



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Jon Cicirelli

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: June 3, 2019

Approved

Date

6-13-19

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 7

**SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
HISTORIC GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE VIET HERITAGE GARDEN IN KELLY
PARK**

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit, negotiate and execute a grant application to the County of Santa Clara Historic Grant Program for up to \$210,000 to construct a Vietnamese related monument at the Viet Heritage Garden in Kelley Park, and include in the Resolution the grant certifications required by the granting agency consistent with Appendix G of the Historic Grant Program procedural guide.

OUTCOME

The Historic Grant Program¹ grant would help fund the design, construction, installation, and maintenance of a monument representing the gratitude of the Vietnamese people who were welcomed as refugees after the fall of the Republic of Vietnam. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services will administer funding and partner with the Office of Cultural Affairs, Department of Public Works, and the Office of Councilmember Esparza to coordinate community outreach, design revisions, fabrication, and installation of the monument.

BACKGROUND

With approximately 107,000 residents of Vietnamese descent, San José is home to the largest Vietnamese population in any city outside of Vietnam. There has been a long-standing desire

¹ The Historic Grant Program's Procedural Guide can be found here:
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/Documents/hgp-procedural-guide-2019.pdf>.

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from many in the local Vietnamese and Vietnamese-American community to have a “Thank You America” Monument as a display of gratitude for being welcomed by the United States as refugees, and for the American service members who fought in support of the Republic of Vietnam.

The Santa Clara County’s Historic Grant Program was established in 2018 with the purpose of celebrating history in Santa Clara County. The program gives preference to projects that acknowledge and celebrate untold stories and/or underrepresented/disadvantaged communities. The program provides up to \$1 million per Supervisorial District for such projects. To be eligible for the grant program, the potential grantee must have attended a mandatory grant workshop. Staff from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services attended the required workshop on April 16, 2019.

To qualify for the grant program, the project must be located in Santa Clara County, involve something of historical significance related to Santa Clara County residents and/or communities, and be completed within three years of award of the grant.

ANALYSIS

The Viet Heritage Garden (VHG) at Kelley Park is intended to serve as a space that inspires and honors the deep traditions of San José’s Vietnamese Community. Construction on some phases of work at the VHG have been completed, most recently in 2017 with completion of a community garden space. Recently, in early 2019, community members expressed interest in completing the remaining areas of the garden, but that project is not currently funded.

There is space within the planned VHG for additional monuments or memorials that would be culturally appropriate and consistent with the design of the garden. The proposed “Thank You America” Monument has been discussed as a potential memorial for this location.

The planned monument would be a life-size statue of two armed male soldiers, one American, one South Vietnamese, standing side-by-side. The monument is a symbol of Vietnamese-Americans’ gratitude for the Americans and Vietnamese who risked or lost their lives in the cause of freedom, democracy and human rights. The proposed monument design, provided by the Architectural Firm Charrette Design Inc., has not been vetted by a larger cross--section of community members however, this will take place once funding is allocated to do so.

The monument’s placement was originally planned for the Santa Clara County Offices in 2015, however, it was not installed at the time due to concerns over the appropriateness of that location for a war memorial. The Vietnamese community has recently expressed strong interest in placing the monument at the VHG and the installation has received support from County Supervisors and the local Council office.

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EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The Department will return to City Council through the budget process to recognize the final grant amount and recommend budgetary actions.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

This memorandum will be posted on the City Council's Agenda website prior to the June 25, 2019 City Council meeting. Community meetings regarding this installation were held with the council office and county supervisors on March 18 and on May 30, 2019.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Office of Cultural Affairs, the City Manager's Budget Office and the City Attorney's Office.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/INPUT

No commission recommendation or input is associated with this action.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

If this grant is approved a total of \$274,000 will be needed to front the funding of this project, with \$210,000 of the funds coming from the Historic Grant Program. The remaining \$64,000 will be funded by Council District 7 Construction and Conveyance Tax Fund or the District's Park Trust Fund unallocated fees. The final project budget and sources will be identified in a future City Council memorandum or budget action. Once operations and maintenance needs are identified, funding to support those needs will be through a future budget development process.

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CEQA

Not a Project, General Procedure and Policy Making, File No. PP10-068.

/s/

Jon Cicirelli

Acting Director of Parks, Recreation and
Neighborhood Services

For questions, please contact Nicolle Burnham, Deputy Director, at (408) 793-5514.