



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of June 16, 2012

DATE: June 6, 2012

SUBJECT: Acceptance and appropriation of a \$96,224 federal Economic Development Initiative grant for renovation of 3700 South Four Mile Run Drive to create the Shirlington Arts Incubator.

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Appropriate \$96,224 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (101.371895) to the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD) (101.72408) for reimbursement of construction costs for an arts incubator at 3700 South Four Mile Run Drive in a County-owned facility.
2. Authorize the County Manager or her designee to enter into any agreement(s) and execute the required documents for receipt of this grant, subject to the terms and conditions of the grant and subject to approval of them by the County Attorney.

ISSUES: County Board approval is required for appropriate of a federal grant. There are no outstanding issues.

SUMMARY: The County was awarded a Congressional earmark, known as an Economic Development Initiative (EDI) grant, in FY 2007 for the creation of an arts incubator in the Shirlington neighborhood. An appropriate location was not located until 2011. Renovated vacant office space will provide supported arts groups with access to office and studio space, and will also update equipment for Theater on the Run. It will also provide Arlingtonians a location to see artists in residence. This project is an eligible use of the federal grant funds.

BACKGROUND: The Public Spaces Master Plan (adopted by the County Board in December 2005) and Arlington Arts 2030 Report prepared by the Arlington Arts Commission identify Shirlington as Arlington's home for the arts, and reinforce the need for affordable arts spaces. In FY 2007, an EDI grant in the amount of \$96,224 was awarded for the creation of an arts incubator in Shirlington. The initial intention was to use the site at 3806 South Four Mile Run Drive (previous location of Signature Theatre) for installation of a sprinkler system. The original project was not implemented because of cost restraints. When staff from the Cultural Affairs Division was merged with Arlington Economic Development (AED) and relocated to Ballston,

County Manager:

County Attorney:

BRC

30.

Staff: David Bennett, Community Development Planner III

the vacated office space at 3700 South Four Mile Run Drive was identified as a suitable site for the incubator; the proximity to the Signature Theatre and Theatre on the Run make it an optimal location for the incubator.

The project will be overseen by Cultural Development staff, and will include lighting upgrades and improvements to Theatre on the Run's black box theater and portable sound systems for rehearsal spaces. Additional upgrades will include creation of office and studio space for artists. County staff familiar with current equipment will be managing the installation and upgrades. On-site staff includes a facility manager and a manager of artist services.

DISCUSSION: If approved, the space will address the existing artist community needs of the area and offer Arlingtonians an additional arts-oriented amenity. The project is anticipated to take three months to complete, and the funds can be drawn from HUD to meet the deadline for reimbursement from the EDI grant by September 30, 2012. AED staff is confident that the project can be completed in a timely manner before the deadline.

The funds will be appropriated to CPHD because of its existing relationship with HUD and responsibility for compliance with federal regulations. The County's Environmental Review Officer has determined that the project is in compliance with environmental requirements. The Housing Division's financial manager is an authorized user of LOCCS, HUD's financial draw-down system. CPHD and AED will work together to ensure project reimbursement and reporting.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no new net tax support required for the acceptance of this grant (\$96,224). The grant will fully fund the costs of the renovation project, and the ongoing utility and maintenance costs for the space are already included in the County's FY 2013 adopted budget.