



REQUEST FOR GRAND RAPIDS EDA ACTION

AGENDA DATE: December 14, 2023

STATEMENT OF ISSUE: Consider adopting a resolution accepting a Blandin Foundation Grant for the Downtown Organization Project

PREPARED BY: Rob Mattei, Executive Director

BACKGROUND:

The recently completed Downtown planning process brought to light that Grand Rapids lacks sufficient organizational capacity to support a vibrant downtown. The establishment of that organizational capacity is a key objective of the Downtown Plan, and, therefore, a necessary first step in the short- and long-term implementation of the Plan.

The proposed project involves funding professional assistance to review successful peer markets and guide/facilitate the development of an appropriate independent and sustainable organization structure, leadership, goals, and budget for the first 3-5 years of operation.

The budget for the project is as follows:

Revenue:	
<i>Blandin Foundation</i>	\$55,000
<i>IRRR Development Partnership (not secured)</i>	15,000
<i>GREDA</i>	15,000
Total:	\$85,000
Expenses:	
<i>Consultant Fees</i>	\$62,550
<i>Tour (transportation, food, and lodging)</i>	18,200
<i>GREDA (in-kind)</i>	4,250
Total:	\$85,000

The Blandin Foundation recently awarded GREDA's request for \$55,000. The attached resolution accepting the grant is a statutory requirement.

RECOMMENDATION:

REQUIRED ACTION: Pass a motion adopting a resolution accepting a Blandin Foundation Grant for the Downtown Organization Project