



IN THIS ISSUE

**Economic Development Grant Programs - Impact Partner and Building Upfit Grants
Recreation and Education Centers (REC) and the Families and Schools Together (FAST) Programs**

Council Follow Up

Atlantic Avenue Improvements Project - Public Art Update (Council Member Cox)

INFORMATION:

Economic Development Grant Programs - Impact Partner and Building Upfit Grants

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The [Impact Partner Grant](#) (IPG) and [Building Upfit Grant](#) (BUG) programs were components of the staff update on Economic Development efforts provided during the August 18 City Council member. As a reminder for Council, the IPG program exists to stimulate the [innovation and entrepreneurial eco-system](#) in Raleigh. The upcoming cycle of IPG grant awards will include a collaboration with Raleigh business alliances that focus on artist engagement as a strategy to amplify the hyperlocal marketing campaign *Wish You Were Here*.

Likewise, the BUG program enables investment by small businesses to renovate or expand interior spaces. Qualified improvements include mechanical, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, lighting, and other permanent upgrades. The BUG offers a 1:1 qualified spending match for businesses with less than 50 employees, in amounts up to \$15,000 (\$25,000 of located within identified Priority Areas for Economic Development).

Staff is working with the business alliances to rollout IPG efforts along with the Governor's Phase III guidelines. At the same time, promotion for the next BUG application cycle was initiated this past week via this message: [Building Up-fit Grant Cycle GovDelivery Message](#). The application window opened Friday, August 21 and applications will be accepted through Friday, October 2. BUG grant recipients will be notified

by October 16. For complete information about the BUG grant program requirements, visit the ED&I [website](#).

(No attachment)

Recreation and Education Centers (REC) and the Families and Schools Together (FAST) Programs

Staff Resource: Ken Hisler, Parks, 996-4823, kenneth.hisler@raleighnc.gov

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is a proud partner of the Families and Schools Together (FAST) effort which was developed to support students and families impacted by the academic year beginning with all online classes. As of Monday, August 17 there are 109 students registered to participate in the Recreation and Education Centers (REC) program at ten (10) locations across the City. The REC program will run for 18 weeks with programming focused on providing an environment for students to connect to their specific academic platform while also offering enhanced activities (e.g. STEAM, cultural, health & wellness) and traditional recreation activities.

Looking forward, we have in excess of 200 participants with an average of 130 registered per week through the first quarter of the academic year. The Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) has announced that students will remain out of the classroom through that time frame. While some sites are at capacity, other locations are able to accept additional participants and are actively promoting through the WCPSS network, the FAST partnership platform, and Raleigh Parks marketing efforts. Financial aid is available, including a reduced fee of \$40 per week for students that qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Approximately 45% of participants are registered at the reduced rate or are receiving some level of financial aid.

(No attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

Follow Up from the August 18 City Council Meeting

Atlantic Avenue Improvements Project - Public Art Update (Council Member Cox)

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During the meeting Council requested an update on the public art associated with the Atlantic Avenue Improvements project. Information on the overall Public Art Program is being provided in addition to the specific update on public art associated with the Atlantic Avenue Improvements Project.

Public Art Program Information

Each year during budget development, staff identifies capital projects eligible under the Percent for Art (PA) Ordinance. Pursuant to Public Art Policy Section 1, the list of eligible projects is shared with the Public Art and Design Board (PADB), which is authorized to allocate funding. The adopted (FY2019-23) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes several public art-eligible streetscape projects funded through the 2017 Transportation Bond.

The PADB was provided project background and information regarding visibility, traffic volumes, walkability, and equity for each eligible capital project through a series of meetings and presentations by RDOT project managers. With this information, the PADB developed allocation criteria and determined funding allocations to the following transportation projects:

- Atlantic Avenue Road Improvement Project
- Marsh Creek/Trawick Street Improvement Project
- Poole Road Widening Project
- Barwell Road Improvement Project
- Carolina Pines Avenue Improvement Project
- Blue Ridge Road Improvement Project; and
- General Streetscape Improvement Projects

The projects listed above are now in either the Artist Selection phase or the Research and Community Engagement phase.

Atlantic Avenue Improvement Project Public Art Update

The Public Art allocation for the Atlantic Avenue Improvements projects is \$80,000. Staff advertised a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for artists in April 2020 and received a total of 18 proposals. Proposals were rated by a panel composed of residents within the project area, local artists, and staff with the Engineering Services department. The panel selected four artists, interviewed and ranked the proposals in July; based on the evaluation Durham-based artist David Wilson was selected to provide art for the Atlantic Avenue project. The artist has successfully created several public art exhibits in North Carolina and is also currently working with the City of Raleigh for a public art installation at Chavis Park. Raleigh Arts staff is currently organizing public engagement sessions with residents along the project corridor to guide the design of the art installation.

(No attachment)