March 21, 2022

TO: The Honorable Dow Constantine, King County Executive

FM: Targeted Equity Grants Advisory Committee

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| **Name** | **Affiliation** | **Council District** |
| Nik Stroup | City of Bothell | 1 |
| Lylianna Allala  | City of Seattle | 2 |
| Anjali Myer | City of Sammamish | 3 |
| Chukundi Salisbury | City of Seattle | 4 |
| Nicole Nordholm | City of Des Moines | 5 |
| Camron Parker | City of Bellevue | 6 |
| Leif Ellsworth | City of Federal Way | 7 |
| Larry Ellis | City of SeaTac | 8 |
| Erica Schmitz | City of Renton  | 9 |
| Michelle Benetua | Seattle Parks Foundation | OSEC\* |
| Sarneshea Evans | Trust for Public Lands  | OSEC\* |
| Bridget Ray  | Na'ah Illahee Fund | OSEC\* |
| Chris Liu | Outdoor Asian | OSEC\* |
| Cary Simmons | Trust for Public Lands | at-large |
| Sarya Sos | Cham Refugees Committee | at-large |
| Hamdi Abdulle | African Community Housing & Development | at-large |
| Mari Horita | Seattle Kraken | at-large |
| Kitty Craig | The Wilderness Society | at-large |

\*Open Space Equity Cabinet

RE: King County Parks Levy Grants: Targeted Equity Grant Program - Round 1 Recommended Grant Awards List and Project Descriptions

The Targeted Equity Grants Advisory Committee (AC) would like to thank Executive Constantine for the opportunity to be involved in the review and evaluation process for the initial round of the Parks Levy Grants. This committee had a series of meetings to develop the application and evaluate applications against the selection criteria.

The AC was aware of the community’s desire to implement the initial grant cycle by the fall of 2021 and worked to prioritize this effort. Applications opened November 30, 2021, and closed January 21, 2022. The committee reviewed 77 applications requesting over $15,000,000 from the Targeted Equity Grants program. Committee members reviewed an array of proposals to expand and develop the network of parks, open space, and recreation programs and opportunities, and they were recused from scoring or discussing proposals with which they had conflicts of interest. The AC was particularly aware of the need for investments in underserved communities that experience systemic and institutional barriers to accessing recreation, parks, and open space.

The AC is pleased to be able to recommend funding for 23 applications submitted, as each project will further program goals and meet the growing need for access to recreation, parks, and open space throughout the County. Committee members did note that the number of qualified proposals far surpassed the amount of funding available, pointing to a vast, unmet need for recreation funding in underserved communities. The AC and County staff are eager to meet to review the recent application process in advance of the next grant cycle to discuss improvements to outreach, technical assistance, program guidelines, the application, and the evaluation process. The AC anticipates that demand for recreation funding in underserved communities will continue in 2022 and is ready to work with Parks staff to support future grant cycles.

The following is a recommended list of grant awardees for the Targeted Equity Grants - Round 1, which was endorsed by the Advisory Committee. The project list includes funding amounts and a brief summary for each grant. The recommended funding for this cycle of the Targeted Equity Grant program totals $3,200,000. Additionally, below areSelection Criteria and Alignment with County and Program Goals, which the Committee used to identify how each recommended project met the selection objectives of the program.

cc: Warren Jimenez, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division, Department of

 Natural Resources and Parks

**Selection Criteria and Alignment with County and Program Goals**

King County Parks Levy Grants: Targeted Equity Grant Program - Round 1

In accordance with *Ordinance 19166* and *Motion 15378*, all awards in unincorporated areas were made in consultation with the Department of Local Services. Additionally, proposals were considered within the framework of meeting County-wide initiatives and demonstrated alignment by addressing the following:

* **Land Conservation Initiative:** Ensure access to greenspace for all. Address and fix historic patterns of unequal investment in public open space across King County
* **Prepare for Climate Change:** Create, support, and implement policies and actions that reduce climate change vulnerabilities equitably and increase the resilience of King County communities, natural systems, and the built environment
* **Clean Water Healthy Habitat Strategic Plan:** Promote healthy forests and more green space, along with cleaner, controlled stormwater runoff
* **Equity and Social Justice (ESJ):** Invest in partnerships that allow the County to apply early, upstream, and preventative solutions; invest in partnerships to steadily inform decision-making; ensure that capital projects have objectives for community engagement and ESJ in benefits/burden distribution
* **State of Play:** Provide equitable facility access, and/or lower transportation barriers; provide a facility fee structure with free or significantly reduced rates for low-income residents; ensure that the project specifically contains inclusive design and increases physical activity opportunities for priority youth; ensure that the partnership exists to identify and address stated needs of the community; ensure that the project will expand access to swimming facilities, especially for priority youth

The application and evaluation criteria for both grant programs were aligned with *Ordinance 19166*, Attachment B, and shared the additional criteria to weigh the relative strength of applications:

a. The project will further establish County-wide priorities, such as ESJ, the Strategic Climate Action Plan, improving water quality, and increasing habitat, for example, through green stormwater infrastructure, the Land Conservation Initiative, or implementation of the recommendations in the State of Play Report

b. The project is supported through partnership and will be measured by resulting community benefits, as well as the strength and diversity of partnership

d. The project is located in an underserved area or provides recreational access or benefit where none currently exists

e. The project demonstrates certainty in success of delivery

f. The project demonstrates how successful implementation will be measured over time

g. The project identifies cost-effectiveness and ability to leverage other funding or in-kind donations.

Attachment B – Eligible Targeted Equity Grant project types included:

1. Capacity to include community outreach and planning around new or improved access to local parks, open spaces, and recreational opportunities
2. Land acquisition located specifically within an Opportunity Area or that serves a community of need, based on established determinants of equity, and consistent with KCC 26.12.003.J
3. Capital projects or programs that address unmet needs in underserved areas
4. Projects that provide additional access to parks, open spaces, or recreational opportunities for people with disabilities

| **Targeted Equity Grant Awards - Round 1** |
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| **Grant Applicant** | **Project Name** | **Council District** | **Grant Award** | **Project Summary**  |
| African Community Housing & Development | African Diaspora Cultural Anchor Village | District 5 | $125,000 | A culturally relevant community hub with an indoor gathering space and a safe outdoor play and garden space for the African Diaspora immigrant and refugee community in South King County. The project will provide a place of belonging and increase access to high-quality recreation facilities. Funds will support capacity building in grant writing, fundraising, donor development, community engagement, pre-development costs, and trainings for staff and board members. |
| Africatown Community Land Trust | Art Project at Africatown Plaza | District 2 | $118,000 | The ‘Africatown Experience’ art installation will enhance the outdoor gathering space at Africatown Plaza, which will include a community garden. The project will be a platform for authentic expression and tribute to the lived experiences of the Black community that has called the Central District home for nearly 140 years.  |
| Community Land Conservancy | Building Capacity and Partnerships to Help Communities Thrive in Place | District 2 | $150,000 | CLC will act as a trusted broker between historically white-led organizations and the Skyway community as they seek long-term stewardship or ownership of a natural area in Bryn Mawr-Skyway. Funds support community engagement and hiring an Executive Director and Skyway Community Co-Leads. |
| Comunidad Latina de Vashon | Verde: Recreation and Open Space Redefined by Latino Culture & Joy | District 8 | $225,000 | Capacity building to reclaim and organize Latino community’s access to recreation on an unincorporated rural island, where immigrant families face unstable living and little access to open spaces. The project explores the creation of a culturally centered community space.  |
| East African Community Services | Generation Green | District 2\*District 5 | $183,000 | Adds natural science, green technology and careers exploration, and hands-on learning in a variety of park environments to K-12 programming. Pilots an Outdoor Exploration and Recreation club for grade 6-12 students and mentees. Implements a Parks Passport Program and removes barriers to deepen multi-generational exploration, enjoyment, and stewardship of regional parks and public lands. |
| Empowering Youth and Families Outreach | PlayScape at The Flourish | District 2 | $125,000 | Provides access to a 3,473-square-foot outdoor recreation area for more than 430 of Seattle's most displaced youth, including low-income residents and African American families who have been displaced from South Seattle. The design was directly informed by youth and community input to be a safe place for kids of color to recreate without fear of adultification, racial profiling, or harm. The site is a part of a capital project constructing a new, 8,392 square-foot facility.  |
| Eritrean Health Board | Injera - Connecting Generations and Building Capacity | District 1 District 2\* | $150,000 | Builds organizational and community capacity and addresses intergenerational trauma, through gardening and cooking programs, storytelling, and connecting community members across three generations. |
| Estelita's Library | Bathroom and Pocket Park Build Out | District 3 |  $90,300  | Deck construction, ADA public restrooms expansion, landscape design, native plant installation, art curation, and free programs with themes of social justice and community organizing at a BIPOC-owned and -operated social justice library and organizing hub in the Central District.  |
| Ethiopian Community in Seattle | Intergenerational Connections in Green Spaces | District 2 |  $41,874.00  | Empowers the Ethiopian and East African community through narrowing intergenerational gaps, facilitating access to parks, and creating fun and healthy arts, cultural, and sports activities where families can come together to connect, work out, and play.  |
| Garfield Super Block | Garfield Super Block | District 2 | $209,837 | Seeks to fulfill a 15-year-old promise to the surrounding community to upgrade Garfield Park. Renovations and improvements to the heavily used areas bordering the play fields of the Park. New historic and culturally relevant public art installations, site furnishings, a loop path, ADA ramp, inclusive play equipment, safety upgrades, and a new restroom facility. |
| Inspired Child | Inspired Child Healthy Parks and Communities Project | District 2 | $166,700 | Culturally relevant and family-centered swimming, dance, and arts programs, with curriculum generating positive identity development in Black children.  |
| Kandelia | Soccer Program for Recent Immigrant and Refugee Students | District 2 |  $131,653 | Building on the success of previous partnership with Soccer Without Borders, a soccer program for immigrant and refugee youth will be developed at the Seattle World School. Program participation will increase school attendance, confidence in English learning, physical activity, school pride, and community engagement. |
| Marvin Thomas Memorial | The Outside Project | District 2 |  $15,736 | BIPOC community members will lead free fitness program for low-income BIPOC youth that builds awareness of available and underutilized outdoor public spaces. Forty youth will be served each week with free fitness training including soccer, tennis, flag football, basketball, aerobics, and plyometrics exercises. |
| Para Los Niños | PLN Outdoor Engagement & Advocacy Project | District 8 | $125,000 | Connects the Latino/Latina/Latinx immigrant community in South King County with culturally relevant, multilingual parks, recreation, and outdoor opportunities through youth soccer programs, summer camps, and parent advocacy. Created by and for the Latino community, these programs will increase access to outdoor recreation opportunities and the community’s comfort with using parks and open spaces. |
| Partner in Employment | Youth Restoration Crew: Arts and Advancement | District 2District 5\*District 8 | $170,000 | Career development programs for immigrant and refugee youth currently employed as ecology workers in South King County Parks. Supports the Youth Restoration Program, with curriculum additions in environmental education and large-scale art production. The project will identify jobs in these industries and provide case management to help youth advance and stabilize their careers |
| Rainier Athletes | Rainier Athletes - Capacity Building  | District 6 | $180,000 | Hiring of a full-time Development Director to fundraise for an additional five direct service staff over three years, tripling the capacity of RA. Increased development capacity ensures over 300 underserved youth have long-term, year-round access to organized sports, summer camps, outdoor activities, and other recreational opportunities |
| RAVE Foundation | RAVE Free Soccer Camps and Clinics | District 2District 5District 8\* |  $31,500 | Provides free youth soccer camps and clinics in communities where access to free, healthy, outdoor activity is needed most. By providing free soccer experiences in marginalized communities, RAVE invites all children to receive high-quality sports-camp experiences, regardless of location, income, or ability.  |
| Seattle Parks and Recreation | South Park Plaza | District 8 | $185,150 | Located along the Duwamish River at the South Park Bridge, the project will provide the historically underserved South Park neighborhood with much-needed open space in the form of an environmentally safe and culturally sensitive public plaza/park, where persons from many cultures can come together for events, cultural celebrations, markets, vendors, and connection. The park will also serve as prime gateway between the community and the river. |
| Somali Health Board | Somali Health Board Community Youth Recreation Field  | District 2 | $125,000 | Creates a community-centered space in South King County for Somali youth and families by repurposing an underused parking lot in the New Holly District into a small soccer field. The field will be used by a culturally relevant, student-directed soccer league, a leadership program for Somali youth, and will also be open to the public for community gatherings.  |
| Tilth Alliance | Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands: A Community Resource | District 2 | $108,550 | The 11-acre Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands Park offers programs that address food justice and sovereignty, provides outdoor environmental education, disseminates cultural knowledge, engages people with disabilities in outdoor activities, and organizes culturally rich community events. This project improves site access and stewardship by extending open hours, installing ADA trails, and adding site amenities that include additional signage and expanded u-pick gardens. |
| Tiny Trees Preschool | Re-Defining the Outdoors (rDTO) | District 2District 5District 6District 7District 8\*District 9 | $200,000 | Increases access and opportunities for BIPOC and low-income families in King County to engage with the outdoors in ways that serve their expressed interests, needs, and goals. The project activates outdoor spaces through culturally responsive outdoor preschool activities in public parks; builds reciprocal community relationships that promote outdoor engagement; and co-creates free family/community programs in parks. In the process, the project reclaims narratives about outdoor engagement and connection, redefining “the outdoors” as a space that welcomes everyone. |
| Wakulima USA | Natural Connections | District 5\*District 7 | $176,000  | Supports Swahili-speaking immigrants from East Africa as they settle into their new environment. A Youth and an Elder Coordinator will be hired to develop intergenerational community organizing capacity. Programs with themes of food justice, connections to nature, peer support, and cultural preservation. |
| Whitewater Aquatics Management | The Evergreen Pool Revitalization Project | District 8 | $166,700 | Urgently needed repairs to the Evergreen Aquatic Center, a beloved, 50-year-old community facility that hosts more than 80,000 visits each year from people in White Center and unincorporated King County. Repairs to the concrete floors, pool gutters, and tiling. Energy-efficient, double-paned windows, while also replacing clear windows into locker room areas, ensuring privacy and safety of community members. |

*\*Six awarded projects (26%) impact multiple Council Districts.*