

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**  
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

<b>AGENDA TITLE:</b>	Approval of Neighborhood Mini-Grant Funding for North City Neighborhood Association and Approval of Neighborhood Mini-Grant Funding for Meridian Park Neighborhood Association
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Community Services Division, City Manager's Office
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	Rob Beem, Community Services Division Manager Nora Smith, Neighborhood Coordinator
<b>ACTION:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

**PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:**

As established in Resolution 54, the annual City budget includes funding for Neighborhood Mini-Grants and City Council approval is required. Two Neighborhood Mini-Grants are currently proposed for City Council approval.

North City Neighborhood Association is requesting \$1090 for neighborhood identity signs, to be installed by Public Works staff on streets that mark key entrance locations to the neighborhood.

Neighborhood identity signs help delineate the boundaries of a neighborhood, and reinforce a sense of place for residents. The North City Neighborhood Association hopes to strengthen a sense of pride and belonging with neighborhood identity signs.

The Meridian Park Neighborhood Association is requesting \$3,000 for a new arts event entitled Summerset Arts Festival – Celebrating Ronald Bog. The Summerset Arts Festival is a celebration of people, place and nature through the arts. This free public arts festival will take place at Ronald Bog Park and has four component parts: pre-event community art-making; a two week outdoor sculpture exhibition at the Park in early September; a permanent and naturally disintegrating environmental art sculpture installation; and a one day arts festival on September 15 featuring a sculpture exhibition, music, dance, performance art, and community art-making.

**RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

City Council authorized \$20,000 in the 2012 budget to fund Neighborhood Mini-Grants. One grant has already been approved for \$2,795. These grant requests for \$1,090 and \$3,000 are within the 2012 Neighborhood Mini-Grant budget. The proposed project budgets are included in Attachments A and B. If approved, the remaining balance in the Neighborhood Mini-Grant budget would be \$13,115.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Council approve \$1,090 for North City Neighborhood Association for neighborhood identity signs and \$3,000 for Meridian Park Neighborhood Association for a new arts event entitled Summerset Arts Festival – Celebrating Ronald Bog.

Approved By:        City Manager ***JU***    City Attorney ***IS***

## **INTRODUCTION**

The North City Neighborhood Association is requesting Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds to have “Welcome to North City Neighborhood” signs produced and installed. Many neighborhoods had neighborhood identity signs installed in the early years after City incorporation; these are the first identity signs requested by North City Neighborhood.

The Meridian Park Neighborhood Association is home to Ronald Bog, a park and water feature that is a very visible landmark when entering Shoreline on N. 175<sup>th</sup>. Meridian Park neighborhood volunteers - led by volunteer steward Dick Decker - have put thousands of hours into removing invasive species and planting native plants at Ronald Bog over the last several years. The water feature of the bog, and the wildlife the bog and park support are now more visible to passersby because the removal of blackberries and restoration work. The Summerset Arts Festival – Celebrating Ronald Bog will celebrate this special spot in Shoreline, honoring its natural beauty with nature-based art over several weeks, and culminating in one day celebration at the park

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Mini-Grant Program Background***

Resolution No. 54 established the Neighborhood Mini-Grant program, with the process and administration of the funds to be handled by Neighborhoods staff. The allocation of the total funds available is determined from year to year by appropriation of the City Council. All such grants to individual neighborhood associations are governed by rules approved by the City Council on October 7, 1996 and amended on November 23, 1998. Grants must be approved by City Council prior to their implementation.

The Neighborhood Mini-Grant program provides grants of up to \$5,000 to each of the actively organized, qualifying neighborhood associations in the City of Shoreline. Neighborhood Associations are required to match Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds. A match may be generated from co-sponsoring groups, businesses, organizations, schools, media, in-kind donations and/or “sweat equity”.

Neighborhood Mini-Grant project categories include the following:

- Projects that create or enhance a tangible improvement in the neighborhood;
- Projects that disseminate information and increase awareness of the goals and mission of the neighborhood association to the neighborhood community;
- Projects that directly benefit a public agency or organization and its immediate neighborhood, and that require the active involvement of both the public agency and members of the neighborhood in planning and carrying out the program.

### ***Background on Proposed Project***

North City neighborhood volunteers have worked with professional graphic designer to adapt the existing North City Business District logo – created with business district improvements - into a neighborhood identity sign. The neighborhoods program staff will coordinate with Public Works Department to get the signs printed on sign blanks, locations approved by Traffic Services, and installed by Roads Maintenance staff.

The neighborhood identity signs meet the goals of the Neighborhood Mini-Grant program by enhancing awareness of the neighborhood boundaries and awareness of the sponsoring Neighborhood Association.

The North City Neighborhood Association successfully completed seven Neighborhood Mini-Grants from 1997 – 2003, acquiring flower baskets, holiday decorations and banners for the North City business district. North City partnered with Ballinger in 2010, 2011 and will again in 2012 to produce a community movie night.

The Summerset Arts Festival – Celebrating Ronald Bog is a concept created by Meridian Park resident and artist Cynthia Knox. The goal of this project is to bring together Meridian Park residents and Shoreline community members to express their creativity, appreciate Ronald Bog Park, and deepen the sense of community.

Through the four component parts of the art project, residents will engage in art making, nature and with each other. Artist Cynthia Knox will volunteer her time working with children at summer programs at both Shoreline Children’s Center and Shoreline Parks Department to make art for installation in the park. Professional artists will also install outdoor sculpture for two weeks before the festival event for viewing in Ronald Bog. The culmination will be a half-day arts festival on September 15 with sculpture viewing, participatory art-making, musicians stationed around the Bog, traditional Duwamish dancers and other performance art (such as dancers, poets, puppeteers). Nature will be emphasized in all the art in a variety of ways as the subject matter and as material used in the art.

The Summerset Arts Festival – Celebrating Ronald Bog meets the goals of the Neighborhood Mini-Grant program by creating awareness of and enjoyment of the improvements to Ronald Bog, increasing the awareness of the sponsoring Neighborhood Association, and providing an opportunity for residents to interact with each other making the art, and at the one day art celebration.

Meridian Park Neighborhood Association has successfully completed six Neighborhood Mini-Grants from 1997-2010. These grants included installation of playground equipment at Meridian Park Elementary, installing neighborhood identity signs, and improvements at Cromwell, Meridian and Ronald Bog parks. The last two grants in 2009 and 2010 focused primarily on Ronald Bog Park with plant purchases as part of the restoration work, and benches for viewing the Bog. The current grant request builds on this previous work.

### **ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS**

Staff recommends full funding of these Neighborhood Mini-Grant applications. Both neighborhood organizations have demonstrated the ability to successfully implement mini-grant projects.

The North City neighborhood identity signs reinforce a sense of place. The Summerfest Arts Festival serves to promote community engagement, provides an opportunity for neighbors to come together to make and enjoy art and nature in their neighborhood and raises the visibility of the neighborhood association.

Council could opt not to fund the application or to provide funding at a lower level.

### **COUNCIL GOAL ADDRESSED**

These Mini-Grants implement Council Goal #4: Enhance openness and opportunities for community engagement, Action Step #2: Continue to support neighborhood associations and volunteer initiatives.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Council approve \$1,090 for North City Neighborhood Association for neighborhood identity signs and \$3,000 for Meridian Park Neighborhood Association for a new arts event entitled Summerset Arts Festival – Celebrating Ronald Bog.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – North City Neighborhood Identity Sign Project Budget

Attachment B – Meridian Park Summerfest Arts Festival Budget

Attachment C – Final draft Welcome to North City Neighborhood Identity Sign

**North City Neighborhood Association  
2012 Mini-Grant Project Budget  
Neighborhood Identity Signs**

<b><u>Item</u></b>		<b><u>Cost*</u></b>
(8) Neighborhood Identity Signs on traffic sign blanks x \$80/each	King County Sign Shop	\$ 640
Posts, cement, hardware 8 x \$50/each	Public Works Roads Maintenance.	\$ 400
Miscellaneous Supplies		\$ 50
<b>Total Mini-Grant Request</b>		<b>\$1090</b>

\* Estimated costs include tax and may be adjusted based on final pricing.

**Project Match**

The North City Neighborhood Association proposes to provide project match for the Mini-Grant with volunteer time to develop the grant, identify sign locations and coordinate the project. In addition, a professional graphic designer donated her time to create the Welcome to North City Neighborhood sign artwork. The neighborhood association volunteers will also coordinate a North City litter cleanup event.

**Meridian Park Neighborhood Association  
2012 Mini-Grant Project Budget  
Summerset Arts Festival – Celebrating Ronald Bog**

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Source</u></b>	<b><u>Cost*</u></b>
Arts Honoraria – Sculpture 4 artists x \$200/each 1 artist x \$300/each	Various Artists	\$1100
Arts Honoraria – Dance	Traditional Duwamish Dancers T'ilihshudub "singing feet" dancers	\$ 300
Arts Honoraria – Music 2 artists x \$200/each	Various Artists	\$ 400
2 Portapotties for event	Cascade	\$ 450
Art supplies	Various	\$ 301
Event-related supplies	Various	\$ 100
Sound System	Aurora Rents	\$ 116
Day-of-Event Manager	TBD	\$ 175
Banner to publicize event	Fedex	\$ 58
<b>Total Mini-Grant Request</b>		<b>\$3000</b>

\* Estimated costs include tax and may be adjusted based on final pricing.

Draft list of paid artists includes:

Mary Coss – Floating shell and hypertufa containers with cranberries, floating on Ronald Bog  
Carol Milne – Light sculpture with kitted rope lighting on private property on south side of Bog  
Meghan Lancaster – Woven branch/grass structure in Arboretum meadow  
Jeff Tangen – Metal sculpture with nature themes  
T'ilihshudub – traditional Duwamish "singing feet" dancers

Draft list of volunteer artists includes:

Cynthia Knox – floating turtle sculpture on Ronald Bog, peat moss sculptures in park  
Karla Johnson – Jellies for Joy Jellyfish Squad

### **Project Match**

Meridian Park Neighborhood Association proposes to provide project match for the Mini-Grant with volunteer time to develop the grant, develop and coordinate the art installations and festival, lead art workshops with children during the summer and implement the one day festival on September 15.

Final Draft  
North City Neighborhood Identity Sign

