



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** October 14, 2019

**TO:** Neighborhood Advisory Council

**FROM:** Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Community Development Block Grant Applications for Fiscal Year 2020 and Use of General Funds for Design and Construction

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Neighborhood Advisory Council hear a presentation regarding proposed Community Development Block Grant Applications and support staff recommendations.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

##### **Background**

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a Federally-funded annual program that supports a wide range of services and infrastructure improvements in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. It is a competitive grant program that typically is unable to fund all the proposed projects or services in a given year. Both the City of Santa Barbara (City) and non-governmental organizations are eligible to apply for funding.

The City's portfolio of potential projects suitable for CDBG funding is outlined in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) under the Parks and Recreation Department's project descriptions. The CIP is developed with a five-year timeframe and approved by City Council. The current CIP spans from Fiscal Years (FY) 2020-2024. City staff evaluated current and upcoming projects and have several recommendations for the Neighborhood Advisory Council to consider as competitive for the 2020 round of CDBG funding. With City voters approving the passage of Measure C, other projects traditionally funded by CDBG, such as access ramps, are now funded with Measure C revenue. The projects proposed for the upcoming CDBG funding cycle represent improvements to park facilities that can be designed, permitted, and implemented within the strict timelines mandated by the CDBG program, while still delivering important infrastructure upgrades for the community.

##### **Louise Lowry Davis Center Renovation Project**

The Louise Lowry Davis Center (Davis Center), located at 1232 De La Vina Street, includes a one-story structure, a patio courtyard, and a shared parking lot. The 4,189 sq. ft. structure provides two large multi-purpose rooms, two offices, restrooms and a warming

kitchen. The Davis Center currently hosts a variety of activities for citizens age 50 and older including bridge, chess, knitting, yoga, tai chi, and several senior-focused informational lectures. In addition, Santa Barbara County and the Community Action Commission use the facility to provide free hot lunches to low-income seniors Monday through Friday. The facility also offers an affordable meeting space to non-profit organizations, and a venue for business functions and private events such as weddings, receptions and parties.

The proposed renovation of the Davis Center includes major upgrades of exterior and interior spaces and building systems. New, efficient heating and air conditioning systems, windows and doors, and renovated rooms will create more inviting community gathering spaces. In addition, the outdoor patio will have direct connections to the building interior via wide doors to create more usable space. Additional improvements include landscaping, lighting, restroom and kitchen upgrades, and consolidating the building entries. The estimated construction cost is \$3 million, with the CDBG grant application request anticipated to be \$350,000. The remaining construction funding is planned to come from other grants, the City's General Fund, and the City's Measure C fund. Since the Davis Center renovation includes both interior and exterior elements, there is the opportunity to phase construction if full funding is not available in the next fiscal cycle. For example, the exterior patio and entrance improvements could be a potential first phase of implementation that would address site security, improve aesthetics, and create a more functional outdoor area for programming. Given the readiness for construction and the recognition that it is an important senior facility, the project is a high priority for the City's General Fund in FY20 and FY21.

### **Westside Neighborhood Center Playground Replacement**

The Westside Neighborhood Center playground serves a large segment of the community that reside between Highway 101 and State Street in the downtown area. This playground supports afterschool recreation and program participants at the Westside Neighborhood Center, as well as younger children. The existing playground was installed in 2009 and is due for replacement. A \$150,000 grant application to CDBG is anticipated for the upcoming cycle.

### **Eastside Neighborhood Park Restroom Renovation**

The Eastside Neighborhood Park Restroom was constructed in 1992-1993 and has not been renovated since that time. The restroom serves patrons of the park, community gardens, and also visitors to Sunflower Park located one block away. The renovation of the restrooms will include new interior surfaces such as durable epoxy flooring, new paint, lighting, and plumbing fixtures. The exterior murals are not proposed to be replaced, but rather protected in place during the restroom renovation. The CDBG application for this

project is anticipated to be for \$150,000. The restroom renovation is envisioned to be the first step in a comprehensive community-based approach to upgrading all park amenities over a series of years.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Louise Lowry Davis Center Renovation Renderings
2. Westside Center Playground Photos
3. Eastside Neighborhood Park Restroom Floorplan and Photo

**SUBMITTED BY:** George Thomson, Capital Projects Supervisor

**APPROVED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director

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## LOUISE LOWRY DAVIS CENTER RENOVATION PROJECT



VIEW FROM LAWN BOWLING



INTERIOR VIEW TO NEW COURTYARD



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## WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER PLAYGROUND



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### EASTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK RESTROOM

