



## FOOD EQUITY MICROGRANT SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 30th, 2023

The following members of the Food Equity Microgrant Program Selection Committee were present:

***In person***

Maria Schwarz, Committee Chair

***Electronic***

Maddie Judge, Committee Vice Chair

Gina Cornia

Cristobal Villegas

Hannah Barton

The following members were absent:

James Hunter

Xris Macias

Karina Villalba

Also Present:

Monica O'Malley, Committee Secretary

Minutes by Monica O'Malley, Salt Lake City Sustainability Department, Special Projects Assistant

**Meeting Time: 10:00 am | Time Commenced: 11:30 am**

#### **1. Approve meeting minutes**

Ms. Cornia motioned to adopt minutes from the 3/23 meeting. Ms. Barton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **2. Review Home Food Production Grant recommendations**

Chair Schwarz shared information on applicant follow up conversations. This mainly consisted of comments from applicants who applied to both the Home Food Production Grant and the Community Grant. Follow up conversations with some Community Grant applicants was also shared to provide more clarification on their proposals.

Chair Schwarz also shared that City's Sustainability Department can start making progress on distributing funds to Home Food Production applicants while the committee makes final decisions on funding Community Grant proposals.

### **3. Review Community Grant recommendations**

Chair Schwarz reviewed each Community Grant proposal, highlighting the name of the organization that applied, their project summary, and the identified target population served by the organization.

Chair Schwarz explained how she calibrated the Community Grant scores. The calibration adjusted the order of the mid-ranking proposals, but the top 5 and many of the bottom scores remained in the same order.

Ms. Cornia asked how much funding is available to be put towards Community Grants. Chair Schwarz responded that around \$21,000.00 - \$22,000.00 is available, and this amount would not fully fund the total amount requested by top 5 scoring Community Grant proposals. Chair Schwarz is looking for more funding, however, additional funding cannot be guaranteed.

The Committee determined that if the top 5 proposals were granted 75% of requested funding, about \$5,000.00 of funding would remain.

Mr. Villegas asked how many of the top 5 scoring applicants specifically serve Salt Lake City's west side. Chair Schwarz responded that 3 of the top 5 applicants serve the west side.

The Committee reviewed the three applicants, Jayhawks, Wonder Arts LLC, and SLAM Ranch, who applied to both the Home Food Production Grant and the Community Grant. It was determined that Wonder Arts LLC and SLAM Ranch will likely not receive Community Grant funding due to their score ranking and should only receive funding for their Home Food Grant proposals. Jayhawks will be considered for Community Grant funding due to their high ranking score and their service to the west side community.

The Committee considered denying funding to organizations with scores below 80%, examined the proposals that fall within that criteria, and identified a few organizations they would not want to automatically deny funding to due to their service to priority populations.

The Committee explored several different partial funding options they could use to stretch funding so it has the greatest effect. Ms. Cornia explained that sometime partial funding can be worse than no funding if the organization does not have complete funding for a project and has to make up an unexpected difference themselves.

Chair Schwarz gave more context around Wasatch Community Garden's proposal, explaining it is a joint application between Wasatch Community Gardens and Artes de México.

The Committee discussed the benefit of asking organizations whether receiving partial funding would be beneficial to them. Ms. Barton suggested that a question pertaining to partial funding be included in a future iteration of the Food Equity Microgrant application. The Committee discussed whether 4H programs would be able to receive partial funding.

The Committee decided they should take a closer look at applicants' budgets before making final funding decisions.

Ms. Cornia and Chair Schwarz identified two organizations with high ranking scores that are seeking funding for direct food purchases, We Say Salam and The Food Justice Coalition. The committee discussed granting partial funding to these organizations because their projects do not fully meet the sustainable aspect of the grant, and they would likely be able to continue their work with partial funding. Mr. Villegas suggested that if this grant program is offered again in the future, organizations should be asked to specify whether they want funding for direct services or capacity building projects.

Mr. Villegas mentioned that the committee should carefully consider organizations whose projects are on private property.

### **4. Address questions and make final funding decisions**

The Committee did not make any final Community Grant funding decisions. The Committee decided to take another look at the proposals and budgets of the 15 highest scoring organizations, People's Market, and Somali Community Self Management Agency before the next meeting.

## 6. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Maria Schwarz, Committee Chair

Date: April 6, 2023

This document and the recording constitute the official minutes of the Food Equity Microgrant Program Selection Committee meeting held March 30, 2023.