

February 26, 2025

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

202500314

From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager

Subject: Capital Projects Funding Request

REFERENCE DOCUMENT #202500204

On February 5, 2025, the City Council referred the following for a report:

MOTION, submitted by Councilmembers Cramerding, Owens, Nolan, Walsh, Jeffreys, Albi, and Lemon-Kearney, **WE MOVE** that the Administration prepare a report within three weeks on the various proposals that have been submitted for consideration of funding from the Capital Project Fund. The report should cover basic details such as a brief summary of the project, past funding requests, any outstanding obligations, or other pertinent information that would impact the project the proposals are:

- Motion 202500053: Art Museum's Expanded ADA-Connections
- Motion 202500051: Clifton Cultural Arts Center's Headquarters
- Motion 202500050: Artworks Creative Campus ArtPark
- Motion 202500040: Camp Washington Skatepark
- Motion 202500137: Winton Hills Community Council
- Motion 202500136: Pig Works Relocation
- Motion 202500138: American Sign Museum's Solar Conversion
- Motion 202500184: CPD, CFD, DPS Fleet Needs

Background

This report is being prepared to address the City Council's request for information on the various proposals submitted for funding from the Capital Project Fund. The goal is to provide Councilmembers with the necessary background information to assist in their review and ultimately in the decision-making process. As of today, the Infrastructure and Capital Project Reserve account has a balance of \$1,294,008 available for disbursement.

As requested, the report will provide a brief overview of the project, any outstanding obligations, and other information. In addition, for each of the proposals listed above, a summary of any past funding requests that have been submitted for these projects has been provided. This includes any amounts previously requested from capital sources or other relevant funding sources

In no particular order, the projects are listed as follows:

Projects Overview

1. Project Name: Cincinnati Art Museum's Expanded ADA-Accessible Connection

Project Summary: The Cincinnati Art Museum Expanded ADA-Accessible Connections project is requesting funding to help with the next phase of the Art Climb, a project connecting Gilbert Avenue to the Art Museum. In addition to the existing Art Climb, this additional phase would create a series of ADA-accessible pathways up the climb to allow for strollers and wheelchairs to use the Art Climb and connect the Art Museum in a more accessible way to the public transit infrastructure along Gilbert Avenue

Past Funding Request: None

Outstanding Obligations: N/A

Staff Comments: None

2. Project Name: Clifton Cultural Arts Center Headquarters Project

Project Summary: The Clifton Cultural Arts Center Headquarters project is an 18,000 sq. ft arts and culture center on a formerly vacant lot in Clifton. This funding request is for the final phase of the project, including lighting, curtains, A/V equipment, sound panels, and more to complete the build-out of the stage and performance space in the CCAC. The CCAC Headquarters has a final gap to complete the project due to the costs of labor and materials, and an allocation would be the final contribution necessary to complete the project.

Past Funding Request:

- 2020 – Clifton Heights TIF Funds: \$250,000
- 2020 – City Council Appropriation: \$250,000
- 2020 – Clifton Area Parking Project: \$30,000
- 2022 – Acquisition Funding (Pre-development): \$530,000

Outstanding Obligations: N/A

Staff Comments: The City has provided several incentives for this project. The organization also sought funds from City Council in the carryover in prior cycles but was unsuccessful. The project was completed in 2024 and is open.

3. Project Name: Artworks Creative Campus Artpark Project

Project Summary: The Artworks Creative Campus project is Artworks' first ever capital project and has a small remaining gap to close out the \$11.7M goal to complete the project prior to the grand opening on April 26th. The Creative Campus includes renovation and redevelopment of a historic building and a vacant lot in the Peebles' Corner business district in Walnut Hills, as well as new crosswalks and a green median on Gilbert Avenue. The Campus also extends to the ArtPark at the corner of Curtis St. and Gilbert Avenue which will be home to native plants and gardens, a water fountain, space for community events, public art, and more.

Past Funding Request:

- 2022 – City Council Appropriation: \$500,000
- 2022 – CRA Tax Abatement: \$423,308
- 2023 – Neighborhood Catalytic Capital Investment Program Grant: \$150,000

Outstanding Obligations: N/A

Staff Comments: The City has provided several incentives for this project.

4. **Project Name: Camp Washington Skatepark Project**

Project Summary: The Camp Washington Skatepark project aims to create a state-of-the-art recreational space designed to serve a variety of users including skateboarders, rollerbladers, BMX riders, and other action sports enthusiasts. Located in Camp Washington, this park will provide a safe and inclusive environment for individuals of all skill levels to engage in their sport, improve their abilities, and enjoy the outdoors.

The design will feature a variety of obstacles and elements, including bowls, ramps, rails, and street-style sections, all built with durable materials to withstand high usage. The skatepark will be thoughtfully integrated into its surrounding environment, prioritizing accessibility, safety, and community engagement.

Past Funding Request:

- 2024 – City Council Appropriation: \$250,000
- 2024 – Ohio Department of Natural Resources: \$300,000
- 2024 - Devou Good Foundation: \$50,000
- 2024 - Haile Foundation: \$50,000

Outstanding Obligations: N/A

Staff Comments: The Cincinnati Recreation Commission has received funding commitments in the form of grants and private contributions, however there is a funding gap in the amount of \$300,000. This amount would allow for the project to be completed in a single phase, which would reduce overall project costs.

5. **Project Name: Winton Hills CC – Mother of Christ Church Project**

Project Summary: The Winton Hills Community Council is seeking funding to support the acquisition and renovation of the Mother of Christ Church located at 5301 Winneste Avenue. This project will serve as a multi-purpose community hub and resource center, meeting rooms/space to allow for training programs for adults and youth in the Winton Hills Community. The Council is committed to preserving the legacy of the Mother of Christ Church while transforming it into a space that uplifts and serves the entire community.

Past Funding Request: None

Outstanding Obligations: N/A

Staff Comments: Staff from DCED have met with the Winton Hills Community Council representatives about the proposal that was submitted. Staff directed them to the City's Quickstrike acquisition fund managed by Homebase. This is a competitively scored process, in which they must apply and submit all necessary documents and information. The application portal is currently open.

6. **Project Name: Pig Works Renovation Project**

Project Summary: Pig Works is requesting \$340,000 to assist with the acquisition and renovation of the property located at 792 E. McMillan. The property will serve as the permanent headquarters for the Pig Works, the organization behind the Flying Pig Marathon and numerous other events that contribute to Cincinnati's health and fitness ecosystem. This funding is critical to the success of their long-term plans, which include expanding their base of operations and making a meaningful impact on the Walnut Hills community. With this location, Pig Works will centralize operations, improve efficiency, and create a dedicated space for staff and community outreach efforts.

Past Funding Request: None

Outstanding Obligations: N/A

Staff Comments: DCED had a meeting with PigWorks regarding their campus expansion project. However, this project falls outside the scope of traditional City funding sources, as PigWorks is a non-profit organization seeking financing. Initially, they were exploring the possibility of utilizing Carryover funds to support their expansion efforts. Unfortunately, at that time, DCED was unaware of any eligible funding sources that could accommodate their needs. It wasn't until the establishment of the Admin Capital Project Reserve that a potential funding option became available, which could now be considered for their project.

7. **Project Name: American Sign Museum's Solar Conversion Project**

Project Summary: The American Sign Museum, named in February 2024 as the #5 Pop Culture Museum in the Country, has become a staple of the Camp Washington community during its 25 years of operation. Recently the Museum embarked on a capital expansion project which doubled the size of the facility to 40,000 sq. ft, created an 8,000 sq. ft classroom area for education purposes, and the largest sign-related library in the country. The organization is seeking ways to grow in innovation and creativity by converting to solar power. Due to the number of light components on its signs, the Museum's average monthly electric bill can run as high as \$7,000. Through this project the museum aims to become the first Cincinnati-area Museum to convert to solar power, aligning closely with the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan.

Past Funding Request:

- 2023 – Neighborhood Catalytic Capital Investment Program Grant: \$100,000

Staff Comments: The City supported a prior phase of ASM's expansion into additional space at 1330 Monmouth Avenue. The City's funds supported equipment in the catering and event areas of the expansion.

8. **Project Name: Capital Needs for CPD, CFD, DPS Fleet**

Project Summary: The Police, Fire, and Department of Public Services (DPS) fleets are critical to maintaining public safety and delivering essential services. As these fleets age and experience increased wear and tear, it becomes imperative to allocate resources for the timely replacement and enhancement of vehicles. This proposal aims to address the capital needs for upgrading and maintaining the fleet across these departments to ensure operational efficiency, reliability, and safety. Based on current assessment criteria, Fleet Services would prioritize the following vehicles with additional funding.

- CFD (1) Pumper: \$1,000,000
Lead time: up to 36 months
- CFD (2) Remount Medic Units: \$500,000
Lead time: up to 24 months
- DPS (2) Single Axle Dump Trucks (Snow): \$460,000
Lead time: 12-14 months
- DPS (2) Tandem Axle Dump Truck (Snow): \$500,000
Lead time: 12-14 months

This capital investment is vital for ensuring the Police, Fire, and DPS departments have reliable, safe, and efficient vehicles to carry out their missions effectively. By addressing these fleet needs, we are investing in the long-term operational success of essential public services, ultimately benefiting the safety and well-being of our community.

Past Funding Request: Funds are allocated annually to support the ongoing update of our vehicle fleet. Fleet Management will regularly assess the needs to make final decisions and recommendations.

cc: William "Billy" Weber, Assistant City Manager
Andrew Dudas, Budget Director