

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 12, 2019

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:
TO Mayor Pro Tem Casey Thomas, II (Chair), Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano
(Vice Chair), Councilmember Omar Narvaez, Councilmember Mark Clayton,
Councilmember B. Adam McGough, Councilmember Carolyn King Arnold

SUBJECT **Community Centers Update**

Summary

On April 15, 2019, the Committee will be briefed on reprogramming efforts at the City's community centers.

Background

On August 6, 2018, the Committee was briefed on plans to evaluate and enhance programming at the City's community centers. Staff outlined the process, which included reviewing prior plans, current partnerships and impact, leases and tenants and space utilization and scheduling, ensuring community engagement, seeking additional resources, and aligning available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Additionally, staff outlined the program framework that would be used moving forward to include 6 key programming areas:

1. Social Services
2. Community Partners and Tenants
3. Health and Wellness Programming
4. Community Engagement
5. Education Programming
6. Financial Empowerment

Progress to Date

Since the August presentation, staff has made progress on many of the steps outlined in the presentation. In the fall, staff convened a Community Center Task Force to provide recommendations for programming and priorities for FY2019 CDBG funding, and staff is currently working with service providers to offer new programming in the centers in alignment with these recommendations. Additionally, staff has developed new operational policies for the Centers to improve fiscal oversight. Staff is planning a visit to BakerRipley Community Center in Houston in May to learn from their best practice model.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Updates and Next Steps

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center is in the process of having significant building upgrades made, including repairs to the facility's HVAC system and plumbing as well as the creation of a dedicated fresh food/produce distribution area, sponsored by Leadership Dallas Class of 2019. The Center has been able to add new chairs and furniture in classrooms and computer lab. Additionally, the Center has increased security, and now has 2 security guards on site during most of the Center's open hours.

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Since August, several new appointments, including a Chair, have been made to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Board. The Board has a Board Retreat scheduled for April 13, 2019.

West Dallas Multipurpose Center Updates and Next Steps

Multiple physical updates have been made to the West Dallas Multipurpose Center, including increased bandwidth for improved telephone and internet connections, reorganization of offices to create additional space for tenants and partners, and the addition of new mural on the interior and new play areas outdoors. Additionally, Staff has worked with current tenants to restructure leases to include clients served and program impact targets. The Center is currently seeking new staff with the retirement of the Center Manager and Office Assistance.

Staff is working with Councilmember Narvaez to develop a West Dallas Multipurpose Center Task Force to work with staff to develop community priorities, recruit new program partners, and make recommendations for utilization of bond funding. Staff will continue to seek new programming partnership opportunities and looks forward to working with Big Thought once again this summer to host a no cost City of Learning Summer Camp.

Recommendation

Due to the large amount of time staff is required to spend raising funding for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week events, staff recommends that the City of Dallas include funding within its budget to support Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week activities and parade.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact myself or Jessica Galleshaw, Director of the Office of Community Care.



Nadia Chandler-Hardy
Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer

- c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
- Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)
- Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
- Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
- Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
- Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
- Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
- Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
- Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
- M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
- Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer
- Directors and Assistant Directors

Community Centers Update

Human & Social Needs

April 15, 2019

Jessica Galleshaw, Director
Office of Community Care



City of Dallas

Overview

- Purpose
- Background
- Programming Framework
- Progress to Date
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center
- West Dallas Multipurpose Center
- Recommendations

Purpose

- Provide an update on programming at Community Centers
- Provide an overview on plans for Community Centers

Background

- August 2018 – Staff presented on proposed programming strategy framework
- Areas of focus
 - Prior plans
 - Current partnerships and impact
 - Leases and tenants
 - Space utilization and scheduling
 - Community engagement
 - Seek additional resources
 - CDBG funding

Framework



Progress to Date

- 2 meetings of Community Centers Task Force to develop recommendations for programming and priorities for FY19 CDBG funding
- RFCSP process to bring new self-sufficiency/financial empowerment programming to centers
- Updated fiscal management and cash handling policies – centralized processing
- Improvement to wifi underway at both Centers
- Staff continuing to research best practice models and will be visiting BakerRipley Center in Houston in May 2019
- Seeking funding for new programming opportunities

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Update

- Physical updates:
 - HVAC and plumbing improvements in progress
 - Added garden areas/outdoor space improvements
 - New chairs/furniture in conference rooms and classrooms
 - New fresh food/produce distribution area in progress
- Other Updates:
 - Successful execution of 2019 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week events (requires significant staff time for fundraising)
 - Security increased to 2 guards on site at most times
 - Board Chair appointed and board with 13 positions occupied

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center

Next Steps

- Board development in progress under leadership of Chair (retreat scheduled for 4/13/19)
- Job skills programming in partnership with El Centro, phlebotomy certificate - Education
- Seek opportunities to enhance computer lab technology – Education, Financial Empowerment

West Dallas Multipurpose Center Update

- Physical Updates:
 - Increased bandwidth to improve internet and phone connections
 - Reorganization of offices to create additional office space for tenants and partners and reduce use of offices for storage
 - Addition of new murals from Big Thought
 - New play areas outdoors
- Other Updates:
 - Tenant leases restructured to include clients served targets
 - Center manager and office assistant have retired – currently seeking replacements

West Dallas Multipurpose Center

Next Steps

- Big Thought City of Learning camp to return for 2019
- Education
- Seek new programming partnership opportunities
- Create a West Dallas Multipurpose Center Task Force
 - Work with CM Narvaez to identify members of task force
 - Will make recommendations on new programming, partnerships, center facilities, and bond enhancements

Recommendations

- Due to the large amount of time staff is required to spend raising funding for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week events, staff recommends that the City of Dallas include funding within its budget to support Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Week activities and parade

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Jessica Galleshaw, Director
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