



TOWN OF JACKSON TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA DOCUMENTATION

PREPARATION DATE: September 15, 2016
MEETING DATE: September 19, 2016

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR: Steve Ashworth
PRESENTER: Steve Ashworth

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Jackson Hole Public Art to apply for National Endowment for the Arts grant to include functional public art as part of the proposed Karns Meadow improvement project- a Jackson Hole Land Trust partnership with Teton County Parks and Rec and the Town of Jackson

STATEMENT/PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to consider authorizing the Mayor to sign a Letter of Support for Jackson Hole Public Art's grant application to the NEA's Our Town program, to support functional public art as part of improvements to the Karns Meadow.

BACKGROUND/ALTERNATIVES

The Karns Meadow improvement project is evolving into a partnership between the Town of Jackson, Jackson Hole Land Trust, Teton County Parks and Recreation, Jackson Hole Community Pathways, St. John's Medical Center, and Jackson Hole Public Art.

The Meadow is a green space on the local's route connecting the historic town and a developing side of town. Open spaces feature a creek, willows, deer, moose, foxes, and birds. Existing and future infrastructure includes a bus facility, storm water treatment ponds, solar array, paved pathway, unpaved trails, shade shelters, seating, footbridges, parking, interpretation, and affordable housing projects.

The NEA Our Town grant supports hiring an artist who will collaborate with project stakeholders to develop integrated functional public art in the form of youth natural play, seating, shade structures, interpretive features and viewing areas. In collaboration with stakeholders, Jackson Hole Public Art will participate in community workshops, develop a Call For Artists, manage artist selection, the design process, and installation.

ABOUT NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, OUR TOWN GRANTS. NEA Our Town grants, if funded, must be matched 1:1 by the applicant and can be used for "Arts Engagement, Cultural Planning, and Design Projects that represent the distinct character and quality of their communities. Matching grants range from \$25,000 to \$200,000."

Art supports creative, economically competitive, healthy, resilient, and opportunity-rich communities. Excellent art is an essential part of building a strong community, - equally as important as land-use, transportation, education, housing, infrastructure, and public safety. Artists and community development practitioners across our nation striving towards economies that capitalize on their existing assets. The NEA defines these efforts as Creative Placemaking.

Through Our Town, subject to the availability of funding, the NEA provides a limited number of grants for creative placemaking projects that contribute towards the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and resilient places with the arts at their core. Our Town prioritizes partnerships between

arts organizations and government, private, and nonprofit organizations to achieve livability goals for communities.

The attached letter of support to the NEA is required to submit an application. “Statement of support from the highest ranking official for the local government (one-page limit, PDF format only) this statement must be the first page in your file. The document should be a one-page formal statement of support, on appropriate letterhead, from the highest-ranking official for the local government (e.g., mayor, county executive, or tribal leader). This statement of support should reflect the official’s familiarity support for the project, and must designate your project as the only one being submitted for the local government.”

Once the grant request is received, JHPA will be allowed to revise the budget and scope of work if it changes from the time the grant was submitted.

[ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL’S STRATEGIC INTENT](#)

Improvements to Karns Meadow will help create a vibrant, walkable community adjacent to downtown, along a major artery used by pedestrians and cyclists. This project will greatly improve an underutilized park and foster engagement with community youth. This project aligns with the Council’s strategic intent to participate in partnership with other agencies to develop a community asset.

[ALIGNMENT WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN](#)

Policy 3.2.e: Promote quality public spaces in Complete Neighborhoods

Public spaces are the building blocks of vital Complete Neighborhoods. The Town and County will promote public spaces and civic facilities that are interesting, memorable, and reinforce the desired sense of community within Complete Neighborhoods. Integrating fine arts professionals in the design of projects will be encouraged in order to create unique and visually engaging public spaces—including sidewalks and walkways, parks, outdoor squares, landscaped areas and public art.

Policy 3.2.f: Enhance natural features in the built environment

Natural amenities within Complete Neighborhoods should be enhanced to improve ecological value and recreational opportunities, while also respecting existing uses and private property rights. Karns Meadow, Flat Creek, Cache Creek, and Fish Creek are examples of important natural features that contribute to the character of developed areas. Such resources provide an opportunity to create a series of pathways and greenways that link parks and recreational amenities within a Complete Neighborhood and connect them to adjacent federally-managed lands such as the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The Town and County will explore opportunities to enhance natural amenities within Complete Neighborhoods while preserving their ecological function.

Policy 4.2.c: Create vibrant walkable mixed use Subareas

Complete streets that focus on alternative modes of transportation will be important to the enhancement of Town mixed use subareas. The primary objective in downtown Jackson will be to enhance pedestrian amenities and connectivity to support a vibrant and walkable downtown core. To achieve this goal, Town will encourage public gathering places in both public and private developments in the downtown area. Building design should complement the pedestrian experience with uses that engage people along sidewalks and streets. Public spaces within these subareas may take the form of parks, streetscape amenities and/or public/semi-public spaces provided by private property owners.

[ATTACHMENTS](#)

Draft Letter of Support from the Mayor to the National Endowment for the Arts

[FISCAL IMPACT](#)

The Town of Jackson will provide maintenance for the new features, which placed in a natural setting, will be designed to be low maintenance. The Jackson Hole Land Trust will work with Jackson Hole Public Art to solicit funding to match the NEA grant. The Town of Jackson has already committed \$80,000 of general funds to the pathways portion of the project.

STAFF IMPACT

Senior staff including Steve Ashworth, Brian Schilling, Larry Pardee, Tyler Sinclair, the Public Art and Pathways Task Forces, Parks and Recreation Boards and other stakeholders will work together to develop the Call For Artist after the public meeting phase.

LEGAL REVIEW

The Town Attorney will review the Call for Artist or Request for Qualifications before it is disseminated.

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Art Task Force recommended including public art in the Snow King to Maple Way CIP, the Karns Meadow Pathway and the Start Facility in both the 2014 and 2015 Annual Public Art Plans.

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support to accompany Jackson Hole Public Art's grant request to the National Endowment for the Arts for Our Town funding for Karns Meadow, and confirm that no other organization is working in partnership with the Town to apply for an Our Town grant.

September 15, 2016

National Endowment for the Arts
Jason Schupbach, Our Town Program/Design Projects
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20506-0001

Draft

Dear Mr. Shupbach,

As the Mayor of the Town of Jackson, I write to express my support for a collaborative art, nature, and wellness project that will be submitted by Jackson Hole Public Art for your consideration.

This NEA grant gives our community an opportunity to work collaboratively on a new public art and wellness design for a public space that borders old as well as developing neighborhoods. Karns Meadow is currently underutilized, and the original landowner's wish has always been for it to become a park for the community, where wildlife and people could share space. The Meadow has been under scrutiny in the recent past, as it has several easements held by a variety of organizations – both governmental and non-profit. A partnership that involves Jackson Hole Public Art, Jackson Hole Land Trust, the Town of Jackson, St. John's Hospital, Pathways, and our local youth helps build more than art and wellness features in Karns Meadow. It also unites our community towards a productive outcome.

Health and wellness are vital in our mountain town. We attract highly athletic people who climb, hike, ski, and run on stunning public-use trails. With Karns Meadow, we will focus on our youth to create an art and wellness trail that will be developed by artists in tandem with children and high school students. As with all public art projects, our town will welcome public input at several stages throughout the project. The result will be a public park with functional art, wellness trails, and structures that make it easy for families to gather in the outdoors.

I hope that you will choose to support Jackson Hole Public Art, our town, and partners on this project. These are the organizations that know how to budget, plan, measure their efforts, and ultimately, deliver a community-based experience and place that will become a standard for future projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara Flitner, Mayor