

Date: January 9, 2012
To: Southeast Uplift Board of Directors
Subject: Funding Recommendations for 2012 Neighborhood Small Grant Program

The Office of Neighborhood Involvement has allocated \$46,058 in grant funds to SE Uplift for management of the 2012 Neighborhood Small Grant Program. The overall goal of this grant program is to provide neighborhood and community-based organizations the opportunity to build community, attract new and diverse members and sustain current membership. Forty-seven eligible grant proposals were received, by the November 1, 2011 deadline, requesting a total of \$225,320.

Each year a grant selection committee convenes to review applications in-depth resulting in recommendations to the SE Uplift Board for approval. This year the committee was comprised of two members from the SE Uplift Board of Directors, one member from a community-based organization, one member from a business association board and one member from the SE Uplift staff.

During the month of November, committee members reviewed and scored each application to assess how well applicants had addressed the grant guidelines and SE Uplift's preferred use of funds. Each member's scores were then compiled into a spreadsheet ranking the average score of projects from highest to lowest.

The selection committee met on December 7, 2011 to review the scores and discuss each proposal in-depth. With the total amount of requested funds at \$179,262, over the amount of grant funds available, the committee created an evaluation method that considered various aspects of each project to determine if the project could be viable with reduced funding. The committee reviewed project budgets to determine whether line items were reasonable and projects could be completed with reduced funding.

After careful consideration the grant selection committee unanimously decided to recommend that the SE Uplift Board of Directors fund the following sixteen outstanding grant projects:

1. **82nd Avenue of Roses Parade, 82nd Avenue of Roses Business Association.**
Amount requested: \$6000. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$4000.
The 82nd Avenue of Roses Business Association will use grant funds to support and expand its sixth annual community parade. The goal of the project is to increase entertainment through the addition of two marching bands and add television advertisements to better reach and engage more members of the community.

2. **Brentwood-Darlington Communication Plan, Brentwood Darlington Neighborhood Association.** *Amount requested: \$3675. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$3675.*
The Brentwood-Darlington Neighborhood Association plans to create a comprehensive communication plan to raise awareness of the association and better serve the community as a hub for neighborhood involvement and civic engagement. Funds will be used to update the organizational newsletter, website, social networking and marketing materials. Additionally, light pole banners will be created and hung to define the association boundaries and evoke a sense of neighborhood identity.
3. **Living La Vida Healthy Fair “Passport to a Healthy Community”, Bridger School PTA.** *Amount requested: \$4195. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$4195.*
Jim Bridger PTA plans to host a neighborhood fair in the Montavilla neighborhood with the theme of promoting community, safety, academics and healthy habits. The event will include a neighborhood group bike ride to familiarize families with a safe bike route and a resource fair with a variety of informational materials. Funds will also be used to purchase give away items for participants including bikes lights and helmets and children’s books written in a variety of languages to represent all the diverse cultures at Bridger School.
4. **Ice Cream Social in the Park, Brooklyn Action Corps.** *Amount requested: \$1500. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$1500.*
The Brooklyn Action Corps requests funds to support its 10th Annual Ice Cream Social in the Park. Each year the event helps to raise awareness of the association and provides an opportunity for board members to interact with and engage neighbors and businesses in a fun, informal setting. Funds will help to offset costs for varied entertainment including music, a bounce structure, a rock wall a balloon artist and a face painter.
5. **3rd Annual Buckman Picnic in the Park, Buckman Community Association.** *Amount requested: \$6000. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$2000.*
The Buckman Community Association plans to host its 3rd Annual Picnic in the Park. The goal of the event is to introduce the association board to new and diverse community members, strengthen existing Buckman community ties and to provide a free and fun venue for neighbors from varied backgrounds to meet and build relationships. Funds will support publicity, entertainment, refreshments and other event related costs.

6. **The Language Garden Tile Mural Project, DA Grout Elementary PTA.** *Amount requested: \$4640. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$3000.*
Grout Elementary School is launching a tile mural project entitled, the Language Garden, which will connect Grout students and families who recently arrived in the U.S. as immigrants and refugees and who currently reside at nearby Kateri Park and Esperanza Court. Cooperatively, a mural will be created incorporating the more than 20 languages spoken at Grout Elementary. The finished mural, displayed on an exterior school wall, will create a welcoming gathering space for neighbors of all ages and backgrounds.
7. **Keep Division Alive and Well During Construction, Division/Clinton Business Association.** *Amount requested: \$2250. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$2000.*
The project proposed by the Division/ Clinton Business Association is designed to bring residents to Division and Clinton Streets during the numerous construction projects scheduled to start in early 2012. Funds will support a series of monthly events to build community, attract local residents and keep the business district vibrant during this time.
8. **Feast for Southeast Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Feast for Southeast.** *Amount requested: \$2500. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$1000.*
The 3rd Annual Feast for Southeast is a Thanksgiving Day event for the community by the community. Volunteers will work with one of Oregon Culinary Institute's chief instructors to plan and prepare this meal, which will be free and available to all neighbors. The event will establish a time and place where long-standing relationships can be built among diverse community members.
9. **July at Milagro, Miracle Theatre Group.** *Amount requested: \$3550. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$2500.*
The Miracle Theatre group plans to host a month-long series of evening and weekend creative workshops for families and adults in music, dance, circus, crafts and cooking. The workshops will culminate in street fair at the end of July, which will be free to neighbors and feature music, live circus demonstrations, refreshments and art and crafts vendors.
10. **The Montavilla Food Engagement Project, Montavilla Food Co-op.** *Amount requested: \$6757. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$2000.*
The Montavilla Food Engagement Project aims to increase the diversity and engagement of members and volunteers by reaching under-served residents in the surrounding neighborhood. The project will include canvassing of under-served neighbors, informational workshops and translation of printed materials into four predominant languages to reach a broader demographic and increase access to local, healthy food.

11. **MSANA Neighborhood Survey, Directory and Meeting, Mt. Scott Arleta Neighborhood Association.** Amount requested: \$7053. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$3875.
The Mt. Scott-Arleta Neighborhood Association proposes a project to begin to fully engage neighbors through an all-household survey and a community meeting to discuss trends and prioritize any issues of concern or project ideas that arise from survey results. Additionally, the project will consist of the creation of a neighborhood directory with detailed information about pertinent community resources.
12. **North Tabor Identity Project, North Tabor Neighborhood Association.** Amount requested: \$5750. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$4760.
The North Tabor Neighborhood Association plans to design and install utility pole banners along major streets to create a visible neighborhood identity and communicate a sense of neighborhood pride. In addition, a community health and safety fair will be held to provide information about resources available within their neighborhood and the city, and also to better engage neighborhood in the Neighborhood Association.
13. **Community Classes for Adults with Special Needs, On-the-Move Community Integration.** Amount requested: \$7500. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$5000.
On-the-Move Community Integration will use grant funds for a new project that will offer free multi-cultural enrichment and reading classes for adults with developmental disabilities. The project will help to combat the social isolation and discrimination experienced by adults with disabilities by providing courses that forge community, self-esteem, cultural understanding and improved education.
14. **People of the Drum, Portland Taiko.** Amount requested: \$2000. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$2000.
Portland Taiko's People of the Drum project will bring musicians from diverse backgrounds together with a team of youth muralists to create an interactive arts experience for SE Portland neighbors. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about Native American, Japanese, Aztec and African cultures through traditional arts, which share common roots while remaining culturally distinctive.
15. **Arleta School Gardens, Public Harvest.** Amount requested: \$2445. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$1500.
The Arleta School Gardens project will convert under-utilized areas of the Arleta school grounds into gardens filled with fruiting shrubs and native plants. After landscaping improvements, the community will be invited onto the grounds to care for and harvest from its plantings and as a result, the school will become a community space maintained and cared for by its neighbors.

16. **Sunnyside Park Equipment Sharing Program, Sunnyside United Methodist Church.** Amount requested: \$5215. Selection Committee Recommendation: Fund at \$3053.

The Sunnyside United Methodist Church proposes a new park equipment sharing program where families using nearby Sunnyside Park can have easy, equitable-to-all access to items such as balls, juggling and chess sets, jump ropes and Frisbees. Acknowledging the economic diversity of neighbors, grant funds will allow the church to offer these items on a suggested donation or free basis. The project aims to bring people together; promote good health and create a friendly, cooperative community.

These recommended projects are excellent examples of how the community is working together to improve the quality of our neighborhoods by building community, increasing volunteer capacity and forging new organizational partnerships through sustainable projects. The grant selection committee believes that the Neighborhood Small Grant Program adds enormous value to the community and to the Neighborhood Associations within our coalition area.