



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: City Council
Meeting Date: May 20th, 2024
From: David Snider, Economic Development Manager
Subject: Funding Request: Sandy Historical Museum

DECISION TO BE MADE:

Whether to approve funding assistance for the Sandy Historical Museum.

PURPOSE / OBJECTIVE:

To provide the Sandy Historical Museum with funding assistance for student interns to help with tourism-related functions.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

At the conclusion of the review of the Special Service Contract Program (SSCP) applications for the current biennium at the September 18th, 2023 City Council meeting, members of the Council expressed a desire to consider the SSCP applications for the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce (SACC) and the Sandy Historical Museum separately from the rest of the SSCP applications.

Following that direction, two additional meetings took place: a February 5th City Council work session and an additional discussion on April 5th with Mayor Pulliam and Councilors Walker and Sheldon, where it was emphasized that area tourism promotion should be a direct focus and expected outcome of these proposed funding enhancements. Both organizations agreed that expanding and promoting tourism in the area would be a primary focus of future activities.

The Sandy Historical Museum has been submitting applications through the SSCP to receive City funding assistance to hire student interns since the 2017-2019 biennium. This increase in staffing has improved the capacities of museum staff in a number of areas, with one of the primary areas of improvement being visitor services support. It has also provided new internship opportunities for Sandy's youth in the tourism industry, which has led to at least one of their interns expressing a desire to return to east Clackamas County to work full-time in the industry once they complete college. Most importantly, it has reinvigorated the Sandy Historical Museum by injecting young people into an organization that had traditionally been staffed by older volunteers, providing new perspectives, technical expertise and an abundance of energy.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS / ANALYSIS:

The funding received through the SSCP over the last three biennia has been enough to provide the Museum with two part-time student internships per year at the state’s minimum wage. Museum administration believes this funding supplement provides an adequate level of staffing for the organization and would like to continue at this level for the foreseeable future.

In the future City staff will continue conversations with the Museum regarding ways in which their organization can supplement community efforts to enhance tourism in Sandy.

BUDGET IMPACT:

The amount of the Museum’s request for this budget period is **\$14,713.60**, which is consistent with the SSCP funding application originally submitted in 2023 (attached for reference).

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:

“I move to approve the funding request from the Sandy Historical Museum, as included in the agenda packet.”

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS:

- 23-25 SSCP application - Sandy Historical Museum