

STAFF REPORT

Date: April 24, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of a local partner agreement with PH International to host ten Nepalese adaptive sports participants for the Sport for Social Change (SSC) Program in September 2024 with a compensation amount of \$2,500.

From: April Wolfe, Therapeutic Rec Specialist

Department: Parks and Recreation

Summary:

The City of Reno provides year-round adaptive recreation programs and services. For that reason, PH International solicited the City of Reno to host ten Nepalese adaptive sports participants for the Sport for Social Change (SSC) program. The City of Reno will serve as a Local Partner for the US-based exchange that will take place in Reno, Nevada, from September 23, through October 4, 2024. The program is funded by the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Sports Diplomacy Division. Staff recommends acceptance of the local partner agreement and compensation of \$2,500.

Consent Review	Yes	No
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?	X	
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?		X
3. Is this item included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?	X	
Other Considerations		
What percent of the total City budget does this item represent?	0%	

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Fiscal Sustainability
Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

PH International was founded in 1985 for the purpose of cultural and educational exchanges between the then-USSR and the US. Over the past 33 years, more than 10,000 individuals have participated in PH's international exchange programs in the US and across Eurasia and the Middle East.

Today, PH International's mission is to build strong global communities by fostering civic engagement, cross-cultural learning, and increased opportunities in the digital age. PH strives towards a world where individuals and communities collaborate across borders to resolve global challenges. PH pursues this vision by conducting innovative programs for youth, professionals, and communities around the world that use in-person and online engagement, practical skills development, and coalition building to support global collaboration, learning, and advancement.

Discussion:

In October 2008, the City of Reno became a Paralympic Sport Club. With the support of the US Paralympics and now Move United, the City of Reno has quickly become a leader in offering year-round adaptive recreation programming such as wheelchair rugby, wheelchair basketball, adaptive cycling, sled hockey, veteran programs, quarterly spinal cord injury (SCI) education luncheons, an adaptive equipment rental program, and a new adaptive cycling center. For that reason, PH International solicited the City of Reno to host ten Nepalese adaptive sports participants for the SSC program.

In cooperation with the Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, this program will provide adaptive athletes, coaches, influencers, and community sports leaders the opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills and examine leadership development and community engagement through sport during a ten-day wheelchair sports exchange in the US. Furthermore, this program will provide participants with hands-on learning, interactive group and peer-to-peer activities, site visits, and community service experience to develop leadership abilities. Through this SSC program, participants will get a better understanding of how they can become active members of society and be more involved in their communities through sports.

The City of Reno will provide support in building a robust program itinerary for Nepalese participants traveling to Reno in September 2024 by connecting PH with local organizations to work with throughout the exchange including, but not limited to the following:

- Organize workshops and seminars on topics related to adaptive sports and outdoor universal accessibility;

- Organize recreational opportunities and excursions to visit local adaptive sports teams and organizations that serve adaptive athletes;
- Organize a meeting for the group with the Reno Access Advisory Committee (RAAC);
- Organize a community service opportunity for participants;
- Connect the Sports Exchange Program Manager with other adaptive sports partners in the Tahoe and Bay area;
- Provide recommendations and contacts for hotels, transit companies, and restaurants for the group's lodging, transportation, and meals while in Reno.

The total compensation for the above services as a Local Partner will be \$2,500 in support of a US-based exchange in September. Additionally, the program has a Nepal-based exchange opportunity in April 2025 that local adaptive athletes, coaches, influencers, and community sports leaders can apply to PH International to attend.

Financial Implications:

None. The total compensation for the above services as a Local Partner will be \$2,500 in support of a US-based exchange in September. All other expenses associated with the exchange are covered directly by PH International.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council accept the local partner agreement and \$2,500 compensation from PH International.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Local Partner Agreement-PH International
Nepal Outbound Factsheet