



# **CHARLOTTESVILLE FY 24 VIBRANT COMMUNITY FUND REPORT**

**MARCH 6, 2023**

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# OPERATIONAL APPLICATIONS

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND:

The Vibrant Community Fund has continued to evolve and change to best meet the needs of citizens and local non-profit organizations. Some changes made for FY24 include:

- Offering broad funding priority areas were adopted: Education, Family and Youth, Economic Impact and Jobs, Health and Public Safety, New and Emerging organizations and the inclusion of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion criteria for each applicant
- Housing specific applications were removed from the Vibrant Community Fund process and were reviewed in a separate process
- Continuing to recruit review team members to reflect more lived experience around priority areas and nonprofit consumers, paid for participation
- Specific training for review team on conflict of interest and methods to evaluate applications
- Minor changes to application evaluation tool
- Including a 'Fundamental' category for programs deemed essential to operate. These program applications are reviewed by staff and are funded at the 1A level

Reviews of the Vibrant Community Fund process will take place annually to encourage changes and modifications that improve the process. These reviews may include soliciting feedback from applicants and review teams for suggestions on process changes. Contractual (Intergovernmental) organizations are evaluated by the budget office and do not receive panel reviews.

For FY24, the City received 57 applications for operational funding, 12 New and Emerging applications and 14 applications from Arts and Cultural organizations.

City staff recruited a diverse Vibrant Community Fund panel to review the applications. Members were divided between those with lived experience with human service organizations, those with human service knowledge, and those with grant-making knowledge. Non-staff panelists are offered compensation for their participation. All members received a thorough orientation, which included training on conflicts of interest.

### OPERATIONAL FUNDING REVIEW PROCESS:

Programs requesting operational grants submitted a full application, which included seven narrative questions. Panelists reviewed the applications for *quality* using an objective rubric that evaluated:

- Strategies that address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion,

Operational Applications1	1-A=Exemplary/Essential	1-B=Exemplary/Important	1-C=Exemplary/Helpful
Page   3	2-A=Solid/Essential	2-B=Solid/Important	2-C=Solid/Helpful
	3-B=Fair/Important	3-C=Fair/Helpful	4-C=Weak/Helpful

- How the program addresses a priority area,
- Demonstration of need for the program,
- Understanding of participants,
- Strategies used to meet those needs,
- Use of best practices,
- Evaluation plan and metrics used,
- Local collaborative efforts,
- Engagement of high need and underserved populations,
- Program participants involvement in evaluation and governance,
- Proposed outcome and outcomes achieved in the previous year, and
- Fiscal stability.

Panel members reviewed and rated applications individually and as a group. They came to a final rating based on averages of each reviewer’s score. Ratings for both sets of operational applications were based on a 100-point scale and place in four categories:

- Level 1: Exemplary** 88-100 points
- Level 2: Solid** 87-78 points
- Level 3: Fair** 77-75 point
- Level 4: Weak** less than 75 points

In addition to their panel review of the quality of programs, panelists were also asked to rank the importance of the *type of service* being provided. These rankings were made individually and then averaged, although they were consistent across panelists. Panelists were given four choices for each application and asked to select one.

- Level A: Essential** The services are essential to meet the Council priority area (i.e., the priority cannot be addressed without the service and/or the City would have to provide the service and/or the service is critical to community well-being)
- Level B: Important** The services are important to meet the Council priority area (i.e., the service is an integral part of a comprehensive strategy to address priority or community well-being may not be improved without the service)
- Level C: Helpful** The services are helpful to meet the Council priority area (i.e., the services address a priority and support the current level of community well-being).
- Level D: Not important/relevant** The services are not important/relevant to the Council priority area.

The grid below shows how the quality ratings and importance rankings aligned:

All Applicants	Essential Service Type	Important Service Type	Helpful Service Type	Not Important Service Type
Exemplary Quality	15 programs <b>1-A</b>	6 programs <b>1-B</b>		
Solid Quality	3 program <b>2-A</b>	18 programs <b>2-B</b>	5 programs <b>2-C</b>	
Fair Quality		1 programs <b>3-B</b>		
Weak Quality		4 program <b>4-B</b>	3 programs <b>4-C</b>	2 programs 4D

For Human Services applications, the City Manager’s proposed budget recommends funding at 90% of the requested amount for programs rated 1-A (exemplary/essential), 70% for programs rated 1-B (exemplary/important), 70% for programs rated 2-A (solid/essential), 46% for programs rated 2-B (solid/important) and 22% for programs rated 2C. This year, 47 organizations were funded through the Vibrant Community Fund operational grants review process.

**ARTS AND CULTURAL REVIEW PROCESS:**

A small committee reviewed the 14 applications received from arts and cultural organizations. Applications were rated on a 100 point scale that examined:

- Feasibility
- Potential demonstrable or measurable impact
- Alignment with City priorities
- Evaluation
- Organizational stability and experience

Applications were rated exemplary (6), solid (6) and weak (2). The City Manager’s budget recommends funding at 90% of the requested amount for exemplary applications and at 70% of the requested amount for solid applications. This year, 12 organizations were funded through the Vibrant Community Fund arts and cultural review process.

**SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS:**

The following pages contain summaries of operational applications in alphabetical order of the host agency. The summaries include a brief description of the program, information about

funding requested and a report of the Vibrant Community Funding quality rating and importance ranking. A summary of arts and culture applications begins on page 27.

**100 BLACK MEN OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA**

**100 Black Men of Central Virginia Rating level 2B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: 100 Black Men of Central Virginia is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicating itself to improving the quality of life for the Charlottesville community. It advocates for the elimination of the achievement gap of local African American (AA) male students through mentorship, scholarship, and fellowship. Programs include M-Cubed (Math, Men, Mission) for grades 5-8 and High School Scholars.

Request: 100 Black Men of Central Virginia requested \$42,750 from the City to provide services to 42 city youth.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “Solid” (level 2). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$19,665

**AMERICAN RED CROSS OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA**

**Collecting, Testing and Distributing Lifesaving Blood to Benefit the Citizens of Charlottesville**  
**Rating level 4-B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs lifesaving blood. For people in Charlottesville - mothers giving birth, accident victims, organ transplants, people living with sickle cell disease and countless others- the services the Red Cross delivers are a matter of life and death. The American Red Cross is the exclusive collector and distributor of blood and blood products in Charlottesville.

Request: American Red Cross of Central Virginia requested \$200,000 from the city to help with services for 2,750 residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “weak” (level 4). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$0

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE CENTRAL BLUE RIDGE**

***Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Blue Ridge Rating Level 2B***

Applicant’s Description of the Program: BBBSCBR respectfully requests a \$100,000 grant to invest in our one-to-one mentoring programs. Funding will directly underwrite the costs to recruit, enroll/interview, match, and professionally support 55 mentoring matches in our Community-Based Program All mentoring relationships share a common purpose: to ignite the power and promise of youth through one-to-one mentoring.

Request: Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Blue Ridge requested \$100,000 from the city to provide services to 150 city youth.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$46,000

**BIRTH SISTERS OF CHARLOTTESVILLE**

***Birth Sisters of Charlottesville Rating level 2B***

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Birth Sisters of Charlottesville is a women of color doula collective supporting women of color through their birth journey and into motherhood. We offer prenatal, labor and delivery, postpartum, and lactation doula support. Our mission is to dismantle root causes of systemic maternal health disparities for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) while denying race as a risk factor.

Request: Birth Sisters of Charlottesville requested \$100,000 from the city to provide services to 80 city residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated the application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the city.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$46,000

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA**

***Year-Round Youth Development Rating level 2B***

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Virginia provides a Year-Round Youth Development Program for all youth, ages 5 to 18. The Club is open every day after school from 2:30-6:30pm and all day during the summer and during school breaks from 7:30am-5:30pm. Research- and evidence-based programs promote the Club’s priority outcomes of academic success, healthy lifestyles, and good character and citizenship.

Request: Boys and Girls Club of Central Virginia requested \$100,000 from the City to provide services to 500 city youth.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated the application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$62,100

### **CENTRAL VIRGINIA CLINICIANS OF COLOR NETWORK**

#### **Central Virginia Clinicians of Color Network Rating level 1B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: CVCCN is ensuring that all-important culturally response care is a part of Central Virginia’s health care system by facilitating both indispensable nurturing space and vital professional support by and to clinicians and healers of color so that they can provide clinically astute mental health care to the community with longevity.

Request: Central Virginia Clinicians of Color Network requested \$40,000 from the City to provide services to 40 clinicians serving city residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated the application as ‘exemplary’ (level 1). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$28,000

### **Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries**

#### **K-4 After-School Tutoring Program Rating level 2-B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: K-4 Tutoring uses 1:1 trained tutors and small group enrichment at Johnson Elementary School. Key components are: weekly, individualized reading plans written by credentialed educational consultants, educational software, and recreation. We serve up to 50 low-wealth children from the city's Fifeville community, partnering with families until after high school graduation. Up to 100 K-12+ per year.

Request: Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries K-4 Tutoring requested \$20,000 from the City to help with services to 35 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “Solid” (level 2). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$9,200

### **CHARLOTTESVILLE PUBLIC HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTS**

#### **PHAR Youth Program Rating level 4-C**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: PHAR intends to start programming for our low-income housing youth. Our goal is to create and manage healthy, positive opportunities for our youth, through strong partnerships with local organizations within our community. We intend to focus on youth 18 years and younger, offering educational, recreational, team-building and civic engagement opportunities.

Request: PHAR Internship Program requested \$40,000 from the City to help with services to 50 City youth.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “weak” (level 4). The type of service was rated as a “helpful” (level C) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$0

### **CHILD HEALTH PARTNERSHIP**

#### **Health and Parenting Supports Rating level 2B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Child Health Partnership provides nursing, prevention and family support services to low-income pregnant women and families to support healthy babies and children. We offer health education and improved access to care, parenting support, and connections to community resources to ensure that children have nurturing homes, are healthy and enter school ready to learn.

Request: Child Health Partnership requested \$335,000 from the City to help with services to 180 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “solid” (level 2). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$154,100

### **CITY OF PROMISE**

#### **General Operations Rating level 2B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Our mission is to end generational poverty through education. We accomplish this through four programs: Community Engagement: Events and outreach within targeted neighborhoods; Early Learning: Parent education, reading activities and partner programs after school; Pathway Coaching: Academic coaching for grades 5-12 and Family Empowerment: Parent coaching toward self-sufficiency and school engagement.

Request: City of Promise requested \$150,000 from the City to help with services for 280 city youth and residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated this application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

### **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT COLLABORATIVE**

#### **CIC Microenterprise Programs Rating level 2B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: CIC is a Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) founded in 2012. We host the Central Virginia Small Business Development Center. Our mission is to strengthen the community and contribute to economic development by fueling the success of under-resourced entrepreneurs through education, mentoring, micro-lending and networking.

Request: Community Investment Collaborative requested \$50,000 from the City to help with services to 70 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “Solid” (level 2). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$23,000

**COMPUTERS4KIDS**

**Mentoring and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills with Computers4Kids Rating level 2-B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Computers4Kids (C4K) is the only non-profit in our area that provides low-income youth with free, intensive mentoring focused on STEAM activities and the 21st Century skills necessary for success in college and careers. At C4K, youth have daily access to professional technologies and the support needed to become proficient in using them.

Request: C4K requested \$32,000 from the City to help with services to 100 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “Solid” (level 3). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$14,720

**GEORGIA’S FRIENDS, INC.**

**Georgia’s House Rating Level 4B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Georgia’s Friends provides programs and services in the local community to help women suffering from substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders. Georgia’s House, the signature initiative, provides hope and healing through a safe, therapeutic, and structured home for women in early recovery. Women come to us from regional inpatient treatment programs and local/regional jails

Request: Georgia’s Friends, Inc. requested \$20,000 from the City to provide services to five city residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated this application as ‘weak’ (level 4). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$0

**LEGAL AID JUSTICE CENTER**

**Civil Legal Services for Charlottesville Residents Rating level 1-B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: By educating and representing people in matters of consumer, employment, and health law, LAJC helps individuals navigate systems, access benefits, protect income and assets, and overcome problems that directly threaten their

health, employment, and economic security. Our work has a clear and direct impact on the financial stability and health of low-income Charlottesville residents.

Request: Legal Aid Justice Center Civil Legal Services requested \$50,000 from the City to help with services to 300 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as ‘exemplary’ (level 1). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$35,000

**LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE**

**Adult Workforce Tutoring Rating level 1-B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Literacy Volunteers' Workforce Tutoring program provides free, confidential, one-to-one tutoring to adults who wish to improve their reading, writing, and/or English speaking skills so that they can become self-sufficient contributors to our local workforce and community. By providing individualized tutoring, LVCA helps adult students meet their specific educational and career goals.

Request: Literacy Volunteers requested \$24,000 from the City to help with services to 100 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “Exemplary” (level 1). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$16,800

Local Food Hub

**Fresh Farmacy: Fruit and Veggie Prescription Program Rating level 2-C**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Fresh Farmacy supplies low-income patients who are at risk for diet-related disease with a biweekly supply of fresh produce, education, and support. The food is sourced from small, independent farms in the region. The program increased by 600% in 2020, and has incorporated many pandemic adaptations into permanent aspects of the program.

Request: Local Food Hub requested \$58,936 from the City to help with services to 267 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “solid” (level 2). The type of service was rated as an “helpful” (level C) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$12,745.92

**LOVE NO EGO FOUNDATION, INC.**

**Courage to Be You Mentoring Program Rating Level 2C**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The Love No Ego Courage to Be You Mentoring Program helps to positively develop youth ages 10-24 via the philosophy, curriculum, pillars, and principles of "Love...No Ego" with one on one as well as group mentoring sessions and activities. Our work is rooted in our Four Pillars of Spirituality, Exercise, Education, and Community.

Request: Love No Ego Foundation, Inc. requested \$20,000 from the City to help with services to 28 city youth.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated this application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as a ‘helpful’ (level C) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$4,400

**MEALS ON WHEELS OF CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE**

**More Than a Meal Rating level 3B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Meals on Wheels is a community-based nonprofit organization that delivers hot meals to people throughout Charlottesville and Albemarle County who are vulnerable to hunger and isolation because of decreased mobility. Our mission is to improve the health and support the independence and dignity of our homebound neighbors. The grant will pay for meals 5 days a week for 23 residents for the year.

Request: Meals on Wheels Charlottesville/Albemarle requested \$35,000 from the city to help with 15 citizens.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated this application as ‘fair’ (level 3). The type of service was rated as a ‘helpful’ (level C) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$0

**MIMA MUSIC, INC.**

**Band Together Charlottesville Rating level 4D**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Eight semester-long MIMA music programs at four low income housing communities in Charlottesville: Friendship Court, Greenstone on 5th, South First Street and Westhaven—one in each community from Jan. to May and another from Aug. to Dec. Each program would consists of fifteen hour-long sessions delivered weekly by two MIMA Teaching Artists to an average of 15 residents between ages 8–14.

Request: MIMA Music, Inc. requested \$10,000 from the City to help with services to 220 youth residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated this application as ‘weak’ (level 4). The type of service was rated as a ‘less important’ (level D) priority area for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$0

**MONTICELLO AREA COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY**

**MACAA Early Head Start: Early Childhood Education & Care Rating level 2B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Early/Head Start (E/HS) promotes school readiness for children ages birth to 5 from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. E/HS supports children's language, literacy, and social/emotional development, emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first/most important teacher, and builds relationships that support well-being and self-reliance.

Request: MACAA Head Start requested \$36,000 from the City to help with services to 45 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “solid” (level 1). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$16,560

**MUSICIANS UNITED TO SERVIE THE YOUTH OF CHARLOTTESVILLE**

**MRC Certified Internship Program Rating level 4C**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: This program is intended to provide specialized training in technical careers in the music industry, then place trained participants in paid internships within our community to gain relevant work experience in their chosen field. We are specifically requesting funding from the Vibrant Community Fund to cover the cost of 3 program participants for FY 24.

Request: Music Resource Center requested \$5,100 to help with services for three City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated this application as ‘weak’ (level 4). The type of service was rated as a ‘helpful’ (level C) priority area for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$0

### **NEW HILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

#### **Financial Capability Program Rating Level 1B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The New Hill Development Corporation Financial Capability Program works to increase financial mobility and help Charlottesville's Black community improve their financial health and achieve their personal financial goals by offering Credit & Money Management workshops, HUD-Certified First Time Home Buyer training and individualized financial and housing coaching.

Request: New Hill Development Corporation requested \$75,000 from the City to help with services for 108 city residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated this application as ‘exemplary’ (level 1). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$52,500

**ON OUR OWN CHARLOTTESVILLE OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, INC.**

**General Operating    *Rating Level 2-B***

Applicant’s Description of the Program: On Our Own provides free peer support, self-help, education, guidance, and referral services for adults who acknowledge that they are experiencing significant problems in their lives due to mental health challenges, substance use, or trauma.

Request: On Our Own General Operating requested \$15,000 from the City to help with services to 400 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “solid” (level 2). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$6,900

**PARTNER FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

**Systems Navigator    *Rating Level 2A***

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Through its Systems Navigator Program, Partner for Mental Health helps people with mental illness reach their recovery goals and achieve stability by acting as unbiased brokers of services, and advocating for timely and respectful service across the mental health care, physical health care, social services, and criminal legal systems in the City of Charlottesville.

Request: Partner for Mental Health requested \$30,000 from the City to help with services to 100 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as an ‘essential’ (level A) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$21,000

**PIEDMONT COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES, INC.**

**Provide Advocates and Mentors for Children who are in Foster Care Rating level 4B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Piedmont Court Appointed Special Advocates, also known as CASA Volunteers, help restore safety, stability, and permanence to the lives of children who have been abused and neglected. This is achieved through independent investigation, advocacy, and thoroughly researched and well-written Court reports that have earned the confidence of judges determining the best interests of these children.

Request: Piedmont CASA Volunteers program requested \$10,000 from the City to help with services to 60 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as ‘weak’ (level 4). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$0

**PIEDMONT FAMILY YMCA, INC.**

**YMCA Early Learning Center Rating level 1-A**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The YMCA Early Learning Center is the largest area nonprofit child care provider for low-income youth ages 0-5, offering a high-quality, full-day, year-round licensed early childhood education and school readiness program with the goal to prepare at-risk and under-resourced children to meet kindergarten readiness benchmarks and support economic self-sufficiency for area families.

Request: YMCA Early Learning Center requested \$68,000 from the City to help with services to 55 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “Exemplary” (level 1). The type of service was rated as an “essential” (level A) priority for the City.

**PIEDMONT HOUSING ALLIANCE**

**Financial Opportunity Center Rating level 4B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: With Piedmont Housing as the lead partner, the Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) offers pathways to improve economic and employment outcomes for community members with low-income. The holistic range of services offered by a

network of community partners include financial counseling and coaching, employment coaching and benefits navigation – all available through a single point of entry.

Request: PHA Housing Opportunity Services requested \$241,950 from the City to help with services to 80 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as ‘weak’ (level 4). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$0

**READYKIDS  
(3 applications)**

**Counseling and Family Support Program Rating level 2B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The ReadyKids Counseling & Family Support Program provides mental health counseling services for victims of abuse, neglect, or violence; and support services to promote healthy interactions, decrease trauma symptoms, reduce parental stress, and help manage family crises.

Request: ReadyKids Counseling and Family Support requested \$75,901.25 from the City to help with services to 210 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$34,914.58

**Early Learning Program Rating level 1A**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The ReadyKids Early Learning Program provides early literacy and social-emotional development education for low-wealth children ages 0-5 and improves the quality of early childhood education in our community.

Request: ReadyKids Early Learning requested \$47,600 from the City to help with services to 305 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “Exemplary” (level 1). The type of service was rated as an ‘essential’ (level A) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$42,840

**Healthy Families Rating level 2B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The ReadyKids Healthy Families Program, part of the Home Visiting Collaborative with Child Health Partnership, addresses the issues and needs of low-wealth families with children ages 0-5 and pregnant women to promote outcomes focused on health, positive parenting, and self-sufficiency so that children have the best opportunity to enter school healthy and ready to learn.

Request: ReadyKids Healthy Families Home Visiting requested \$68,575 from the City to help with services to 68 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$31,544

**RECLAIMED HOPE INITIATIVE**

**Camp Hope Expansion Rating Level 1A**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Reclaimed Hope Initiative (RHI) requests support for Camp Hope, our safe, inclusive summer camp experience for children who are in foster care, adopted, and/or have special needs, ages 4-12. We serve children who are otherwise unable to participate in local camp offerings due to intensive behavioral needs, mental health diagnoses, intellectual/physical disabilities, and significant trauma.

Request: Reclaimed Hope Initiative requested \$100,000 from the City to help with services to 37 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as ‘exemplary’ (level 1). The type of service was rated as an ‘essential’ (level A) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$90,000

**SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE AGENCY**

**Survivor Services and Community Outreach Rating Level 2A**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The Sexual Assault Resource Agency is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency working to eliminate sexual violence and its impacts through education, advocacy, and support services. SARA services are available to survivors of all ages and genders as well as friends, family, and loved ones of survivors. All services are free of cost to clients.

Request: Sexual Assault Resource Agency requested \$33,000 from the City to help with services to 1,716 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “solid” (level 2). The type of service was rated as an ‘essential’ (level A) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$23,100

**SHELTER FOR HELP IN EMERGENCY**

**Outreach and Community Services Rating level 2A**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The Shelter for Help in Emergency Outreach and Community Services program encompasses our 24-hour hotline, supportive counseling and legal advocacy for victims of domestic violence, volunteer recruitment, community awareness, and allied professional training.

Request: The Shelter for Help in Emergency Outreach and Community Service program requested \$129,143 from the City to help with services to 735 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as an “essential” (level A) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$90,400

**SIN BARRERAS- WITHOUT BARRIERS, INC.**

**Improved Equity and Income for City Hispanics Rating Level 2-B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Sin Barreras provides an essential contribution to the city's addressing inequities Hispanic immigrants face daily. In 2021, volunteers contributed 670 hr./mo. to SB activities, the equivalent of nearly four full-time employees. But we cannot operate with only volunteers: paid staff must plan, supervise, and manage the work. This proposal requests funding for 18% of 2023 payroll and expenses.

Request: Sin Barreras requested \$58,400 from the City to help with services to 1600 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “solid” (level 2). The type of service was rated as a “helpful” (level C) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$12,848

**SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENTREPRENEURS (SEE), INC**

**Albemarle-Charlottesville Restorative Justice Program Rating level 1B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: ACRJP provides a restorative justice (RJ) process as a diversion from criminal prosecution. Cases are referred by prosecuting or defense attorneys and assigned to facilitators who guide each process to its conclusion. The RJ program creates space for people to make amends directly to the people they have harmed. The process encourages accountability, supports healing, and builds relationships.

Request: Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs requested \$50,000 from the city to help with services for 25 city residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated this application as ‘exemplary’ (level 1). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

**THE BRIDGE LINE (3 APPLICATIONS)**

**Case Management Rating level 2B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: BridgeLine Case Management Program is a community-based program serving residents of Charlottesville living with brain injuries. Our Brain Injury Specialist helps individuals to identify and accomplish personal goals. Based on the needs, the

1-A=Exemplary/Essential	1-B=Exemplary/Important	1-C=Exemplary/Helpful
2-A=Solid/Essential	2-B=Solid/Important	2-C=Solid/Helpful
3-B=Fair/Important	3-C=Fair/Helpful	4-C=Weak/Helpful

case manager connects and/or coordinates referrals to the appropriate community resources, sets up services, and acts as a liaison with other providers.

Request: BridgeLine case management requested \$30,000 from the City to help with services to 33 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “solid” (level 2). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$13,800

**Day Program Rating Level 2B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The BridgeLine Place (our Day Program) is a community-based vocational program serving residents of Charlottesville City and the entire Blue Ridge Health District, utilizing the Clubhouse model. The BridgeLine Place allows its members to learn valuable work and social skills to achieve vocational and independent living goals.

Request: BridgeLine Day requested \$25,000 from the City to help with services to 23 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$11,500

**Residential Program Rating level 2B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The residential program of The Bridge Line provides supported residential living for adults with brain injuries; staff facilitates their path through independence and self-determination toward personal growth and engaged citizenry.

Request: Bridgeline Residential requested \$42,000 from the City to help with services to 12 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$19,320

**THE BUCK SQUAD**

**Gun Violence Intervention-South First St. Rating level 2B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The BUCK Squad strives to reduce the cycle of gun related crimes by implementing a community-led violence-intervention program that provides crisis management assistance through conflict meditation, mentorship, and economic development. TBS implements this strategy currently through proactive civilian patrols within predominantly black communities with low-income households, in Charlottesville.

Request: The BUCK Squad requested \$350,000 from the City to help with services to 5,000 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$161,000

**THE FOUNTAIN FUND**

**Lending Hope and Opportunity to Formerly Incarcerated People and their Families Rating level 2B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The Fountain Fund increases economic opportunities for formerly incarcerated people to improve their lives and remain in our community. We provide formerly incarcerated Charlottesville residents with low-interest loans and financial coaching, helping them build credit and achieve their self-determined goals. We envision hope and opportunity for all formerly incarcerated people and their families.

Request: Fountain Fund requested \$50,000 from the City to help with services to 30 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “Solid” (level 2). The type of service was rated as an “important” (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$23,000

**THE UHURU FOUNDATION**

**Healthy, Wealthy and Wise Youth Prevention Program Rating level 4C**

Operational Applications

1-A=Exemplary/Essential

2-A=Solid/Essential

3-B=Fair/Important

1-B=Exemplary/Important

2-B=Solid/Important

3-C=Fair/Helpful

1-C=Exemplary/Helpful

2-C=Solid/Helpful

4-C=Weak/Helpful

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Healthy, Wealthy & Wise is a culturally relevant, trauma-informed cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) program specifically developed to reach at risk youth. The Uhuru Foundation utilizes case managers with similar lived experiences as the youth they serve to facilitate (CBT) group sessions to reduce violence and justice involvement. Life Coaches also work one-on-one with youth to provide mentoring.

Request: The UHURU Foundation requested \$100,000 from the City to help with services for 45 City youth.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated this application as ‘weak’ (level 4). The type of service was rated as a ‘helpful’ (level C) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$0

### **THE WOMEN'S INITIATIVE**

#### **Mental Health Counseling Program Rating Level 1B**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Our Mental Health Counseling Program provides underserved individuals in our community with evidence-based, trauma-informed and culturally responsive mental health care. This includes free individual counseling, group psychotherapy, and call-in clinic services for those from marginalized communities. We utilize a hybrid model of care that includes both telehealth & in-person offerings.

Request: The Women’s Initiative requested \$50,000 from the City to help with services to 310 City residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund panel rated the application as “exemplary” (level 1). The type of service was rated as an ‘important’ (level B) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$35,000

### **VIZION SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

#### **Vizion Sports Association Rating level 4D**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Vizion Sports Association was established to provide the youth of all socioeconomic backgrounds the chance to participate in the sport of their choice. Our framework seeks to improve athletes’ individual skill sets while developing strong team players. We provide all the necessary essentials to youth locally and along the East Coast to be successful in the pursuit of a collegiate education.

Request: Vizion Sports Association requested \$50,000 from the city to help with services for 20 city youth.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated this application as ‘weak’ (level 4). The type of service was rated as a ‘less important’ (level D) priority for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$0

### **WARTIME FITNESS WARRIORS**

#### **Wartime Fitness Warriors Rating level 2C**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: Wartime Fitness Warriors is a nonprofit dedicated to providing underserved and at-risk youth in Charlottesville and surrounding areas the opportunity to learn the discipline and art of boxing as a means to structure their future and physical wellness. Additionally, and maybe most importantly, we provide natural peer support to increase their mental health and wellbeing.

Request: Wartime Fitness Warriors requested \$125,000 from the City to help with services for 13 city youth.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated this application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of service was rated as a ‘helpful’ (level C) priority area for the City.

City Manager’s Proposed Funding: \$27,500

### **WELCOMING GREATER CHARLOTTESVILLE**

#### **Welcoming Greater Charlottesville, sponsored by Hinton Ave. United Methodist Church**

#### **Rating level 2C**

Applicant’s Description of the Program: The iftars – the meals Muslims eat to break their daily Ramadan fast – will educate community leaders about Muslim values and honor our Muslim residents. The simulations will show foreign-born and American-born youth the power of mutual respect, inclusion and equity. Professional and community education will improve professional services and refute misinformation about immigrants/refugees.

Request: Welcoming Greater Charlottesville requested \$15,000 from the City to help with services for 185 city residents.

Panel Review: The Vibrant Community Fund Panel rated this application as ‘solid’ (level 2). The type of a service was rated as a ‘helpful’ (level C) priority for the City.

**FUNDAMENTAL APPLICATIONS (1A RATINGS)**

**Offender Aid and Restoration (5 applications)**

- Charlottesville Albemarle Drug Court—\$71,769
- Charlottesville Albemarle Therapeutic Docket—\$103,500
- Local Probation—\$32,716.80
- Pretrial Services—\$52,633.80
- Reentry Services Program—\$87,515
- Thomas Jefferson Area Criminal Justice Planner—\$10,831.50

**Foothills Child Advocacy (2 applications)**

- Foothills Child Victims Health Care Access Program—\$17,544.60
- Foothills MDT Forensic Assessment Program—\$28,948.50

**Charlottesville Free Clinic (2 applications)**

- Charlottesville Free Clinic Dental Services—\$83,430
- Charlottesville Free Clinic Medical Care—\$9,000

**Shelter for Help in Emergency**

- Residential Client Services—\$80,768.70

## ARTS AND CULTURAL APPLICATION

### DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Proposed Project: The Virginia Discovery Museum respectfully requests \$25,000 from the City of Charlottesville for the Museum's general operational expenses. As a hands-on children's museum with a predominantly elementary school-aged admissions base, the Museum was particularly challenged by the COVID pandemic and has been in a period of rebuilding since re-opening after 18 months of closure. The Museum is happy to report that 31,300 people visited the Museum in FY 22, and admissions and program participation have continued to increase as families and tourists return to the Museum and to Downtown Charlottesville. A \$25,000 grant from the City of Charlottesville will help the Museum continue to restore its traditional programmatic offering as it recovers from two years of significant financial hardship. The Museum is a beloved resource for all families in Charlottesville, and families deserve and expect a clean, safe, joyful experience each time they come to the Museum.

Amount requested: \$25,000

Panel review: The overall application was rated solid. The City Manager's Budget recommends funding of \$17,500.

### FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

Proposed Project: Piedmont Virginia Community College's Educational Foundation requests funds for general operating expenses for the Spring 2024 Festival of Cultures celebration. The social unrest across America is a powerful reminder of how social and economic relationships are entwined. The best hope for curtailing the growth of racism and social conflict is to ensure racial and cultural acceptance is engrained into our community's leadership. Support for the Festival of Cultures sends a strong message about our community's commitment to inclusion and acceptance.

Amount requested: \$3,000

Panel review: The overall application was rated as solid. The City Manager's Budget recommends funding of \$2,100

### FESTIVAL OF THE BOOK

Proposed Project: The Virginia Festival of the Book, a program of Virginia Humanities, brings together readers and writers to promote and celebrate books, reading, literacy, and literary culture through our annual Festival each March and through year-round virtual events.

Amount requested: \$16,550

Panel review: The overall application was rated as solid. The City Manager's Budget recommends funding of \$11,585.

## JEFFERSON SCHOOL

Proposed Project: In Charlottesville, there is a need for the telling of objective truths about our racial past, and its implications for the quality of life in our community. This is evidenced by the debate and reactions to teaching about the African American experience in U.S. history and the erroneous conflation of an inclusive U.S. History curriculum with “Critical Race Theory.”

Moreover, Governor Youngkin’s almost complete rejection of two years of work to overhaul state curriculums in history and social science, makes work such as that conducted by JSAAHC to maintain authentic narratives even more necessary. The JSAAHC Learning and Engagement program is geared towards K-12 and adult learners alike. It offers interdisciplinary programs that highlight the role African American people have played in America’s history. Our K-12 programs include teacher training, school tours, our Trailblazers museum studies program for high school students, and our Eko Ise art education program. It also includes a 7th grade pilot program featuring Jacob Lawrence’s *American Struggle Series*. Adult programs included our festivals, lectures and theater program.

Amount requested: \$60,000

Panel review: The overall application was rated as solid. The City Manager’s Budget recommends funding of \$42,000.

## LIGHTHOUSE STUDIOS VINEGAR HILL THEATER

Proposed Project: Light House Studio (LH) owns and operates the historic Vinegar Hill Theatre (VHT) located on downtown mall. Opened in 1976 by Chief Gordon and Ann Porotti as a classic movie venue, Gordon and Porotti chose the theatre’s name to honor the Vinegar Hill residents who lost their homes when the historically black neighborhood was razed in 1964 as part of a Charlottesville-led redevelopment program. VHT was forced to close in 2013, but two years later, LH was able to purchase and renovate the space as a teaching studio for youth filmmaking and a fully operational cinema. LH chose to keep the theatre’s original name and to operate VHT as a community theatre that explores important topics and brings people together. VHT now serves our community in unique and powerful ways by (1) providing a versatile, 183 seat venue for film screenings and discussions, (2) offering discounted or free rental fees for schools, organizations, and small businesses, (3) screening city-funded student films created by our local youth.

Amount requested: \$20,000

Panel review: The overall application was rated as exemplary. The City Manager’s Budget recommends funding of \$18,000.

## LIGHT HOUSE STUDIO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Proposed Project: Light House Studio’s Educational Programs provide tuition-free and/or reduced-tuition digital filmmaking workshops for under-resourced youth. We expand access to

arts education for the 5,000 youth across the City of Charlottesville through in-school and after-school workshops, as well as community non-profit partnerships. Our unique programs promote technical and creative skills through innovative and educational projects. Skills learned can be applied in the workplace as well as in the greater community. Our goal is to remove barriers to access by teaching any interested student, regardless of their ability to pay.

Amount Requested: \$20,000

Panel Review: The overall application was rated exemplary. The City Manager’s Office recommends funding at \$18,000.

### NEW CITY ARTS

Proposed Project: New City Arts Initiative brings together local creators and the local community to spark connection, inquiry, and social transformation through a portfolio of 10 programs, including a robust exhibition program at New City's Welcome Gallery. We resource artists in the city of Charlottesville and counties of Albemarle, Greene, Nelson, Fluvanna, and Louisa to make and share their work and offer programs that welcome diverse audiences to have meaningful encounters with art. New City's request is for **FY24 general operating expenses**. More than 75% of the organization's operating budget is dedicated to arts and culture program expenses to support Charlottesville area artists through monthly exhibitions at our low-commission gallery that is part of Charlottesville's First Friday Art Walk, grant funding for artists, free studio space, artist fellowships, arts education, and creative place making initiatives.

Amount requested: \$30,000

Panel review: The overall application was rated as exemplary. The City Manager’s Budget recommends funding of \$27,000.

### VIRGINIA FILM FESTIVAL

Proposed Project: The VAFF respectfully requests funding of \$15,000 from the City of Charlottesville in support of general operating expenses in the 2023-2024 fiscal year, which in turn supports our five-day Festival held annually in the Fall as well as our year-round community programming and Outreach & Education programs. With the goal of promoting tourism through effective marketing and increasing hotel rooms utilized during our Festival, the VAFF targets out-of-town visitors, attracts national and regional press, and supports the growth of the state-wide filmmaking community. Through strategic advertising, social media, and travel partnerships, we aim to encourage both overnight and day-trip visits to our local area. With the help of a national PR consultant, we also target film and entertainment critics and writers from major national press, and we invite them to attend and cover our events, as well as pitch the

story of how our Festival offers a unique and desirable experience to the film industry due to its location in Central Virginia and connection to UVA.

Amount requested: \$15,000

Panel review: The overall application was rated as exemplary. The City Manager’s Budget recommends funding of \$13,500.

**MUSIC RESOURCE CENTER**

Proposed Project: Founded in 1995, the Music Resource Center (MRC) has contributed to the city of Charlottesville’s cultural infrastructure for over 25 years. We operate a drop-in afterschool program to the 6th-12th grade students of the Charlottesville area that includes unlimited access to our top-notch facility, recording services, lessons and workshops, and a wide variety of instruments and equipment. Over the years, thousands of young musicians and dancers have honed their skills and have written, recorded, and choreographed countless original works while participating in our program. Our members have also performed at hundreds of live events in the area, including the winner of our annual Battle of the Bands performing at Fridays After Five in recent years. Many of our alumni are still active members of our local arts community, including Nathaniel Star, Brandon James, Atrey Jackson, and Harli Saxon.

As an after-school program for middle- and high-schoolers, we are best aligned with the city’s Youth, Family, and Education priority. In a typical year, the MRC serves about 300 teens and pre-teens. Around 2/3 of our members typically come from low-income households (as defined by the state of Virginia), and an even higher proportion come from households living below Area Median Income. Half of our members live in single-parent households, in foster care or group homes, or with a non-parent family member, and around 60% of our members are BIPOC. While just under half of our participants in a typical year are residents of the City of Charlottesville, these teens account for about 2/3 of the time spent at the center. Our participants pay an annual fee based on their household income (youths living at or below the federal poverty line pay \$1 for their annual membership, and the highest fee is \$200 per year). While here, our members take advantage of the wide array of options available to them, including working on digital music, dancing, practicing instruments, or recording and mixing original music. They can also choose to participate in individual lessons and/or group camps and workshops, offered throughout the year at no additional cost. These lessons and workshops are conducted by our skilled staff, community partners, and devoted volunteers. This combination of resources has resulted in a vibrant, creative space for our area’s teenagers to broaden their artistic horizons and create music that is meaningful to them.

Amount Requested: \$15,000

Panel Review: The overall application was rated as solid. The City Manager’s Budget recommends funding of \$10,500.

### LIVE ARTS

Proposed Project: We are requesting funds to close the \$20,000 income gap in running our summer camp program, which serves youth 4-17 of all races, backgrounds, ability levels, and family incomes. Camps run for 11 weeks in June-August 2023. The cost of running camps is \$113,500. Our income is \$93,300 including underwriting.

Amount Requested: \$20,000

Panel Review: The overall application was rated as exemplary. The City Manager’s Budget recommends funding of \$18,000.

### WTJU BLACK BUSINESS EXPO

Proposed Project: The Black Business Expo supports and celebrates local black-owned businesses. It features an exhibition of dozens of Black-owned businesses, panel discussions by leading professionals, a business pitch competition, live music entertainment, a fashion show, cultural programming, kids’ activities, and more. The event is free and open to everyone. Since the events of August 2017, much attention has been given to what a just and equitable Charlottesville could look like. The city has seen new conversations and important initiatives around education, jobs, housing, and racial equity. A just and equitable Charlottesville should also include a vibrant music, arts, and culture community, with opportunities for broad participation and engagement. In 2017-18, Charlottesville's Dialogue on Race identified a need to increase diversity in musical and cultural events in Charlottesville, especially including African American artists.

Amount Requested: \$10,000

Panel Review: The overall application was rated as exemplary. The City Manager’s Budget recommends funding of \$9,000.

### THE FRONT PORCH

Proposed Project: We respectfully request a \$15,000 grant from Charlottesville City to support our youth music outreach programs in FY24. We provide no-cost music education programming in seven Charlottesville City pre-K classrooms: at Barrett Early Learning Center, the YMCA Early Learning Center’s classrooms, and classrooms at MACAA Head Start. We also partner with the YMCA’s after-school program to provide music classes at all Charlottesville City after school programs. A \$15,000 grant will support this vital music education programming for the children in our city who need it most.

Amount Requested: \$15,000

Panel Review: The overall application was rated as solid. The City Managers’ Budget recommends funding of \$10,500.

**VIRGINIA THEATRE FESTIVAL**

Proposed Project: Virginia Theatre Festival (VTF) respectfully requests funding of \$27,600 from the City of Charlottesville in support of general operating expenses for our 2023 Summer Festival. We are planning a full festival of three shows, including a large musical, which will run in July and August 2023.

Amount Requested: \$27,600

Panel Review: The overall application was rated as weak. The City Manager’s Budget recommends funding of \$0.

**BOTANICAL GARDEN OF THE PIEDMONT**

Proposed Project: We are requesting funds for two specific educational programs. The programs are hosted outdoors in the Garden from April-November (weather permitting); planning and program evaluation continue year-round. Future completion of a 3-4 season permanent structure pavilion will enable more frequent programming that is not weather-dependent. We seek funding to continue and expand two programs (previously funded by CACF Enriching Communities and the Prana Fund): ‘Create with Nature’ and ‘Explore to Read’ art and nature literacy programs in the Garden. Over the past year the programs have attracted hundreds of children and adults with a wide diversity of demographics (refugees, students with traumatic issues, fostered or adopted children, Black/LatinX/Asian/Caucasian, LGBTQ identities, and various religious backgrounds) from invited groups (Abundant Life Ministries, Lafayette School, Homeschool group, Boys & Girls Club of Central Virginia, YMCA PreK, Daisy Scout Troup) and the general public (advertised on social media, BGP website, and local CVille Calendar).

Amount Requested: \$30,000

Panel Review: The overall application was rated as weak. The City Manager’s Budget recommends funding of \$0.