

STAFF REPORT

Date: May 8, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: **Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion, and potential approval of (1) activation, infrastructure, and maintenance at West Street Plaza using \$300,000 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) on May 19, 2021; (2) authorization to award contracts to the lowest responsive and responsible bid in accordance with competitive bidding laws set forth in Chapter 338 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS); (3) authorization to approve the professional services agreement in accordance with Chapter 332 of NRS and City policy; and (4) authorization to award contracts for the purchase of various needed equipment identified by the professional service agreement in accordance with Chapter 332 of NRS and City policy.**

From: Amy Pennington, Project Coordinator

Department: Public Works

Summary:

On March 8, 2023, Council approved \$3 million in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to invest in the Truckee River Experience. On October 25, 2023, the City of Reno and Washoe County approved Dig Studio, as selected by a panel through the request for qualifications (RFQ) process, to embark on the Truckee River Vision Plan.

As part of the timeline, it was determined that Dig Studio would bring forward recommended projects for the City of Reno's remaining \$2,670,394 in SLFRF for the Truckee River in March 2024, and bring forward the larger Truckee River Vision for the City and County in May 2024.

This item is for the approval of activation, infrastructure, and maintenance at West Street Plaza along the Truckee River Corridor for an amount not to exceed \$300,000. Staff supports this recommendation.

ARPA Funding Timeline:



Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Economic and Community
Development Arts, Parks, and Historical
Resources Public Safety

Previous Council Action:

October 25, 2023 – Council approved \$329,627 with a reimbursement of \$100,000 from Washoe County to hire Dig Studio to develop the Truckee River Vision Plan, including initial recommendations for \$2,770,373 in SLFRF for the Truckee River Corridor.

March 8, 2023 – Council approved the allocation of the remaining \$28,150,044.97 in SLFRF received through ARPA on May 19, 2021, including possible allocation to specific projects identified through the public, Council, and staff engagement process or general spending categories identified by Council as a priority for fund allocation by December 31, 2024.

Background:

The purpose of the ARPA funding allocated to the Truckee River is for activation, infrastructure, and maintenance improvements. The Dig plan was to conduct an analysis of the Truckee River corridor and adjacent land within unincorporated Washoe County and the City of Reno from the California state line to the border of Sparks and develop an implementation and financing plan to guide current and future investment. In addition to working with City of Reno staff, the consultant will work with the public and stakeholders to identify a unified vision and provide recommendations and a phased implementation plan.

Due to the ARPA funding timeline, staff is bringing these recommendations forward while the larger vision is still being finalized.

Discussion:

Beginning in November 2023, Dig Studio led a stakeholder and public engagement process that included meetings with hundreds of stakeholders and members of the public.

Public outreach and stakeholder engagement resulted in the identification of three goals:

1. Create a clean and safe riverfront;
2. Create a connected riverfront with easy access to the river; and
3. Implement a cohesive plan for consistency in design and long-term maintenance.

This item includes activation, infrastructure, and maintenance for West Street Plaza.

Table 2: Activation, Infrastructure, and Maintenance for West Street Plaza	
Elements	Cost
Activation	\$150,000
Infrastructure:	\$150,000
Maintenance	Covered by current City operations
Total:	\$300,000

The proposed funding will provide:

- **Activation:** At \$75,000 per year over two years, totaling \$150,000, West Street Plaza will be activated with monthly and weekly events and programming from June to October in the 2025 and 2026 season. This will consist of the following events and frequency:
 - Harmony on the River: Monthly – second Thursdays from June to September
 - Flicks on the Bricks: Weekly – Fridays from August to October
 - Food Trucks: Weekly – Sundays from June to October
- **Infrastructure:**
 - A 40-foot multi-use kiosk will be placed in the plaza to be used for storage of furniture and other placemaking elements, retail and specialty uses, as well as a location for clean and safe services like River Rangers.
 - Moveable furniture will be purchased and placed throughout the plaza which can be moved into the kiosk when special events are planned for the West Street Plaza.
- **Maintenance:**
 - West Street Plaza will continue to receive the same level of services as other parks and plazas in the area with additional support from the Downtown Reno Partnership. River Rangers placed at the kiosk will provide additional maintenance and stewardship of the plaza.

Financial Implications:

Funding for the consultant agreement will come from the Council-approved \$3 million in SLFRF to begin implementation of investment in the Truckee River Experience.

Legal Implications:

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

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of (1) activation, infrastructure, and maintenance at West Street Plaza using \$300,000 in SLFRF received through ARPA on May 19, 2021; (2) authorization to award contracts to the lowest responsive and responsible bid in accordance with competitive bidding laws set forth in Chapter 338 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS); (3) authorization to approve the professional services agreement in accordance with Chapter 332 of NRS and City policy; and (4) authorization to award contracts for the purchase of various needed equipment identified by the professional services agreement in accordance with Chapter 332 of NRS and City policy.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve (1) activation, infrastructure, and maintenance at West Street Plaza using \$300,000 in SLFRF received through ARPA on May 19, 2021; (2) authorization to award contracts to the lowest responsive and responsible bid in accordance with competitive bidding laws set forth in Chapter 338 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS); (3) authorization to approve the professional services agreement in accordance with Chapter 332 of NRS and City policy; and (4) authorization to award contracts for the purchase of various needed equipment identified by the professional services agreement in accordance with Chapter 332 of NRS and City policy.

Attachments:

Truckee River Plan RFQ

Agreement with Dig for Truckee River Plan