

STAFF REPORT

Date: December 4, 2024

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, Interim City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of a Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Reno and the Downtown Reno Partnership (DRP) to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to support activation and beautification efforts in downtown Reno, in a not to exceed amount of \$370,000. [ARPA Fund]

From: Jenifer Alvarez, Community Liaison

Department: City Manager's Office – Council Donations

Summary:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF). The City of Reno received \$51,519,997 from the SLFRF and began allocating funds to critical projects on August 25, 2021, following initial acceptance of the funds. Since acceptance, Council adopted seven priority categories based on community input, Council direction, Treasury requirements, and the City of Reno master and strategic plans. Staff is seeking approval of the subrecipient agreement between the City of Reno and the Downtown Reno Partnership (DRP) to support the DRP in facilitating adding colorful murals to blighted facades, infrastructure maintenance / improvements with opportunities for outdoor dining, as well as events to bring added foot traffic to downtown.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Economic and Community Development
Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

Previous Council Action:

August 25, 2021 – Council accepted the \$51,519,997 in SLFRF allocated through ARPA, directed a public engagement process to identify potential projects, and allocated \$70,000 to each Reno councilmember for council-specific projects.

Background:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) which provided funding to state, county, and local governments for COVID-19 recovery efforts. The City of Reno received \$51,519,997 from the SLFRF and began allocating funds on August 25, 2021. Part of this allocation included \$70,000 to each Reno councilmember for council-specific projects. Council set priority categories based on Treasury guidelines, community feedback, the City's Strategic Plan, and Council goals. Since accepting this funding, over 60 projects have been approved by the Reno City Council.

Discussion:

The DRP is a key partner in revitalization efforts in downtown Reno, and this funding will help advance projects that benefit the community, including efforts that attract both residents and visitors to the area. The DRP plans to facilitate adding colorful murals to blighted facades, infrastructure maintenance / improvements with opportunities for outdoor dining, as well as events to bring added foot traffic to downtown. The approval of this agreement will provide DRP with financial resources to implement these projects.

These projects align with the broader goals of using ARPA funds to foster economic recovery and improve quality of life for city residents. According to the SLFRF final rule, all funds must be allocated and contracted by December 31, 2024.

Financial Implications:

The project(s) will be funded through ARPA funds.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law. The agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by the City Attorney's Office. Additionally, the agreement aligns with the requirements set forth under the United States Treasury.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve the subrecipient agreement between the City of Reno and DRP to award ARPA and SLFRF funds to support activation and beautification efforts in downtown Reno, in a not to exceed amount of \$370,000.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve the subrecipient agreement between the City of Reno and DRP to award ARPA and SLFRF funds to support activation and beautification efforts in downtown Reno, in a not to exceed amount of \$370,000.

Attachments:

Subrecipient Agreement between City of Reno and Downtown Reno Partnership