



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission

FROM: John Speirs, Program Coordinator  
Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs

DATE: March 11, 2015

SUBJECT: 2015 Grant for Technology Opportunities (GTOPs) Awardees

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your approval to proceed with the 2015 Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) and to submit a transmittal memorandum for the City Manager's Designee Approval, as recommended by the Grant Review Committee on February 25, 2015.

### GRANT PROGRAM PURPOSE

The GTOPs program provides matching funds to Austin organizations and citizens' groups for projects focusing on use of information technology and connecting our citizens with computers and the Internet. The goals of the program are to:

- Support programs that provide public access to computers and information technology, especially among underserved segments of our community.
- Support programs that provide information technology literacy, education, and training.
- Support programs that use information and communication technologies in innovative ways that serve the community.
- Provide seed funding for Austin community and non-profit organizations for technological outreach and engagement efforts.

### AWARDEE SELECTION PROCESS

Applications for the 2015 grant were accepted through December 9, 2014. The Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission appointed a Grant Review Committee comprised of six qualified community representatives. The City received a total of thirty-one (35) applications. The Committee eliminated fifteen (15) applicants who were clearly not a fit with the program. The review board scored the remaining twenty (20) applicants based on the selection criteria outlined by the Commission including: the ability of the project to reduce disparities and increase technology access and/or literacy, program feasibility, community involvement, community benefit, and a clear plan for success. The applicants were given the opportunity to give a short oral presentation to the review board, followed by a question and answer session. After the final scores were tallied and discussed, the Committee voted on their final recommendations for full and partial awards.

## FUNDING & SCORING GUIDELINES

- 1) \$200,000 in GTOPs funds available
- 2) The minimum amount any organization any organization may be awarded is 70% of their request amount.
- 3) To ensure scores are consistent as well as fair, each judge's scores are normalized so that their average score across all applicants is 80%.
- 4) The highest scores generally receive the highest awards recommendation for each Priority Program, 100% of their request (minimum of \$10,000 and up to \$25,000).
- 5) Lower scoring but still above average applicants receive a partial awards recommendation as appropriate.

## SCORING GUIDANCE

- Reviewers were provided the opportunity to complete scores after hearing all presentations to serve for a comprehensive evaluation of scoring and assessment.
- Strong point delineation (point break) of those funded (.88) and not funded.
- Reflects Diversity of funding awards adhering to Commission recommended policy including Arts, Social, Education and Public Access.
- The Grant Review Committee's 2015 Recommendations were unanimous with strong consensus.

Staff requests approval of the GTOPs Grant Review Committee's recommended 2015 GTOPs Awards from the Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission, upon approval staff will submit a transmittal memorandum for the City Manager's Designee Approval, as recommended by the Grant Review Committee on February 25, 2015 as indicated in Exhibit (A) included with this memorandum.

2015 GTOPs Recommended Awardees Organization, Program Name, Budget (Funding Award + Match) = Total 2015 Community Investment							Proposed Percent of Matching Funds
	Imagine Austin Priority	Top Tier Priority Program Area Served	Second Tier Priority Program Area Served	TOTAL Program Cost(Matching + Grant Amounts Requested)	Ratio of GTOPs to Program Cost		
<b>Breakthrough Austin - GTOPs Award 100% of Request: \$25,000 (Total Community Investment: \$51,235)</b>  GTOPs will support Breakthrough's <b>Connected Classroom Program</b> which will provide more than 500 middle school and high school students with the information technology, resources, and college readiness curriculum they need to successfully prepare for, apply for, and enroll in college. This program combines dependable, supported access to computers and information technology with individualized, long-term case management and college readiness programming to help students overcome significant barriers along the path to college.	Economic Development	Edu & Work	Public Access	51235	0.49	104.94	
Outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students receive academic and technology support needed to be successful in high school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students understand how to utilize online resources to research colleges and to identify a wide variety of career options available to them after college</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students demonstrate professional email etiquette and understand how to submit well-prepared applications for professional internships and other opportunities</li> </ul>			
<b>The Arc of the Capital Area - GTOPs Award 100% of Request: \$25,000 (Total Community Investment: \$95,367)</b>  GTOPs will support the <b>Digital Media Arts program</b> which will provide public access to computers and information technology, as well as appropriate training, for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This population has historically been among the underserved segments of our community with regard to access to technology. This curriculum is designed for the purpose of comprehensive information technology literacy, education, and training.	Economic Development	Edu & Work	Arts & Culture	95367	0.26	281.47	
Outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bringing the world of the Internet to a typically isolated segment of the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing training to assist our clients to access and use helpful information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing a creative and occupational opportunities for clients</li> </ul>			
<b>HACA Scholarship Foundation, Inc. dba Austin Pathways - GTOPs Award 100% of Request: \$25,000 (Total Community Investment: \$50,000)</b>  GTOPs will support the <b>Lab Apprenticeship Program (LAP)</b> which will significantly promote technology literacy, education, professional development, and training at HACA's low-income housing properties while simultaneously providing critical support to over 1,400 low-income residents accessing public computers in three of the Housing Authority of the City of Austin's (HACA) public housing communities: Meadowbrook, Booker T. Washington, and either Thurmond Heights or North Loop (third property to be determined).	Economic Development	Edu & Work	Social, Health	50000	0.5	100	
Outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a pool of individuals with a solid foundation in computer proficiency and lab management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals completing the program will have the necessary skills and experience to apply for full-time employment positions with organizations such as the public libraries, schools, or neighborhood centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spark the apprentices' interest in their education, which will allow program participants to contribute to the community more through employment and support of other residents</li> </ul>			
<b>Skillopp Alliance - GTOPs Award 96% of Request: \$24,000 (Total Community Investment: \$315,931)</b>  GTOPs will support an innovative model for the delivery of the <b>Empower Program</b> that is focused on increasing the digital and technological knowledge of a cohort of Single Parents, coupled with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) Summer Camps for the participant's children.	Economic Development	Edu & Work	Social, Health	315931	0.08	1163.72	
Outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-generational technology enrichment program with a focus on increasing the workforce readiness of participants by equipping them with 21st century skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target audience can better and more effectively access the programming over the summer months, when their children are out of school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on closing the digital divide for adults so that they may have more marketable workforce skills and increase the family income</li> </ul>			
<b>Knowbility, Inc. - GTOPs Award 92% of Request: \$23,000 (Total Community Investment: \$50,000)</b>  GTOPs will support an upgrade to existing ATSTAR modules and distribute ATSTAR in AISD classrooms through the Assistive Technology Office to benefit students with disabilities.	Economic Development	Social & Health	Edu & Work	50000	0.5	100	
Outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers who receive ATSTAR training will be able to apply AT solutions without unnecessary administrative delays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers who receive ATSTAR training will be able to involve parents directly in the assessment and use of AT in an ongoing way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers who receive ATSTAR training will be open-minded about the use of assistive technology to improve students with disabilities' performance</li> </ul>			
<b>Capitol Area Council, Boy Scouts of America - GTOPs Award 88% of Request: \$22,000 (Total Community Investment: \$420,480)</b>  GTOPs will support transportation, food and camp scholarships for low income and at-risk students to attend a new <b>STEAM camp</b> hosted by the Boy Scouts of America, and developed in collaboration with the Girl Scouts of America and Austin ISD Anderson High School.	Creative Economy	Edu & Work	Edu & Work	420480	0.06	1581.92	
Outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combines Art and STEM to provide students with learning experience that engages both right and left brain activity and encourages creativity in technology and science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduces students to state of the art techniques, products and programs in the Art and STEM or STEAM fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases interest in creative technology or STEAM in students both already somewhat familiar with the fields and those that have no understanding of possibilities in creative technology or STEAM</li> </ul>			
<b>Texas Folklife Resources - GTOPs Award 82% of Request: \$20,500 (Total Community Investment: \$86,841)</b>  GTOPs will support <b>Stories From Deep in the Heart</b> which is a collaborative project of Texas Folklife with the Austin Independent School District and KUT 90.5FM Austin that provides in-depth communication technology and audio documentary training to students and teachers at AISD high school in low-income communities.	Creative Economy	Arts & Culture	Edu & Work	86841	0.29	247.36	
Outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building student technical, social and communication capabilities and offering real-world work and college readiness to direct participants, family members and general public introduced to Stories from Deep in the Heart</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offers access to the primary tools needed for students, including those who are low-income or disadvantaged, to achieve success in the 21st century through a creative and innovative arts program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students are going far beyond technological literacy to actually using these tools creatively to make portraits of their communities and positive relationships between schools and their surrounding neighborhoods</li> </ul>			
<b>Austin Children's Museum - GTOPs Award 72% of Request: \$18,000 (Total Community Investment: \$82,854)</b>  GTOPs will support <b>EdExchange</b> which offers professional development for educators working with Austin's low-income, culturally diverse youth. During the Spring Thinkery delivers experiences to strengthen 300+ students' knowledge of technology and related skills by learning coding, digital fabrication, 3D printing, circuitry, robotics and more to advance their academic and professional futures.	Creative Economy	Edu & Work	Public Access	82854	0.3	231.42	
Outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offers a group of up to 12 educators at least 15 hours of professional development through a five-part sequence focused on hands-on modern technology experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve educators' knowledge, skill and competence in using modern technologies as measured by pre-and post-surveys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide educators with programming kits to help them explore technology independently and in their programs</li> </ul>			
<b>Austin Achieve Public Schools Inc - GTOPs Award 70% of Request: \$17,500 (Total Community Investment: \$50,000)</b>  GTOPs will support the <b>Austin Achieve Digital Inclusion Program</b> , a neighborhood-centric education and social service program with the aim of increasing digital literacy in east Austin through: 1) the implementation of computer literacy and training programs during school hours; 2) Saturday and evening public access hours; and, 3) computer classes for adults.	Economic Development	Edu & Work	Public Access	50000	0.5	100	
Outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases both college readiness for our students and Austin's economy through in-school programming that focuses on Computer Science and the development of the skills needed to compete in STEM-related fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opens up the lab for evening and weekend accessibility, year-round making our campus a public access site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with other local organizations to provide community computing programs—thereby increasing our economic impact by maximizing the use of our facility and drawing on the resources and strengths of existing organizations that provide support for adults</li> </ul>			
Total 2015 Community Investment:				\$	1,202,708.000		