4. Champion and demonstrate social and racial equity, and 7. Be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This program will help the City to enhance the diversity, equity, and inclusion activities of the City to better meet the needs of Berkeley residents.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, 981-6703

Alexandra Endress, Waterfront Manager, PRW, 981-6737

Stephanie Chu, Recreation and Youth Services Manager, PRW, 981-6700

Attachments

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE PARKS OUTDOOR EQUITY PROGRAM (OEP)
FOR UP TO \$700,000 FOR A THREE-YEAR OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has been delegated the responsibility by the Legislature of the State of California for the administration of the Outdoor Equity Grants Program, setting up necessary procedures governing the application; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of the application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, successful Applicants will enter into a contract with the State of California to complete the Grant Scope program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that hereby: APPROVES THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE OUTDOOR EQUITY GRANTS PROGRAM GRANT FUND; and

1. Certifies that said Applicant has or will have available, prior to commencement of any work on the program(s) included in this application, the sufficient funds to complete the program(s); and
2. Certifies that if the grant is awarded, the Applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate the program(s) as described in the Grant Selection Criteria response, and
3. Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the General Provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and
4. Delegates the authority to F. Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation, and Waterfront, to conduct all negotiations, sign and submit all documents, including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the Grant Scope; and
5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.
6. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

