



**Economic and Workforce Development
Selection Committee (EWDSC)
Wednesday, April 3, 2024
In person and Microsoft Teams Meeting
Tucson, AZ**

Approved Minutes

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Barbra Coffee at 2:02 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Barbra Coffee: Representative, City Manager's Office (Chairperson)
David Godlewski: Representative, City Manager's Office
Malea Chavez: Representative, Mayor's Office
Andrea Leisner: Representative, Ward 2
Stephanie Healy: Representative, Ward 3
Bobby Verenna: Representative, Ward 4 (arrived late)
Ben Buehler-Garcia: Representative, Ward 6 (arrived late)
Chris Mazzarella: Member of City Manager's Office (not part of quorum)
Irene Messina: Member of City Manager's Office (not part of quorum)
Lupita Robles: Ward 5 staff member (not part of quorum)

Absent:

Benjamin Galaz: Representative, Ward 1

Quorum established.

2. Approval of December 6, 2023 meeting minutes

Andrea Leisner put forth a motion to approve the minutes. Stephanie Healy seconded the motion. Motion passed, all in favor.

3. Committee Review and Scoring of Proposals

Barbra Coffee said there were 53 applicants and \$600,000 available. She said the committee will make recommendations for grant recipients based on that amount. But the committee will also make a list of additional recommendations if more funding is approved by Mayor & Council.

Barbra Coffee stated there are five categories of grants: small business support, special events, workforce development (at-risk adults), workforce development (at-risk youth), and workforce development (long term training). The funding available for small business support is \$150,000. For special events, the amount is \$100,000, and for workforce development, the amount is \$350,000.

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Barbra indicated the amount of funding requested was \$2.6 million, which is almost \$1 million more than in the past. She said a concerted effort was made to publicize the grant application window, including by outreach to local nonprofits, newsletters, social media, and paid Spanish advertising in print and on radio.

Barbra discussed the Conflict of Interest form and indicated that it should be completed if a committee member was being paid by an outside organization that is applying for a grant. No committee members had conflicts.

A review of applications began, starting with the Small Business Support category. The applicants ranked in this order, top score to lowest: YWCA Southern Arizona, Startup Tucson, Community Investment Corporation, Pima Community College Foundation, and MicroCare Community Development Solutions.

Ben Buehler-Garcia raised the point of reading what was on applications did not always match his first-hand knowledge of the organization. Other committee members agreed.

The At-Risk Adults category was reviewed next, with 8 applicants. They scored in this order, top score to lowest: JobPath Inc., YWCA Southern Arizona, Northern Arizona Technology & Business Incubator, Primavera Foundation, Beacon Group Inc., Literacy Connects, Crade to Career/United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, and Chicanos Por La Causa.

The At-Risk Youth category was reviewed next, with 10 applicants. They scored in this order, top score to lowest: Youth on Their Own, Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona, Pima County Joint Technical Education District #11, Literacy Connects, Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson, Intermountain Centers for Human Development, Higher Ground, Greater Tucson Leadership, Center for Community Mediation and Facilitation, and AZ Cyber Initiative which was a late applicant.

Bobby Verenna put forth the motion that the committee not consider RFPs received after the deadline. David Godlewski seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Committee members discussed whether or not Pima County JTED was eligible to apply because they are not a 501(c)3, c4 or c6 as required by the grant program.

Bobby Verenna put forth the motion that the committee should not review applications for organizations that are not a nonprofit. Ben Buehler-Garcia seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Committee members discussed asking the question, "If we do not approve your full-funding request, what will happen to the program or event?" in future cycles.

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The special event applications were discussed next. Barbra Coffee said there were 29 applicants, with one arriving late. Jazz in January, Inc. received the highest score among the applicants.

David Godlewski discussed the quality of the equity questions on the special events application. He suggested improving the phrasing of the questions to elicit better responses.

4. Call to the Audience

No audience members were present.

5. Future Meetings and Agenda Items

The next meeting of the EWDSC will be on April 10, 2024 at 2 p.m.

8. Adjournment

David Godlewski and Andrea Leisner put forth and seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.