

Casey Toomay

Subject: FW: Regarding Pollinators Mural Request

From: Perkins-McGuinness, Margaret [<mailto:mpm@ku.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 10:18 AM
To: jf@justfoodks.org; Mike Amyx; Michael Dever; Terry Riordan; Bob Schumm
Cc: Earle, Susan E.; Hardy, Saralyn Reece; Diane Stoddard; David L. Corliss
Subject: Regarding Pollinators Mural Request

Dear Commissioners:

I would first like to express my most sincere gratitude to each of you for the thoughtful attention that you have given to the Spencer Museum of Art's initiative to re-create the *Pollinators* mural in downtown Lawrence, including your consideration of our recent request of \$30,000 to support the project.

At this time, the Spencer Museum wishes to postpone our request for funding from the City of Lawrence, with plans to resubmit the request for inclusion in the 2016 City Budget. We understand that the construction of the building at 100 E. 9th, upon which the mural will be placed, is slated for completion in late 2015, which informs our decision to postpone our request. Between now and spring of 2015, when the City solicits requests from external agencies for the 2016 budget cycle, we plan to push forward with our planning process, during which time we will privately fundraise to complement the \$20,000 contribution pledged by Doug Compton and First Management, Inc. We hope for the full support of the City Commission during the 2016 budget planning cycle, at which time we will share our fundraising progress to date, and pursue the remaining funds necessary bring the mural to fruition.

It is a testament to First Management's and the City's support for the arts that the *Pollinators* will remain a celebrated cultural landmark for our community, and a gateway to the new 9th Street Corridor and East Lawrence Arts District. We appreciate your vision and the guidance that has been provided by the Commission and the City Manager's office in support of this project. Susan Earle and I will be in attendance at tonight's City Commission meeting, and will be happy to answer any questions that may arise. We look forward to our continued partnership.

With all best wishes,
Margaret Perkins-McGuinness
Susan Earle
Saralyn Reece Hardy

Spencer Museum of Art
University of Kansas
1301 Mississippi Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
785.864.0141 office

www.spencerart.ku.edu

2015 City Grant Goals based on the Douglas County Community Health Plan

Priority Issues	Health Plan Goal	2015 Van Go Services	Partners
Poverty and Jobs 70% of Van Go teens live in poverty	All people have equal opportunity for employment & resources that meet their family's needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 100 jobs to at-risk teens/young adults • Address a root cause of poverty by keeping kids on track to graduate with their class (100% of Van Go seniors graduated in 2014 and 89% of alums have a high school diploma, or higher degree) • Teach, model, and evaluate the job skills that local employers need (60% of Van Go alumni are currently employed, while 21% are currently in college or technical school) • Leverage City funds to bring \$300,000 to Lawrence from federal and foundation grants (Van Go has brought in more than \$1.5 million to our community via federal grants since 2005) 	Funding Partner: U.S. Dept of Labor, WIA (Workforce Investment Act) Referring Partners: USD 497, Bert Nash, DCYS, Dg Co Family Court, The Shelter, Inc.
Access to Healthy Foods	To create environments where healthy food consumption is easier & more likely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,000 healthy snacks • 850 healthy lunches • 150 family dinners • 65 healthy living/nutrition lessons • 207 kids served through "Teen Eats" collaboration • Van Go also provides these additional Access to Healthy Foods components: free groceries, farmers market tokens, cooking lessons, opportunities to prepare meals, family meal lessons and recipes, farm field trips 	Food Providers: Just Food, Harvesters, Dg Co Health Dept. Hilary Kass, La Parilla, Farmer's Market, Hilary's Eat Well, 715, Merchant's Pub, Burger Stand
Mental Health 81% of Van Go teens have a mental health diagnosis	To create a community which values positive mental & behavioral health (MBH) & encourages everyone to seek help when they need it by promoting prevention & responding to mental health needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,560 hours of social work services • 350 aftercare sessions to former participants • 500 referrals to community resources • 700 individual meetings with kids • 2 KU School of Social Welfare intern placements 	Mental Health Partners: Bert Nash, KU School of Social Welfare, USD 497
Physical Activity	To create an environment and culture, through policy & systems change, that makes physical activity easier & more rewarding for people of all ages and abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily exercise activities in the summer • Bi-weekly exercise activities during the school year • Exercises include: yoga, martial arts, zumba, calisthenics, walking, and aerobics • Year-round activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LMH's Walktober ○ Five @ 5 daily activity ○ Bicycle assistance, acquisition, safety education ○ 1:1 physical fitness counseling provided by social work staff 	Fitness Instructors: Red Dog, Aly Young, Becky Kasenberg, Nomi Redding, Amy Ash, Cathy Patterson, Chad Richards
Access to Health Services Not addressed in application	To assure a health care system in Dg. Co. effectively & efficiently offers preventative & primary care services that are timely, accessible, & affordable for all residents of the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 59 on-site health assessments in 2013 administered by LMH staff • A Community Health Resource created and provided by Van Go social work staff • Assistance with transportation and scheduling of health appointments • Lessons in: nutrition, sleep, flu shots, hygiene, plus life-skills talks by community partners 	Health Partners: LMH, Health Care Access, Heartland Health Clinic, Douglas County Dental Clinic, Health Dept. Healthy Sexuality Educators, DCAP on-site HIV testing and free condoms



RECEIVED

JUL 14 2014

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

July 12, 2014
616 N. Daylily Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049

Board Members

Bob Bowline

Ernie Dyer

Curt Floerchinger

Mary Grob

John Harris

Jim Henry

Ernesto Hodison
Treasurer

Dick Holzmeister

Linda Lassen

Dottie Nordlund
Secretary

Vicki L. Penner

Bill Reynolds
President

David Rivers

John G. Saylor

Doni Mooberry Slough
Campaign Treasurer

Jeff Weinberg

Carolynn Winters-Hazelton

The Honorable Mike Amyx
Mayor of the City of Lawrence
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mayor Amyx:

On behalf of Warm Hearts of Douglas County, Inc. board members, I wanted to take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude for **Social Service Funding** received from the city of Lawrence over the past thirty years +.

In recent years, we have been most grateful for the \$6,000 granted to Warm Hearts because it has enabled Warm Hearts to assist more low-income households in Lawrence struggling to pay their winter heating fuel bills. Without this \$6,000, Warm Hearts would have had no alternative but to pay the expenses of our fall mailing campaign (printing and postage), postal permit and postal box, annual audit, web site fees & maintenance, Pay Pal user fees, advertising costs, etc. using donations received from individual donors.

Our board members are all volunteers receiving no salary or other compensation for their efforts and First Christian Church currently provides us without cost a place to conduct our monthly meetings. Board members take pride in being able to say that 100% of all donor's contributions go to support our efforts to assist low-income families in Douglas County each year!

This past week it was brought to my attention that the Social Service Funding Advisory Board has recommended that Warm Hearts NOT be considered for funding in 2015! The Board Members of Warm Hearts of Douglas County ask that this decision be reviewed for further consideration.

- This past winter, 451 applications were received from low-income households in Douglas County requesting assistance in paying their heating fuel bills. 1052 individuals lived in these households includes senior citizens, and children.
- As established in 1982, Warm Hearts has five (5) agencies in Lawrence. Each of them accept applications for Warm Hearts assistance. These agencies are **The Salvation Army, Douglas County Senior Services, ECKAN, Penn House and the Ballard Center.**

**Reginald L. Robinson
4210 W. 13th Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66049**

785-8332-1308

July 17, 2014

The Honorable Mike Amyx
Mayor, City of Lawrence
Amyx Barbershop
842 Massachusetts St
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mayor Amyx,

I hope you're doing well as we make our way quickly through the summer season. I know that this is a busy time for you, especially as you and your colleagues on the Commission grapple with difficult and challenging city budget issues. And it is in that connection, and in my capacity as the President of the Advisory Board for the Friends of the Spencer Museum of Art, that I write this letter. As you work to approve a City of Lawrence budget for the coming year, I strongly urge you to include an allocation of \$30,000 to support the re-creation of the *Pollinators* mural.

As you know from the Commission's thorough consideration of this issue during its April 8th meeting, the current version of the mural, which has great historical and cultural significance for the City, particularly its African-American and artistic communities, will be destroyed in connection with a development project that is already underway.

The Spencer Museum, which played an important catalytic role as a partner in the community-wide effort to create the original mural in connection with an exhibition it hosted – *Aaron Douglas: African American Modernists*, was deeply concerned about the demolition of the current mural. As a result, it contacted the Commission, and, at the City's urging, worked with a broad array of stakeholders, including the developer, regarding the fate of the mural. Ultimately, those stakeholders reached a mutually agreeable resolution regarding the mural. Under that agreement, the current site will be demolished, but the developer has agreed to configure its project so that it will include a large panel upon which a new mural, commissioned by the Spencer Museum, will be created. Like the process through which the original *Pollinators* mural was created, the re-creation effort will engage a broad array of Lawrencians. The total cost of the new mural is estimated at \$50,000. The developer has agreed to contribute \$20,000. We hope that the City will contribute the remaining \$30,000. Let me briefly outline why I think this \$30,000 investment is a good one for our City.

First, at a time when our City is engaged in important and impressive work to elevate the profile of its Cultural Arts District and bring a bright and positive spotlight of attention to the significant role that art and culture play in the life of our wonderfully vibrant community, it would be important for the City to demonstrate its support for a community-engaged project that celebrates the history of African-American cultural icons, many of whom reflect key aspects of our state's history that are not otherwise well-documented. This is a distinctive piece of art that should be re-created. City support for such an effort would make an important, positive, and powerful statement that reinforces our Cultural Arts District focus.

Second, as we continue to develop our identity as an arts and culture community, exciting questions about public art and how we make decisions regarding that art are likely to emerge frequently for us as a community. This request – to provide support for a public/private, community-engaged effort to re-create a historically and culturally significant piece of public art – provides the City with an invaluable opportunity to demonstrate how to resolve, in a balanced and constructive way, the tensions that can emerge between art and culture on the one hand, and important economic development initiatives on the other.

Finally, your support for this \$30,000 grant will validate what I thought I saw as I watched the City Commission consider these issues on April 8th. I saw a Commission that recognized the importance of the *Pollinators* mural and its cultural and historical value to our community. I saw a Commission that was pleased and impressed with the way in which a group of stakeholders with different perspectives came together around a solution to preserve, through re-creation, that important piece of public art. And I saw a Commission that seemed interested in playing a helpful role in bringing that agreed-upon solution into reality. I hope that my eyes (and ears) did not deceive me.

I know that budgets are tight, and I appreciate the difficult choices that confront you and your colleagues. But I think, for the reasons I have outlined, that this request is a particularly important one. I strongly urge you to support it. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have questions. Thank you for your invaluable service to our community.

Sincerely,

Reginald L. Robinson
President, Friends of the Spencer Museum of Art

cc: David Corliss, City Manager
City of Lawrence

Casey Toomay

From: David L. Corliss
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2014 12:19 PM
To: mike dever; Jeremy Farmer; Michael Dever; Mike Amyx; Terry Riordan; Bob Schumm
Cc: Casey Toomay
Subject: Fwd: Van Go funding

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lynne Green <lynne@van-go.org>
Date: July 18, 2014 at 11:47:51 AM CDT
To: Mike Amyx <mikeamyx515@hotmail.com>
Cc: "David L. Corliss" <DCorliss@lawrenceks.org>
Subject: Van Go funding

Dear Mike,

For 9 years, VG has received 2 sources of City funding: General Fund and Alcohol Tax Funds.

Last year, the City funded VG at \$35,000 in General Fund and 38,566 in Al. Tax for a total of \$73,566

The 2015 budget proposal has VG -0- funded in the general fund and is recommending a cut of 5k in Al. Tax \$\$'s--a significant loss of \$41,500 or 57% of our total City funding.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to watch these short, informational videos:

Lynne

<https://vimeo.com/61720460> --5 min. "Go Healthy" VG produced video--2013 (The City's 2015 application was based on The Community Health Plan)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqEJ7Ww5daE> -3 minute KU produced video--2014

<https://vimeo.com/101002181> --13 minute, teen produced VG documentary-2014 Free State Festival

Van Go's 17 year track record of fiscal accountability for its nationally recognized job training programs, as well as impressive outcomes for the at-risk teens only WE address in our community, substantiates our case for support from the City.

The Facts:

DEPTH vs BREADTH In the advisory board minutes, there was a statement that VG's cost per student was "too high."

108 teens are served annually, at a cost per child of \$5,500. Changing lives is NOT cheap. We intentionally keep the #'s small as

our mission is to CHANGE LIVES. (please note: It costs \$85,000 annually for the State of Ks. to incarcerate a teen.)

social work intensive services: 1200 hours annually in 1-1 sessions
w/teens

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

VG provides 18,000 hours per year of total teen employment....\$100,000 in wages paid to teens and their families

Some teens are only wage earner in household

Has brought 1.5 million in federal Dept. of Labor funds to Lawrence since 2005

ONLY AGENCY..... who serves this needy population.....70% teens live in poverty, 80% mental health diagnosis--48% have IEP's

Our strength---the depth of service we provide to at-risk teen,s 14-21, is life-changing for many, life-saving for some.

Longterm OUTCOMES..... 2:1 Twice as many teens 14-18 graduate from high school as those interviewed and didn't hire

longitudinal data....gathered from 15 year VG reunion in 2012:

94% received their high school diploma

100% reported that their self-confidence had improved at VG

87% reported feeling more responsible after working at VG

91% reported that VG prepare them for future

employment

WITHOUT CITY

FUNDING The loss of \$41,500 of City funds which pays the ¾ time salary, plus benefits, of a ¾ time social worker (one of two employed by VG) would

significantly damage the impact that VG makes on our at-risk youth.

In 2014, 90% of the 18-21 year olds supervised by our ¾ time social worker, found permanent employment through

VG's efforts, which include these in-depth support services for 12-18 mos:

~ life skills training

~ job preparation/training

~ 1:1 weekly counseling

~ internship placement, supervision, evaluation

~ job placement

~follow-up/job maintenance

The above in-depth services are directly responsible for 90% of our 2014 young adults joining the workforce as productive members of our community. Without our 3/4 time social worker these great outcomes would not have been possible!

Lynne Green
Executive Director

Van Go, Inc
715 New Jersey
PO Box 153
Lawrence, KS 66044
(785) 842-3797
lynne@van-go.org
www.van-go.org



Van Go: Art is what you see, jobs are what we do.