

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 8, 2020

TO Honorable Members of the Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee

SUBJECT **Update on Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Innovation and Implementation Grant to the Office of Arts and Culture**

On September 23, 2020, City Council authorized the acceptance of a \$15,000 grant from the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) *Summer 2020 Innovation and Implementation Fund*. The City of Dallas was one of six jurisdictions nationwide selected for this grant to support pilot projects in public sector partnerships with artists and cultural workers to shape racially equitable public policy and develop and implement inclusive narratives that advance racial justice.

In partnership with the Office of Equity and the Department of Code Compliance, the Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) has developed a pilot project to transform a vacant lot in southern Dallas into a community sculpture garden and gathering place, in partnership with local artists, students, and the surrounding neighborhood. This project will pilot an artistic solution to the first recommendation from the Mayor's Task Force on Safe Communities, which was to remediate blighted buildings and abandoned lots in high-violence locations.

To select a site, Code Compliance identified 10 vacant, City-owned lots in the most vulnerable zip codes as indicated in the City's Equity Impact Assessment Table. The joint OAC and Code Compliance team visited the lots and assessed opportunity for impact based on lot potential for transformation, potential neighborhood partners, and community characteristics, including proximity to other City facilities, multi-family and single-family residences, and historic cultural services concentration.

Following this process, the City-owned lots at 6307 and 6309 Carlton Garrett Street in Bonton (Council District 7) was selected by the cross-departmental team for this pilot. The demographics of this Census Block Group (011500-3) are: 22% seniors, 25% youth, 47% Hispanic, 43% Black, and the median household income is \$31,000, or approximately 30% below the median household income in the City of Dallas.

The OAC and Code Compliance team are currently refining scopes for artists and lot remediation vendors for the site, with a call for artist entries planned in the next two months. The parties involved will work in partnership with the neighborhood and local students to remediate the lot as well as collaboratively imagine and create the artwork. Project completion is projected for Summer 2021.

Concurrent with this pilot, OAC and Code Compliance will codify learnings, report out through GARE symposia, and assess internal and external funding sources to create a scalable model that can be used in other neighborhoods across Dallas.

DATE January 8, 2021

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Please contact me if you have any questions.



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Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Chris Caso, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
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  
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Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion  
Directors and Assistant Directors

