



**Economic and Workforce Development  
Selection Committee (EWDSC)  
Wednesday, April 10, 2024  
In person and Microsoft Teams Meeting  
Tucson, AZ**

**Minutes (not approved)**

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

Meeting called to order by Barbra Coffee at 2:05 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  
Bobby Verenna: Representative, Ward 4  
Ben Buehler-Garcia: Representative, Ward 6  
Chris Mazzarella: Member of City Manager's Office (not part of quorum)  
Irene Messina: Member of City Manager's Office (not part of quorum)  
Angela Reyes: Ward 1 staff member (not part of quorum)

Absent:

Benjamin Galaz: Representative, Ward 1  
Stephanie Healy: Representative, Ward 3

Quorum established.

### **2. Approval of April 3, 2024 meeting minutes**

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

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

Barbra Coffee reviewed the two motions from the last meeting: 1. That the committee not consider RFPs received after the deadline. 2. That the committee should not review applications from organizations that are not a nonprofit.

David Godlewski said in the next funding round, the committee should designate X percentage for new applicants and Y percentage for legacy applicants. This will help ensure that new applicants that don't have a large funding pool get a chance at additional funding. Committee members agreed that new applicants should be recognized.

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Barbra Coffee said there is a Column “F” called Additional Fund Priority that amounts to \$200,000 additional funding if the Mayor and Council approves it.

Angela Reyes asked what makes an organization not be funded. Committee members answered that decisions are based on applications received. Committee members scored each entry, and recommendations for funding are based on their score.

Review of special event applications began. Barbra Coffee said there were 29 applicants. Those that events were fundraisers were removed from consideration for funding.

Committee members discussed rewording a question for the next round of funding to: ‘Are you receiving funding from the City of Tucson? If so, how much and when was this received?’

Committee decided to fund the following organizations under Workforce Development (Job Training for Adults): Beacon Group, United Way: Cradle to Career, JobPath Inc., No. Arizona Technology and Business Incubator: AZ Stitch Lab, and YWCA Tucson: YWorks.

Job Training for Youth funding recommendations were for: Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson: Teen Tech, Goodwill: Youth Re-engagement, Intermountain Centers: Transition to Work for Youth With Autism, Literacy Connects: Workforce Development, and Youth on Their Own: Academic Stipends.

Committee agreed to fund \$100,000 for special events for these organizations: Barbea Williams Performing Co.: Our Blackness, Our Heritage, Children’s Museum: PBS Kids Day, Easterseals Blake Foundation: All Abilities Day, Jazz in January: Tucson Jazz Festival, Living Streets Alliance: Cyclovia, Los Descendientes del Presidio de Tucson: Barrio Stories, North Fourth Ave Merchants’ Association: Street Fair, Perimeter Bicycling Asso: El Tour de Tucson, Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance: SAVOR Festival, Southern Arizona Blues Heritage Foundation: Blues Heritage Festival, Southwest Folklife Alliance: Tucson Meet Yourself, The Foundation for Creative Broadcasting: Baila el Pueblo Festival, Tucson Rodeo Parade: 100<sup>th</sup> Rodeo Parade, Tucson Audubon Society: Southeast AZ Birding Festival, Tucson Bicycle Classic: Criterium Pro-Am Stage Race, Tucson City of Gastronomy: Pueblos del Maiz Fiesta, Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association: Folk Festival, Tucson Pops Orchestra: 2025 Independence Day Celebration, Tucson Presidio Trust: Anniversary Celebration of S-cuk son /Tucson, Tucson Symphony Society: Mexican Independence Day Concert.

David Godlewski put forth the motion that the Committee move to accept the funding recommendations for Workforce Development and Special Events. Ben Buehler-Garcia seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

David Godlewski encouraged Mayor and Council to expand beyond the \$600,000 funding in order to provide support to new and emerging programs and events.

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Barbra Coffee made the motion that the committee agree with the amounts in Column “F” Additional Fund Priority for \$200,000 for the following organizations: MicroCare Community Development Solutions, Beacon Group Inc., United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona – Cradle to Career, JobPath Inc., Literacy Connects, Northern Arizona Technology and Business Incubator. David Godlewski seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Barbra Coffee said she will brief the Mayor and Council on funding recommendations as soon as possible and bring back any feedback as necessary.

Ben Buehler-Garcia said this funding is very important and that it builds economic development in the community. He encouraged the Mayor and Council to leave the funding. Barbra Coffee said the funding was listed in the preliminary budget.

Ben Buehler-Garcia commended the increased outreach for the grants and said it was great to see the new applicants. Malea Chavez agreed that the funding is important and can be used to support additional events.

Barbra Coffee said she will inform the committee which Council meeting at which the recommendations will be discussed.

#### **4. Call to the Audience**

Angela Reyes said she enjoyed being part of the meeting. Said the committee did a great job and was very intentional with the allocations.

#### **5. Future Meetings and Agenda Items**

The next meeting of the EWDSC will be scheduled as needed.

#### **8. Adjournment**

Ben Buehler-Garcia and Bobby Verenna put forth and seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.