



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Milton Dohoney Jr., Interim City Administrator

CC: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
Sara Higgins, Strategic Planning Coordinator
Marti Praschan, CFO

SUBJECT: ARPA Public Engagement Results and Final Recommendation

DATE: February 25, 2022

On October 1, 2021, the City Administrator's Office communicated a [preliminary recommendation for use of the ARPA funds](#) that included a roster of potential projects that staff recommended for inclusion in the program and a recommendation to carry out public engagement to help prioritize these projects and to solicit ideas for other projects that might be included. A follow up memo was communicated to Council on November 4, 2021 detailing the basis in the federal ARPA rule for inclusion of each project and prior City Council direction to pursue these initiatives (attached). Following these communications, the Council passed [Resolution R-21-396](#), directing a public engagement campaign and requesting that staff provide a final recommendation for the prioritization of projects by March 1, 2022.

The final recommendation is contained within this document, and I have attached a sample draft resolution to be used to affect Council action.

In the intervening months, city staff have conducted an active engagement campaign with members of the public by creating videos and project pages for each project presented to the public, holding ten public meetings to discuss the projects and solicit feedback from the community, and collecting citizen feedback through an online survey. In total, we received 2,570 responses to the online survey and hosted several community members in virtual town halls.

In this memo, we detail the results of the public engagement campaign carried out by the city to aid in the prioritization of ARPA funds. The primary means of collecting community

preference for the expenditures of these funds was a budgeting tool that allowed residents to assign public funds to each proposed project, asking them to prioritize through budgeting what they would want us to dedicate the funds toward. In addition, we asked residents to provide a rank ordered list of general program areas that they would prefer we fund, and we also allowed residents to provide their own ideas for how the funds should be spent. In this memo I will analyze data from each of these feedback tools which will influence a final recommendation.

Results of Budgeting Exercise

The budgeting exercise asked respondents to assign dollars to each project that they would prioritize. The tool allowed them to invest the whole amount in one project, or to spread the amount across all projects in any amount that they choose. While more than 2,500 people participated in the survey, 2,282 filled out this portion of the survey. In the table below, I present the average amount budgeted for each project by these respondents and also what that represents as a percentage of the total budget request for each project. The table is organized in descending order starting with the projects getting the highest percentage of funding compared to the total requested amount. With this data, we can better understand the relative priority that community members place on each project.

Table 1. Average Resident Funding Level Compared to Percent of Total Budget Recommended

Project	Average Respondent Funding	Avg. Funding as % of Request
Coordinated Funding Support	\$1,680,000	168.0% (\$1,000,000)
Housing for Homeless Households	\$1,344,000	134.0% (\$1,000,000)
Gallup Park Bridge	\$2,208,000	96.0% (\$2,300,000)
Unarmed Response Program	\$1,632,000	81.6% (\$2,000,000)
Universal Basic Income	\$1,244,000	81.6% (\$1,500,000)
Property Acquisition for Affordable Housing	\$2,640,000	75.43% (\$3,500,000)
Galvanized Water Service Line Replacement	\$2,808,000	74.9% (3,750,000)
City Clerk Election Center	\$936,000	46.8% (\$2,000,000)
Solar on City Facilities	\$3,696,000	43.5% (\$8,500,000)
Community and Law Enforcement Data Platform	\$480,000	38.6% (\$1,245,000)
Gallup Park Road and Trail	\$2,208,000	32.5% (\$6,800,000)
Net Zero Fire Station 4	\$912,000	30.4% (\$3,000,000)
Miller-Catherine Bike Facility	\$936,000	23.4% (\$4,000,000)

Vision Zero Plan Implementation	\$1,848,000	19.45% (\$9,500,000)
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It is worth noting that the Gallup Park Bridge project is represented twice because we bifurcated the project on the survey, noting that it only needed \$2.3 million to replace the bridge, but would need a total of \$6.8 million to replace the trail, roads, and parking lot as well. The public reacted by recommending nearly enough to replace the bridge, but not enough to complete the entire project. Additionally, we indicated on the survey that the universal basic income pilot needed \$1.5 million to move forward, and so we used that as the denominator to indicate full funding.

Drilling further into the data, we also can present how many respondents chose to fund a project, outlined in the table below and again organized in descending order with the most common selection at the top of the table.

Table 2. Number of Respondents Selecting Each Project

Project	No. of Respondents Selecting	% of Respondents Selecting
Housing for Homeless Households	1963	86.0%
Galvanized Water Service Line Replacement	1765	77.3%
Unarmed Response Program	1735	76.0%
Property Acquisition for Affordable Housing	1697	74.4%
Solar on City Facilities	1562	68.5%
Coordinated Funding Support	1443	63.2%
Gallup Park Bridge, Trail, and Road	1319	57.8%
City Clerk Election Center	1235	54.1%
Universal Basic Income	1206	52.9%
Community and Law Enforcement Data Platform	1019	44.7%
Vision Zero Plan Implementation	939	41.2%
Net Zero Fire Station 4	827	36.2%
Miller-Catherine Bike Facility	699	30.6%

Finally, we also were able to determine the number of respondents who recommended full funding for each project. That data is provided below, again in descending order with the most common selection appearing at the top of the table.

Table 3. Number of Respondents Selecting Full Funding for Each Project

Project	No. of Respondents Selecting	% of Respondents Selecting
Housing for Homeless Households	1918	84.0%
Unarmed Response Program	1450	63.5%
Property Acquisition for Affordable Housing	1444	63.3%
Galvanized Water Service Line Replacement	1293	56.7%
Universal Basic Income	1123	49.2%
Gallup Park Bridge	1080	47.3%
Community and Law Enforcement Data Platform	920	40.3%
City Clerk Election Center	829	36.3%
Coordinated Funding Support	572	25.1%
Net Zero Fire Station 4	533	23.4%
Solar on City Facilities	526	23.1%
Gallup Park Road and Trail	432	18.9%
Miller-Catherin Bike Facility	395	17.3%
Vision Zero Plan Implementation	165	7.2%

With this survey data, we can use these three tables to construct a priority matrix by scoring each project in rank order from each table, awarding the most points to the highest ranked projects.

Project	Table 1 Rank	Table 2 Rank	Table 3 Rank	Overall Score
Housing for Homeless Households	13	14	14	41
Unarmed Response Program	11	12	13	36
Galvanized Water Service Line Replacement	8	13	11	32
Property Acquisition for Affordable Housing	9	11	12	32
Coordinated Funding Support	14	9	6	29
Gallup Park Bridge	12	7	9	28
Universal Basic Income	10	5	10	25
Solar on City Facilities	6	10	4	20
City Clerk Election Center	7	6	7	20
Community and Law Enforcement Data Platform	5	4	8	17
Gallup Park Road and Trail	4	7	3	14

Net Zero Fire Station 4	3	2	5	10
Vision Zero Plan Implementation	1	3	1	5
Miller-Catherine Bike Facility	2	1	2	5

Projects highlighted in blue rest in the upper third of scoring and could be considered high priority. Those in green are in the middle third and could be considered medium priority. Projects in yellow scored in the bottom third and could be considered low priority.

Prioritization by Project Type

We also asked respondents to rank project types so we could get a better general understanding of how the community might approach prioritization philosophically, and therefore we could get an idea of how to better prioritize projects that were suggested by the community. That prioritization is as follows and is based on 2,560 responses.

1. Human and Social Services
2. Affordable Housing
3. Water Quality
4. Carbon Neutrality
5. Transportation and Mobility Safety
6. Funding to Support the Arts
7. Election Integrity

We included funding to support the arts on this list because of the strong sentiments expressed by those who attended our community meetings. The priorities expressed in this list largely comport with the priorities expressed in the budgeting exercise, where projects centered around human and social services generally scored much higher than other projects, followed by carbon neutrality and transportation projects.

Suggestions from the Community

We received suggestions from 39 community members during our engagement process with 53 total suggestions. Funding for the arts was the most prominent suggestion, having been suggested by 12 community members. Following that, eight respondents suggested investing more funds in fixing the roads, three suggested investing funds in the Center of the City, and two each suggested funding improvements to the farmer’s market, installing public restrooms, doing more to address homelessness, and investing more in affordable housing.

We also received one suggestion each to invest more in landscaping on city properties, invest funds to address stormwater runoff issues in residential neighborhoods, fund at least part of the South State Street project, fix the West Park band shell, install solar panels on AAHC properties, invest funds in the Treeline Trail, install a sound barrier between M-14 and Wines Elementary, fund a plan to create railroad quiet zones, create a new dog park, invest funds in Liberty Plaza, pursue a land use plan update, improve

community engagement practices, hire a team of neighborhood organizers to support city services, distribute free water tests to every home in Ann Arbor, and provide direct assistance to those with long COVID. Some wrote in to bolster their support for the original list of projects, including previously mentioned comments supporting strategies to address homelessness and build more affordable housing. We also received comments in support of our Vision Zero plan implementation, the work proposed in Gallup Park, funding for human services, the plan to replace galvanized steel water lines, and the universal basic income proposal. Finally, we also received a suggestion to simply return the money to residents in the form of checks (which works out to roughly \$200 per resident), and to decline the funding in favor of donating it to neighboring municipalities who might demonstrate a higher need for the funds.

A complete list of the suggestions as written by the community members is provided in a companion memo.

In evaluating these suggestions, some of them are either not eligible or not advisable to fund with ARPA dollars. For instance, it is not recommended to return the funds to the federal government or to donate them to a neighboring municipality, though this might be permissible under the federal rules. Additionally, proposals like improving our landscaping activities, pursuing a land use plan update, providing funding for the Center of the City, installing public restrooms, fixing the West Park band shell, creating a new dog park, investing in the Farmer's Market, or improving community engagement practices may be laudable and fundable but can also likely be funded out of our normal operating, capital, or millage funds. Conversely, projects like the Treeline Trail, improvements to road funding, improvements to stormwater infrastructure, and the State Street project are of such size and quality that they will have to be funded through private philanthropy or federal/state grant dollars. In other words, the ARPA funds would likely be unable to make an impact on these projects because of their size and long timelines for completion.

There are also some suggestions that likely aren't a good fit for the ARPA funds because of other strategic reasons. Installing a sound barrier between M-14 and Wines Elementary is a project that would have to be managed between MDOT and the Ann Arbor Public Schools, rather than the City. Hiring a team of neighborhood organizers is not something staff can recommend as a best and highest use of the ARPA funds, partially because we would be incurring liability on our operating funds once the ARPA funds ran out and partially because there is no prior direction of Council to create a program like this. Affordable water testing is available through Washtenaw County, and in addition it is likely that most Ann Arbor residents can afford private water testing on their own, so providing free water testing is not likely to solve a public policy dilemma for the community. Providing assistance for those with long COVID who require additional aid is something that can likely be addressed through funding for human services support.

Among the remaining suggestions, there are four that are novel, fundable under the federal guidelines, and that may meet with preexisting city priorities as outlined by the Council. Those include:

- Funding for the arts
- Funding for improvements to Liberty Plaza
- Install solar panels on AAHC properties
- Create railroad quiet zones

It is important for city decision makers to note that the railroad quiet zone project is one that we have studied and rendered a plan to implement. However, the total cost of the program in 2019 was between \$7-8 million (likely higher now because of inflation in construction costs), and it was not included in the original recommendation because the Council has prioritized other transportation initiatives over it (for instance, the Vision Zero plan implementation). If we are going to fund a major transportation initiative, it is recommended that we stick to a preeminent Council priority.

We have been working with our federal elected officials to get funding to solarize our AAHC properties. There is a strong belief that because this project centers around carbon neutrality, affordable housing, and providing service to low- and moderate-income households, it is a good candidate for funding from any number of federal initiatives. Therefore, I would recommend that we not prioritize it for funding from the ARPA program and instead continue to seek an alternative federal or state source to fund it.

There has been a working group of city and civic leaders convened over the last several months to discuss and implement solutions to ongoing issues in Liberty Plaza. The work of this group will likely result in a solution that requires city resources that are not currently budgeted. Because of the exigent nature of this project, the long-standing interest in making improvements to this location from key stakeholders, it may be appropriate to prioritize a small amount of ARPA funding for use at this site.

We have heard loud and clear from the arts community that they would like to have a portion of these funds dedicated to artists who have been the most adversely affected by the pandemic. So, we would propose the City create a grant program to award up to \$10,000 to artists to pursue an artistic endeavor that would be displayed or performed in the City of Ann Arbor. This would be direct payment to artists rather than to art institutions, non-profits, or businesses. My recommendation would be that we ask a local arts organization to help administer the award process.

Finally, a notable project that was received a lower priority from the public engagement process but that is still a strategic priority of the city is the Fire Station 4 Net Zero Fire House. This project will not be included in the ARPA final recommendation, however it will remain a priority for the city and can be funded through other infrastructure funds and in the city's capital improvement plan.

Final Recommendation

Given the feedback that we have received from the community, I recommend moving forward with a final funding recommendation that fully funds all the high priority projects indicated in Table 3, partially funds most of the medium priority projects indicated in Table

3, includes some degree of funding for the Vision Zero Plan implementation, and includes some funding to support artists and initiatives moving forward at Liberty Plaza.

While the community feedback ranked the Vision Zero project low, we also received feedback from the rank order prioritization exercise that transportation and mobility projects should be a medium priority, the public still awarded nearly \$2 million to this project in the budgeting exercise, and the Vision Zero Plan implementation has been identified as a priority of the Council. Therefore, I think it is appropriate to include the Vision Zero Plan implementation in the final recommendation at approximately the funding level that the public assigned to it in the budgeting exercise.

The galvanized water service line replacement project has received less funding than originally recommended because of data collected by Public Works over the last few months indicating that the number of galvanized service lines in the city is much smaller than was originally predicted. The amount of funding recommended for this project should allow us to finish the replacement work in the city.

Following these parameters, I provide the following final recommendation for Council's consideration:

Project	Funding Amount	Completes Initiative?
Housing for Homeless Households	\$1,000,000	Yes
Unarmed Response	\$3,500,000	No
Galvanized Water Service Line Replacement	\$2,000,000	Yes
Property Acquisition for Affordable Housing	\$3,500,000	Yes
Coordinated Funding Support	\$1,682,630	-
Gallup Park Bridge	\$2,300,000	Yes (bridge only)
Universal Basic Income	\$1,600,000	Yes
Solar on City Facilities	\$4,500,000	No
City Clerk Election Center	\$1,000,000	Yes
Funding for the Arts	\$500,000	-
Community and Law Enforcement Data Platform	\$500,000	No
Vision Zero Plan Implementation	\$2,000,000	No
Liberty Plaza	\$100,000	No

Attachments: 1) Draft Resolution and 2) ARPA Community Suggestions

..Title

Resolution to Direct the Allocation and ARPA Funds

..Memorandum

In 2021 the City of Ann Arbor was informed that it would be awarded \$24.2 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. Following that notice, the City Council directed the City Administrator to prepare a plan for allocating the funds. On October 1, 2021 the City Administrator sent a plan to Council outline potential eligible projects and recommending a public engagement campaign to help prioritize the funds. Following that, City Council adopted resolution R-21-396 which so directed a public engagement campaign and directed the City Administrator to provide a final allocation plan by March 1, 2022. Staff engaged in a robust public engagement campaign in January and February of 2022 which resulted in more than 250 attendees at virtual town halls and more than 2,500 participants in an online survey. On February 25, 2022, the City Administrator communicated a report on the outcome of the public engagement campaign and final draft recommendation for Council's approval.

..Staff

Prepared by: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator

Reviewed by: Marti Praschan, CFO

Approved by: Milton Dohoney Jr., Interim City Administrator

..Body

Whereas, On March 11, 2021 the American Rescue Plan was enacted, creating a program for state and local government relief related to the economic conditions created by the COVID-19 Pandemic;

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor will receive \$24,182,630 from the federal government related to this program;

Whereas, On June 7, 2021 the Ann Arbor City Council adopted resolution R-21-215 which directed the City Administrator to provide a recommendation for prioritizing the allocation of the ARP funds;

Whereas, Throughout the summer staff reviewed the federal regulations that guide this program, evaluated city needs and priorities as set by the Council, and considered which initiatives would be the best fit for these funds;

Whereas, On October 1, 2021 the City Administrator provided a plan to the Council for the allocation of funds, and subsequently thereafter the Council endorsed a public engagement campaign to help prioritize the funds;

Whereas, A public engagement campaign was held in January and February of 2022, attracting 250 attendees to public meetings and garnering more than 2,500 responses to an online survey and budgeting tool; and

Whereas, On February 25, 2022 the City Administrator provided a report on the outcome of the public engagement campaign and final draft recommendation for Council's consideration;

RESOLVED, The City Council directs the City Administrator to implement the following allocation of ARPA funds, and to take all necessary steps to facilitate their expenditure including the preparation of budget resolutions that must come back to the Council for final approval:

Project	Funding Amount	Completes Initiative?
Housing for Homeless Households	\$1,000,000	Yes
Unarmed Response	\$3,500,000	No
Galvanized Water Service Line Replacement	\$2,000,000	Yes
Property Acquisition for Affordable Housing	\$3,500,000	Yes
Coordinated Funding Support	\$1,682,630	-
Gallup Park Bridge	\$2,300,000	Yes (bridge only)
Universal Basic Income	\$1,600,000	Yes
Solar on City Facilities	\$4,500,000	No
City Clerk Election Center	\$1,000,000	Yes
Funding for the Arts	\$500,000	-
Community and Law Enforcement Data Platform	\$500,000	No
Vision Zero Plan Implementation	\$2,000,000	No
Liberty Plaza	\$100,000	No



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

This memo details the community suggestions that were received for use of the ARPA funds. We received suggestions from 39 community members during our engagement process, with many people making multiple suggestions per communication for 53 total suggestions. Funding for the arts was the most prominent suggestion, having been suggested by 12 community members. Following that, eight respondents suggesting investing more funds in fixing the roads, three suggesting investing funds in the Center of the City, and two each suggested funding improvements to the farmer's market, installing public restrooms, doing more to address homelessness, and investing more in affordable housing.

We also received one suggestion each to invest more in landscaping on city properties, invest funds to address stormwater runoff issues in residential neighborhoods, fund at least part of the South State Street project, fix the West Park band shell, install solar panels on AAHC properties, invest funds in the Treeline Trail, install a sound barrier between M-14 and Wines Elementary, fund a plan to create railroad quiet zones, create a new dog park, invest funds in Liberty Plaza, pursue a land use plan update, improve community engagement practices, hire a team of neighborhood organizers to support city services, distribute water tests to every home in Ann Arbor, and provide direct assistance to those with long COVID. Some wrote in to bolster their support for the original list of projects, including previously mentioned comments support strategies to address homelessness and build more affordable housing. We also received comments in support of our Vision Zero plan implementation, the work proposed in Gallup Park, funding for human services, the plan to replace galvanized steel water lines, and the universal basic income proposal. Finally, we also received a suggestion to simply return the money to residents in the form of checks (roughly \$200 per resident), and to decline the funding in favor of donating it to neighboring municipalities who might demonstrate a higher need for the funds.

A complete list of the suggestions as written by the community members who sent them in is provided below.

ID: 001

Date: 1/6/22

Community Member: Linda Bidlack

Topics: Landscaping, water management and flooding, roads

I understand that the City of Ann Arbor is looking for "transformative" projects to spend the APRF funding. As a longtime citizen of Ann Arbor, I have noticed that some fundamental maintenance projects have been unfunded for more than 30 years, while the sexy new projects like "bike paths" and adding "art" around the city do receive funding time and time again. Let's consider some existing problems before we continue spending on new projects. Please consider funding

Landscaping maintenance and improvement around the city (medians, parks, pocket parks in subdivisions)

The medians on Washtenaw, State Street, and Eisenhower, etc. are a total mess (weeds, unmaintained trees and shrubs, barely cut grass). The small park at the entrance to my subdivision, near the bus stop (on Washtenaw and Medford), barely has the grass cut, and an 80-year-old



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volunteer is the only person trimming the shrubs and trees, and removing weeds. This is disgraceful and only one small example of what is happening throughout the city. Even the poorest towns in Michigan have more pride in caring for their cityscapes.

Funding "water management solutions" for homeowners

Here's just one example: I live in a subdivision built in the 1960s with hilly terrain in a home built at the bottom of a hill. That means our home receives water run-off from all homes higher on the hill. To cope, we have installed french drains to discharge water into the street. It isn't enough. My garage floods when it rains, our garden soil erodes with each rain. The solution to fix my particular issue requires a drainage system on multiple properties. Other homeowners are struggling with flooding, cracked sewer lines, failing retainer walls, and foundation issues due to excessive water and aging infrastructure. These problems are costly to fix, and not covered by home insurance. Offering some kind of financial help would keep people from leaving older homes and moving to new ones.

Road Maintenance

"Fix the damn roads!" While some progress has been made, there is still much to do. Thanks for reading, and if you are not the correct person to receive this input, kindly pass it along to the correct person.

Best, Linda

ID: 002

Date: 1/16/22; 1/21/22

Community Member: Jeff Hauptman

Topics: South State Street

January 16:

Hi!

Just curious why infrastructure projects that Council has already put forward, but not funded, are not on the list? I've attached an example*.

Thanks for your feedback!

Jh

*Attached to this email was the South State Street Corridor Study

January 21:

While there are certainly some worthy projects on the list being submitted, not spending funds on a project approved almost five years ago, a project that will impact the core of the city's future development thus providing millions in potential property tax income, seems like a lost



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opportunity. At a minimum, why not complete the engineering on the project? Yes, it is a large project, but it also a key part to maximizing the city's goals with the new TC1 zoning.

Thanks,

Jh

ID: 003

Date: 1/21/22

Community Member: Carol Mull

Topics: Roads

I am a long-time resident of Ann Arbor. I would like to see the money used to fix our roads and upgrade the infrastructure. I do not want the money to go to bike lanes and parks.

Thank you.

Carol E. Mull

ID: 004

Date: 1/28/22

Community Member: Carrie Mayfield

Topics: Roads

Parkwood Ave at Packard. Fix our roads! Neighborhoods Need Help!

ID: 005

Date: 1/28/22, 2/3/22

Community Member: Daniel Ketelaar

Topics: Roads

January 28:

To my view, and considerable others, there is one priority that is NOT EVEN LISTED IN THE OPTIONS! ROADS. The roads in Ann Arbor are abysmal and have been for years. Council and the Mayor should be embarrassed....but apparently they are not. I have traveled to third world country's with better roads than Ann Arbor. What kind of priority is it in which those who "lead" cannot even identify that which is so critical in so many ways.



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FIX WHAT IS BROKEN BEFORE YOU ADD FURTHER ITEMS TO YOUR WISH LIST.

Daniel Ketelaar
President, Urban Group Development Company

February 3:

Thank you for the reply. It say a great deal to me, and I am sure to many others, that the maintenance of the roadway infrastructure in our city has such a low priority to those making the "lists" that it is not even in the LIST OF OPTIONS FOR USE OF THE "RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING." That needs to be corrected. Citizens in Ann Arbor need to be given this OPTION as a CHOICE.

ID: 006

Date: 2/1/22

Community Member: Choveyus

Topics: Roads

Fix the streets!

ID: 007

Date: 2/8/22

Community Member: Lynn Suits

Topics: West Park Bandshell, Funding for the arts, Roads

Dear Rescue,

I tried to fill out the survey which had ,In my opinion, mediocre choices.

Support the Michigan and State Theaters, fix the West Park Band Shell and also CLEAN THE CITY. The sidewalks are filthy and there is litter everywhere.

City hall is an imposing fortress that screams stay away, stay out and go away.

No more bike lanes. Driving downtown is a nightmare. And fix Arbordale. My street is a disgrace. A least put a crosswalk in for the Eberwhite students.

Sincerely,

Lynn Suits

ID: 008



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

Date: 1/28/22

Community Member: Judith Rowe

Topics: Roads

Please consider using this money on our streets!!!

ID: 009

Date: 2/4/22

Community member: Edith Kieffer

Topics: Roads, crosswalks, lighting

Good day. I just submitted feedback on city priorities for spending the rescue funds. Thanks for the opportunity. I am concerned about a few things, including what was not listed, and the relative costs among the items that were listed.

1) Many things were combined in the transportation/safety/etc item. Some of the things described were of low to no priority to me (e.g., lots and lots of bicycle things), while very little seemed to be included related to actions that would most enhance needed public safety for many, including but not limited to senior citizens and children e.g. fixing the terrible condition of the roads, putting many more signaled and well-lighted crosswalks (including along Hill Street near campus), adequately plowed streets without pushing it across people's driveways....a true hazard to health and safety and we are the worst city in the region in that regard. These should be done throughout the city before more is spent on bicycle enhancements, which only benefit a few.

ID: 010

Date: 2/11/22

Community Member: A. Foster

Topics: Solar panels on AAHC properties

Hi all,

first (as always) thanks for what you do.

I was looking at the ARPA results and thinking about what could be gained from not siloing these projects and instead looking for points of intersection.

One opportunity stood out: Could we put the solar on AAHC properties instead?

AAHC properties would, to my mind, fall in the category of "city owned" and so not be a bait-and-switch from the spirit of the proposal but would have other benefits. Looking at google satellite views it looks like Baker Commons, Carrot Way, the AAHC offices at Miller Manor, Lurie Terrace, the



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Green Road units, and others appear to have ample open roof space for solar. Installing panels here seems like it would have the same carbon/sustainability benefits of putting solar city buildings while alleviating some of the utility load of either the tenants or the AAHC (I don't remember if all AAHC models treat utilities the same way). If it is the case that tenants pay utilities, putting solar on these properties seems like it would also help the bottom-line in low income households. While this is not the same as the UBI project, an extra 60-200/month isn't too shabby! If it is the case that AAHC pays the utilities, this added savings could be redirected toward resident support services.

There may be some regulation-reasons that explain why such an approach wasn't taken but I wanted to float it as you begin to look at the responses on the survey.

Thanks for thinking about it.

-Foster.

ID: 011

Date: 1/15/22

Community Member: Jennifer Barton

Topics: Farmer's Market

I am writing in regards to the American Rescue Plan Funds. Our Ann Arbor's Farmer Market is a local, community based market that draws people downtown every Wednesday and Saturday throughout the spring, summer and fall. On Saturday's throughout the winter, they have a market as well. Our hard working farmers bring their incredible produce to sell to us. For this, I am so grateful.

I have been going throughout the years every season. This morning I went and it was 10 degrees. The farmers are freezing and I am sad to see this is how Ann Arbor treats its farmers that provide so much to our community.

I would like the council to consider providing an indoor, heated venue for them to sell their produce. I am continually amazed that they still show up in this weather. Saline and Ypsilanti both provide indoor venues for the farmers to stay warm. Why can't Ann Arbor?

Jennifer Barton

ID: 012

Date: 2/1/22

Community Member: Jill Lada

Topics: Farmer's Market



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TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

Hello,

I know there are already many worthy projects on your list, but the Farmer's Market is due for an update if we wish to make the local food economy a priority in the coming years.

Warmly,

Jill Lada

ID: 013

Date: 1/29/22

Community Member: Khita Whyatt

Topics: Funding the arts

It has been brought to my attention that there has not been finances delegated to the Arts+Creative Industries. This is unacceptable! Ann Arbor thrives in the arts and is known for its culture surrounding the arts. Financially supporting the arts to recover and thrive in Ann Arbor is essential not only to our identity as a city, but also to income to the city. People come here from all over the world to create, produce and perform in this city, as well as participate in the artist's works. Our local businesses need this income to survive. Cut off the arts and cut off healthy local business and culture.

PLEASE delegate finances to Arts+Creative Industries.

Sincerely,

Khita Whyatt

ID: 014

Date: 1/6/22

Community Member: Deb Polich

Topic: Funding for the arts

Dear Mayor Taylor and City Council members,

As hard as Creative Washtenaw works to keep informed about the work and initiatives of all the governing bodies in respect to the municipalities in Washtenaw County, we miss important announcements. Ann Arbor City Council's effort to seek community input into consideration to make the final decision about what projects receive ARPA funds, is one of those we missed. We are quickly getting up to speed though.

A quick review of the proposed projects causes great dismay since investing in the City of Ann Arbor's arts and cultural assets is not on the list. We hope there is still an opportunity to rectify



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

this omission. The arts and creative assets significantly impact the city's economy, quality of life and place but receives, little if any, direct investment or public policy to support it. The first wave of COVID-19 in March 2020 shut their doors and the continued surges are relentless. Audiences remain uncomfortable going into venues. The sector remains under constant threat and the future of these arts organizations, venues, museums, theaters, festivals, fairs that provide programs, services and products in our community is precarious.

Ann Arbor has an opportunity here to help by investing ARPA funds to keep these assets in our community.

Please, on behalf of the many artists, creative workers, businesses and organizations that call Ann Arbor home (for now) offer the opportunity to invest ARPA funds in Ann Arbor's arts and creative industries. Creative Washtenaw can quickly activate a committee of leaders to assist the city in this work.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing back from members of council and staff.

Sincerely,

Deb

Date: 1/27/22

Community Member: Deb Polich

Dear Mayor Taylor, City Council members, Interim Administrator Mahoney and the ARPA Rescue Funds team,

Per the email sent to you Jan. 6 and as a follow-up to the ARPA funding public session held Jan. 12, please accept the attached proposal advocating for investment in Ann Arbor's arts + creative industries. The arts + creative industries were well represented at that meeting with many commenting on the lack of a proposal investing in this important sector. Following the meeting, council person Griswold had a conversation with Mr. Dohoney, he invited a proposal. Though this proposal is drafted by Creative Washtenaw, please know that we are submitting on behalf of hundreds of Ann Arbor's creative organizations, businesses, artists and creative workers.

Please include this proposal in the online survey to gather public input about which projects to fund scheduled to open tomorrow, Friday, Jan. 28.

We are available for discussion, to answer questions and expand upon the case and data included in the proposal. Please confirm receipt of the proposal and an intent to include it in the citywide survey and subsequent vetting process.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing back from members of council and staff.

Sincerely



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

Deb

Date: 1/27/22

Community Member: Deb Polich

Dear Mayor Taylor, City Council members, Interim Administrator Mahoney and the ARPA Rescue Funds team,

Hello again, We were more than dismayed to see that the Citizen Survey for Ann Arbor ARPA funding did not include the "Investing in Ann Arbor's Arts + Creative Industries" proposal sent previously.

Please, offer the opportunity for the community to respond and support the initiatives they value.

We request a response to this email from those leading the ARPA funding process with a plan to add the arts + creative industries or explain why the sector is not included.

Thank you for your quick attention and response.

Sincerely,

Deb

ID: 015

Date: 1/28/22

Community Member: Naomi Daniel

Topics: Treeline Trail

Hello,

I just completed the city's American Rescue Plan Act Funding survey, which did not have a way to include comments but directed input be sent to this email address.

I am writing because I did not see funding for the TreeLine project on the list. I would like to request that some of these funds be directed to the TreeLine, which is an **urgent improvement for the City to thrive.** (<https://thetreeline.org>)

Thank you!!

Naomi Daniel

ID: 016

Date: 1/20/22

Community Member: Helga Haller



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

Topics: Public restrooms

Let's finally get some public toilets around Ann Arbor to satisfy a very basic human need.

Helga Haller

ID: 017

Date: 1/29/22

Community Member: Robert Gregg

Topics: M-14 Sound Barrier along Wines Elementary

Here's an idea, please fix the long-standing noise problem with M14 along Wines Elementary! We have a community action website and a petition with over 600 signatures: <https://teemu1s.wixsite.com/a2m14np2>

These funds would be more than sufficient to build a sound barrier along Wines Elementary to protect the kids from dangerous noise. Their well-being has been ignored long enough.

Thanks,

Robert Gregg

ID: 018

Date: 1/29/22

Community Member: Ann Eaton

Topics: Railroad quiet zones

I vote for a quiet zone for the railroad crossings in Ann Arbor !! Crossing gates not horns !!

I don't even live close enough for the trains to bother me, BUT if the city is encouraging growth along the development corridor, and increased density to promote walking & biking, and less cars - IT IS A MUST DO !!

Improve the livability in those areas. Any city I've lived in, such as Chicago, does NOT. have the train noise that Ann Arbor does. It is ridiculous, see comments below from a Michigan Rafio article: "In two minutes, its horn sounded about 20 times. Federal rules require engineers to sound their horns four times for a total of 15 to 20 seconds as they approach street-grade crossings without gates. Ann Arbor has 21 of those. Some of the downtown crossings are just a block apart. Every train's horn sounds more than 160 times round trip through the city."
Ann Eaton

ID: 019



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

Date: 1/28/22

Community Member: Molly Beer

Topics: Dog park

Hi— There is one thing I find missing in Ann Arbor — A PROPER, spacious dog park in which one can hike or run or wheelchair or simply be in nature with an off-leash dog!

I don't mean a mosh pit with chips on the ground (and I DEFINITELY don't mean one you have to drive to!) One that is contained, but is large enough for dog people to jog or hike with their off-leash dog. One that is large enough that children can be in and play with their dog without being unsafe because there is pack-action taking place.

I am thinking very specifically of Toronto's High Park Dog Park. It is central. It is mixed terrain— woods, stream, and, yes, doggy mosh pit for the whose dogs like to socialize that way. MANY people can walk to it. And people can engage with it in various ways. Not everyone in that area is there with dogs—many are just biking, hiking, jogging. It's accessible (well less so in winter) to wheelchairs and strollers (there's a paved lane through the woods). There are even picnic spaces scattered within the dog park and workout stations along the trail.

If a major metropolis like Toronto can make space for this in a central location, surely A2 can.

A public space where neighbors can meet, take a walk with their dogs, and spend time off-leash (humans & dogs!) will double down on those health benefits inherent to living with dogs (reducing allergies for children being one oft-cited benefits of owning dogs). And such a park would make dog ownership more feasible for people who don't have the \$\$ to own a yard and can't leave their kids home when they exercise their dogs.

Mosh pit dog parks are not very safe for dogs or humans. They do not promote exercise for humans. Given the pack phenomenon that the small space promotes, small parks are definitely NOT safe for children to enter and interact with their dog (since when dogs who are strangers to one another are establishing a hierarchy, it is a stressful process, and the pack behavior can become hazardous— and this process is constant in a small dog park where all the dogs must been the same contained space, making the parks more attractive to people with alpha dogs—or adult, male dogs.)

Furthermore, you cannot effectively train a dog in the stressful and distracting environment of a mosh-pit park, meaning that our community's dogs are less trained and socialized than they might be. (How does someone teach a dog something so essential as to come when called if there is no place where this can be practiced?!) And you know from that other mosh pit, Nextdoor, there is a LOT of frustration over unleashed dogs. But as there is NO PLACE you can take your dog without driving, what choice do dog owners have but to ignore ordinances and use next- best spaces such as the partially fenced West Park baseball diamond or Bird Hills Nature Area? Particularly dog owners who live in apartments or don't have nice big yards (and if you all want to increase density...well, those yards are part of that).

Anyway, thanks for reading. I've been thinking about this for a while, and then you asked...

Best, Molly



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

ID: 020

Date: 2/8/22

Community Member: Lorraine (Rainey) Lamey

Topics: Funding the arts

Good Afternoon --

I am so tired of passwords and more. I apologize.

But I was very disappointed that the Creative Washtenaw proposals were not included. Arts rate very highly for me (#2 on the survey that I thought I could just submit without registering again). Election Integrity is #1 -- not out of concerns locally, but the overall environment.

My understanding is that the Michigan Theater & State Theatre has been, for some time, the main draw to generate secondary spending downtown -- it is our "flagship" store. Really hoping that we can support those venues and arts, as they help with the overall mental wellness of the community, and remind us that we are human and feel and create and recreate.

Thank you very much and best wishes for a reasonably peaceful discussion of the allocation of funds that we would not otherwise have to discuss. :-)

Lorraine (Rainey) Lamey

Ann Arbor, MI

ID: 021

Date: 2/8/22

Community Member: Lucy Miller

Topics: Funding the arts, Center of the City, Liberty Plaza

Dear Staff,

I have chosen not to complete the survey. I found it restrictive, seemingly an attempt to affirm the original choices, rather than to seek additional input.

Along with other voices in the community, I encourage you to allocate a meaningful portion of the Rescue Funds to help revive and sustain arts and culture in Ann Arbor. The long pandemic has surely dampened our spirits and sense of community.

Funding local arts and cultural organizations; providing seed money for the Center of the City-Council of the Commons working to develop Liberty Park and the Library block into an inviting and active public square; and, dedicating affordable housing and work/retail/event spaces for artists in



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our community, can have a synergistic effect and go a long way towards reviving civic and economic life in Ann Arbor.

Thank you for your work, especially during this difficult pandemic.

Respectfully,

Lucy Miller

ID: 022

Date: 2/13/22

Community Member: Lucy Miller

Topics: Center of the City

Thank you for your thoughtful reply. I appreciate the funding constraints you describe as well as the other important priorities initially identified by the city staff.

I do believe we find money for the things we value.

The stuff that brings us joy and connects us with our neighbors and community is essential for any great city, can gradually erode from lack of attention, and has suffered greatly during the pandemic.

In Ann Arbor, we talk a lot about inclusion, but have been willing to continue to isolate the folks who gather at Liberty Park while we are aware that other folks complain about them on Nextdoor, and cite their presence as the reason they don't venture downtown.

The good news is that we have established a Commission working to create a common, central, active space where we can meet in the Public Square. Allocating just \$100,000 to this Commission for community/stakeholder engagement, perhaps another \$100,000 for local artists to help enliven the space, perhaps a small grant of \$5000 to Groundcover News to further their work with vendors who build connections and mutual understanding~~it is hard to see this as unaffordable in a town like Ann Arbor. All the best,

Lucy Miller

ID: 023

Date: 2/8/22

Community Member: Barbara Melnik Carson

Topics: Funding for the arts

Ann Arbor promotes the city with all it's murals, art fairs, Festifools and galleries. Why are their no funds set aside for the Arts?



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

Barbara Melnik Carson

ID: 024

Date: 2/8/22

Community Member: Patricia Simmons

Topics: Funding for the arts

I endorse the choices for funding outlined in the survey for the American Plan Act funds allocated to our city. They all seem to be important projects but am very concerned that there is no option for funding the arts and especially the Michigan Theater Foundation.

What would do without the Michigan and State Theaters? In my opinion, they are very important to the quality of life here and should have not been left off of the funding choices list in the survey.

Please consider allocating money for the arts and especially the Michigan and State theaters from this funding source.

Sincerely,

Patricia Simmons

ID: 025

Date: 2/4/22

Community Member: Edith Kieffer

Topics: Funding for the arts

I was surprised that nothing was allocated for support of the arts, especially organizations that have been hit hard by the pandemic and we need to survive and thrive to have a high quality of life in this city. Although the arts were in the 2nd page list, this area was completely left off of the first page where people could allocate points.

Thank you for your consideration

ID: 026

Date: 2/11/22

Community Member: Rochelle Igrisian

Topics: Funding for the arts



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

I submitted my suggestions previously in the form, but wanted to add that i would prioritize funding for the arts over the bicycle lane stuff

Rochelle Igrisan

ID: 027

Date: 1/26/22

Community Member: Petals Sandcastle

Topics: Funding for the arts

Greetings Kayla & Heather !

Petals Sandcastle here with Express Your Yes Foundation and NOW studios, a 501(c)3 multi-modal creative art's nonprofit in downtown Ann Arbor.

Firstly I want to thank you both for all the work you do to engage with the community, organize, and make our city the beautiful place it is.

Our team attended the initial public meeting on the \$24 million federal funds, where we were given the green light to introduce a proposal for the arts / creation / mental health / spirituality / safe space to meet and explore and dream--and that proposal is below:

<https://www.expressyouryes.com/rescuefunds>

Our ever-growing team of staff, interns, performers, artists, healers, scientists, dreamers, and volunteers are ready to provide any additional information The Body might desire. In fact, we would love to curate a night specifically designed for you all to come experience firsthand what we do.

While not originally putting forth a single proposal allocating a single cent to the arts, creation, therapy, mental health, wellness, joy, adult playtime, community magic, safe space for inter-group dialogue, etc. feels like a tremendous oversight/mistake--there is still time.

We all know there are savage inequities baked into the system, by design--and this is an opportunity to refocus on the human elements of our community and make a public commitment to address the largest social and spiritual impacts of the pandemic.

We are tremendously grateful for you taking the time to read and contemplate our proposal !

Yours,

Petals

ID: 028

Date: 2/11/22



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

Community Member: Gordon White

Topics: Funding for the arts

This is Gordon White, long time resident of Ann Arbor, often working in the arts in this city. I took the survey today on what should become of the pandemic assistance money from the federal government. I was dismayed not to see the arts included in the official ideas for the money. I would like to make a few comments on the importance of supporting the arts, particularly through these recent hard times.

Ann Arbor has become the destination for the arts in SE Michigan, and yet the arts organizations here have been struggling for years. This is due to always-higher costs to operate in Ann Arbor, the almost unreachable costs to start up a new arts organization here, and all, of course, has been made worse by the pandemic, when virtually all the arts groups went dark for more than a year.

As the advertising manager for a local publication, as the pandemic hit in 2020 I watched ad revenue coming from arts organizations drop from maybe a quarter of our revenue to zero. It recovered only somewhat this past year, and several organizations have only now begun to produce shows again, and advertise again, albeit at a lower level. It should be needless to say, but the offerings of arts organizations are a huge revenue source for the city, and the pandemic decimated their revenues and damaged their ability even to survive.

I worked at the Performance Network Theatre ("The Network"), Ann Arbor's professional theatre, in two of its incarnations, and it was difficult to keep it alive in the best of times. (Due to mismanagement in the 2000s and 2010s, the high-powered team which took over in 2014 to try to save it found too many problems to overcome, and too large a debt, so it closed after 34 years.)

To get a sense of the impact of a single arts organization, while The Network was open and thriving, even if, say, we filled only half our seats--which for hit shows wasn't remotely the case--this single professional theatre would bring 350 people to downtown each week. So over the run of a show, that would bring in 2,500, and over a season, 15,000. If half our shows hit with audiences, that number bumps up to over 20,000 a year. Many were from outside the city, and many would eat and drink at our restaurants and bars before and after shows. For many, coming to a show would be their introduction to Ann Arbor, and they would come back, for more shows, and for other events and dinners. In addition, for each show, we'd have up to a dozen actors coming to town for a month of rehearsals (and eating lunches or dinners here) then they would be here for the run of the show, plus designers and directors. We'd bring volunteers downtown for internal and external events, we bought lumber and paint and other materials, we rented other venues for benefit events, we were a resource for other arts groups to be able to rehearse or perform in our spaces. And everyone who came to the theatre paid for parking or mass transit.

At the same time, in the words of the artistic director of the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, in the many years she's been at the helm, she watched foundational arts funding sources go from 34 to 14. Simultaneously, larger corporations like Borders and Pfizer, which used to fund major programs at arts institutions, left Ann Arbor, not to be replaced by newer companies in their support of the arts.

One new professional theatre, Kickshaw Theatre, recently was struggling to establish itself in Ann Arbor, but could not sustain itself through the pandemic, and it closed forever.



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The university only provides peripheral aid to entities outside of itself, and the city provides little support to the arts. And yet, despite all that, Ann Arbor became an arts destination. The addition of downtown hotels starts to lock that in, but if the arts are allowed to dwindle, or when new groups find it impossibly expensive to start up, then we will lose the momentum. And the arts. And it will not help Ann Arbor economically.

The arts don't "just happen" here. Really talented and relentlessly hard working people bring them here, but without more local support, I suspect the arts will continue declining, both here in Ann Arbor, here in Michigan, and across America. It need not happen, and understanding the impact of the arts can be a start to supporting them, and building them up.

I've only mentioned the economics of the arts, but you should also consider the importance of the arts to a community, to building a civil and rounded society, which I will not attempt to cover here except to say the arts are clearly more needed than ever in our society. Local residents clearly value the enrichment of their lives from the arts, but individual support will never be enough to sustain the various organizations, to sustain a culture of the arts.

Please consider supporting the jewel of Ann Arbor, its arts community, about the hardest-hit sector by the pandemic, with this pandemic recovery money. Doing so will help Ann Arbor begin to recover its standing as a beacon of arts and culture. It's good for the city in the long term, and it's essential in the short term to not lose more of our existing arts groups, and perhaps to encourage new arts entrepreneurs to bring their creativity here. The proliferation of arts is why Ann Arbor is unique in this state.

Thank you for your consideration.

- -Gordon White

ID: 029

Date: 2/13/22

Community Member: Michael Miller

Topics: Center of the City, funding for the arts, Gallup Park

I registered per directions to take the survey but decide to write a response.

The following is my opinion for how to spend the American Plan Act Funding. I write my response instead of taking the survey because the survey by its nature focuses on initiatives already partially begun and may in fact be receiving a funding stream of city dollars. Understanding the budget and wherein may be their funding would take a clear presentation of the city's budget. In a most crude sense using the American Plan Act Funding within the framework of the survey would only be feeding the bureaucracy's existing initiatives. Rarely does a big chunk of money come to a city as such and as such it needs as much creativity for how to spend it as the city can muster. Survey's already cook in biases and are not necessarily creative, decorating and unseen on public buildings shelves.



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
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I agree with Michigan Theater's Russ Collin's comments, " ...significant money should be funneled to the arts". But how to do that? We need a city center, as all great cities. Often a city center is associated with a welcoming public space integrated into a welcoming public building such as our library. Liberty Park which has not ever usefully been designed or managed to welcome city visitors and residents could be much more creatively used to welcome visitors and residents. Associate the use of Liberty Park with centering support and space for the arts. Connect the thinking for how to be creative with Liberty Park with how to use the concrete top of the parking structure next to the library. It could be done if there exists a political will. Use and support the energy and ideas of folks who have long thought about a city center, The Center of the City Task Force. Find some real dollars to fund the group and view them as an asset for the city. The focus over and over again on a building housing students will only make for a boring city. Spend 70% of the money as above and 30% on improvements in Gallup Park.

Michael Miller

ID: 030

Date: 1/12/22

Community Member: Brian Chambers

Topics: Land-use plan update, community engagement

Equity has been a big issue on Ann Arbor's current land-use / zoning ordinances. Economic segregation has worsened due to COVID within the City. Given that the Comprehensive Land Use update has been delayed due to COVID, a fairly direct project would be to use the ARPA funds to support community engagement for marginalized communities during the Land-Use Update, including childcare services and outreach. Lower income workers were most severely impacted from COVID shutdowns, especially those in the services industry, so this Land Use Update engagement support would meet the ARPA criteria.

Please consider making a project proposal for ARPA funding of the Land Use Update. As you may recall, there was concern amongst the contractor selection committee from 2019 that the budget for the Land Use Update was not scoped large enough for the type of support services believed necessary for comprehensive community engagement and outreach. This was a concern from those appointed by Council to that committee.

Brian Chambers

ID: 031

Date: 2/2/22

Community Member: Pat O'Connell

Topics: Human services, homelessness, affordable housing, universal basic income



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

I'm very disappointed that most of the proposed projects have little correlation to the effects of the pandemic.

Areas that have suffered most from pandemic impact are human services, homeless concerns and affordable housing.

Funds to increase wages to allow the working poor to remain in Ann Arbor also correlate directly to the devastation of the workforce due to the pandemic.

The other projects regardless of their merit, same unrelated to the presence of the pandemic and should not be using recovery money to fund them.

Pat O'Connell

ID: 032

Date: 2/6/22

Community Member: Blane McLane

Topics: Funding neighborhood organizers, community engagement initiative

Greetings:

Thank for the invitation!!

In addition to the online conversation about how folks want to spend the American Rescue Plan Act money, it may also be useful to fund a permanent office that organizes, implements, and sustains Diversity & Neighborhood (& Visitor?) Engagement in every part of the city, including the public universities, the business communities, and virtually.

To begin, maybe the city could fund 5 LOCAL organizers, one for each city ward. They should each be paid about \$60K to \$75K annually (or about \$30-\$40 per hour, which is almost minimum wage in expensive A2) with full benefits. About \$400,000 for salaries/benefits + office/mtg space + resources.... Let's round the total to \$1 million in seed money.

Organizers would work with all neighborhoods to define our city's universal (middle-class? inclusive, [bio]diverse, green ...) community standards and how local residents can help to equitably implement them. Communities could help establish and provide resources to all residents interested in implementing(!) LOCAL, equitable, affordable, sustainable, and green (in no order):

- Transportation;
- Public & personal communication devices, smartphones, multilingual/signing classes;
- Community newsletters, blogs, social media, chat groups;
- Universal street signage, online (& public) community digital bulletin boards;
- Tech devices, broadband, citywide wifi;
- Affordable housing, and green, densified, accessible building code;
- Universal (free) healthcare;



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
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- Social entrepreneurial jobs, community service;
- Permanent economic support, pensions;
- Nonprofit financing coops, community and green investment;
- Community food gardens, climate-change projects;
- Blue-green infrastructure, including Nature and drinking water, sewers, public lighting, energy, roads, sidewalks;
- Cultural expressions, entertainment;
- Community education;
- Improved elections turnout, representation (for nonvoting residents, youth, immigrants, marginalized people, businesses, academia?), elected neighborhood councils;
- Community centers, shelters, clinics;
- Universal pet care;

As a reference, EN SPANISH, I attached a working roadmap of sorts of a similar project (Comunidades Para Tod@s) I was organizing in San Juan, Puerto Rico, after hurricanes Irma and María. The roadmaps would have to be updated for local realities, but the framework has been helpful--especially if we are "building back better," improving quality of life, responding to climate change, implementing social engagement thru direct action ... AND HAVE \$24 million to spend.

Community solutions have often been just one-shot allocations that respond to the neighborhoods making the most noise or with the most "connections" to influence neighborhood outcomes (including resource funding). It is long past due to find ways to engage and respond every day with ALL communities in Ann Arbor.

Trickle-down, gradual approaches TAKE TOO MUCH TIME and usually don't reach everyone equitably. The city has been "talking" about affordable housing (for example) for more than 40 years. Maybe the city could permanently subsidize affordability? (Our wages, universal healthcare, green energy, broadband, etc.?)

I am interested in the conversation. If you know about any living-wage jobs doing this kind of community work, I WOULD BE very GLAD TO ASSIST more than FULL TIME!

Thanks for the reach-out with your engagement with the city of Ann Arbor. In which city department do you community engagement folks currently work???

Gracias,

Blane McLane

ID: 033

Date: 1/31/22

Community Member: Kathryn Schaaf

Topics: Water tests, senior housing



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

I think it is essential to have a great system to test sewage for COVID variants and other diseases so we can be forewarned and forearmed. I would also appreciate this data being made publicly available routinely.

Also I would like more and better senior housing. No senior wants to live in a high-rise downtown where we would be sitting ducks for crime. We independent seniors need shorter buildings with services to stores, docs, etc. Affordable is less than \$1000/month.

Thanks!

Kathryn

ID: 034

Date: 2/3/22

Community Member: Edward Boutros

Topics: Assisting those with long COVID

Please make sure that some funding goes to those whose are suffering from Long Covid and unable to work. I have had Long Covid now for 18 months. Some people need help!

ID: 035

Date: 2/11/22

Community Member: Thomas Mobley

Topics: Healthy drinking water

Hello City of Ann Arbor,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Yes, obviously healthy drinking water is most important. Please allocate necessary funds to support this effort.

Thomas Mobley

ID: 036

Date: 2/10/22

Community Member: James Vincze

Topics: Public restrooms

I would like to have the City of Ann Arbor construct public restrooms with a major portion of the Rescue Funds. Clean, safe, and convenient public restrooms are a basic right of our citizens and



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visitors. The restrooms can utilize technology to allow phone usage for people who have lost their cell phones and need to make a call. There can also be a hot line to dial 911 or to make contact with non-emergency services. The restrooms can also have a shelter to allow people to get out of inclement weather. We can provide a place that respects people and their dignity.

James Vincze

ID: 037

Date: 1/28/22

Community Member: Roger Kuhlman

Topics: Return money to taxpayers

I would like to see most of this \$24 million excess Covid relief money that Ann Arbor has returned to the Taxpayers of Ann Arbor. That is to help compensate and relieve at least a little of the obscenely excessive property tax burden being placed on all of us by the One Party Radical Leftist Democrat Party of Ann Arbor.. There is absolutely no way everyone in the city should be forced to pay for political special interest projects like green new deals, public housing, and public transit. These are coerced charitable donations and they should come voluntarily out of people's wallet not extorted by implied force through city property taxes. That is morally wrong and Authoritarian.

Roger Kuhlman

ID: 038

Date: 1/28/22

Community Member: Mike Wixom

Topics: Decline funding

I am curious if there was any discussion by Council regarding declining the ARPA funds or directing them to other communities in need? I find that the list of potential projects Council has come up with to be largely unrelated to recovery, and I have not seen any discussion of what the COVID impacts have been on the city, which I would hope would be used to guide where the funding should be applied. Present list looks like a wish list. If I missed Council discussion of the COVID impacts on budget or possibility of declining or redirecting to communities of greater need some or all of the funding, would you please let me know where to find that?

Mike Wixom

ID: 039

Date:



RE: **ARPA Community Suggestions**
TO: Milton Dohoney, Interim City Administrator; Marti Praschan, CFO
FROM: John Fournier, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: 2/17/22

Community Member: Monica Weber

Topics: Homelessness

You are required to use the fund to benefit those in need. A solar powered firehouse is FRIVOLOUS and irresponsible when there are homeless people and more and more people living at poverty levels. BE COMPANSSIONATE AND RESPONSIBLE!

Monica Weber