



**Economic and Workforce Development  
Selection Committee (EWDSC)  
Wednesday, May 4, 2022  
Microsoft Teams Meeting & City Hall  
Tucson, AZ**

**Minutes (Approved)**

**1. Call to Order / Roll Call**

Meeting called to order by Barbra Coffee at 1:11 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Barbra Coffee: Representative, City Manager's Office (Chairperson)  
David Godlewski: Representative, City Manager's Office  
Elaine Becherer: Representative, Mayor's Office  
Akanni Oyegbola: Representative, Ward 5  
Ben Buehler-Garcia: Representative, Ward 6  
Amanda Bruno: Member of City Manager's Office (not part of quorum)  
Mike Czechowski: Member of City Manager's Office (not part of quorum)  
Irene Messina: Member of City Manager's Office (not part of quorum)

Not Present:

Benjamin Galaz: Representative, Ward 1  
Andrea Leisner: Representative, Ward 2  
Stephanie Healy: Representative, Ward 3  
Bobby Verenna: Representative, Ward 4

Quorum established.

**2. Approval of January 12, 2022 meeting minutes**

Akanni Oyegbola put forth a motion to approve the minutes. David Godlewski seconded the motion. Motion passed, all in favor.

**3. Committee Review and Scoring of Proposals**

**A. Economic & Workforce Development**

Amanda Bruno said there were 30 applications to start. Goodwill of Southern Arizona withdrew their Career Ladder application, leaving 29 applications. Total asked was \$1.2 million for economic and workforce development, \$486,000 for special events.

Barbra Coffee said there is a total of \$750,000 for the grant cycle, with \$150,000 for declared COVID hardship / pandemic-related issue. Special events were more likely to have COVID hardships.

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Barbra Coffee asked for general thoughts.

Ben Buehler-Garcia said there were a greater number of proposals with organizations asking for larger amounts. He was surprised a lot of applicants did not read directions more carefully. He asked if limitations should be placed on the number of consecutive years an organization applies.

Mike Czechowski said the money is intended to be seed funding, subject to committee recommendations.

Ben Buehler-Garcia said it's something to consider for the future. He doesn't want nonprofits not to apply.

Barbra Coffee noted many return applicants, prior awardees, coming back. Said some are uniquely tied to the community, and a few that Pima County and others did not fund. She said the special events applicants are meaningful and create community.

David Godlewski agreed. He said there is a pattern of strong proposals from certain organization that produce strong results. Noticed greater asks than in the past. Said the committee takes great lengths to balance higher performers with an effort to assist startups.

Elaine Becherer agreed with comments. She noted that some of the same organizations who applied also received ARPA funding.

Ben Buehler-Garcia said JobPath's budget doubled.

Barbra Coffee noted the costs for some workforce training programs are higher now. Committee discussed each application in the following categories and created a preliminary ranking from initial scores.

- Discussion of Small Business Support applicants  
Ranked by committee as follows:
  1. Startup Tucson
  2. YWCA of Southern Arizona
  3. Growth Partners Arizona
  4. Community Investment Corporation
  5. Pascua Yaqui Development Corporation

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- Workforce Development: At Risk Adults  
Ranked by committee as follows:
  1. Literacy Connects
  2. YWCA of Southern Arizona
  
- Workforce Development: At Risk Youth  
Ranked by committee as follows:
  1. Goodwill of Southern Arizona
  2. San Miguel High School
  3. Tucson Clean & Beautiful
  4. Igniting Ideas
  5. Greater Tucson Leadership
  
- Workforce Development: Long Term  
Ranked by committee as follows:
  1. JobPath
  2. Pascua Yaqui Development Corporation

No action taken.

**4. Call to the Audience**

No members of the public were present.

**5. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**

Next meeting Monday, May 9 at 10 a.m.

**6. Adjournment**

Barbra Coffee entertained a motion to adjourn. David Godlewski put forth the motion. Akanni Oyegbola seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.