



MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission

FROM: Dan Martinez, Business Process Specialist, Financial Services Department

DATE: April 12, 2023

SUBJECT: 2023 Grant for Technology Opportunities (GTOPs) Awardees

The purpose of this memorandum is to request the Commission approve 1) the ten (10) 2023 GTOPs Core Awards, as scored by the GTOPs Grant Review Committee (the Committee) from April 9, 2023, with specific award amounts set by formula.

GRANT PROGRAM PURPOSE

[GTOPs](#) provides matching grant funds to Austin organizations that promote resident access to information technology, or that offer literacy programs that create digital opportunities and foster digital inclusion, particularly in underserved segments of our community.

The goals of the program are to:

- Increase use of digital and communications technology devices
- Increase knowledge and skills of digital and communications technology
- Increase access to and usage of the Internet

AWARDEE SCORING AND SELECTION PROCESS

Letters of Interest for 2023 GTOPs Core were accepted from November 1, 2023 through January 8, 2023 and grant applications were accepted from January 15, 2023 through February 12, 2023. The Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission appointed a volunteer Grant Review Committee comprised of seven (7) qualified community representatives, one (1) of whom dropped from the panel prior to final scoring. The City received a total of twenty-two (22) applications for GTOPs 2023 Core. Prior to final scoring, the applicants were given the opportunity to respond to questions generated by the Committee. The Committee scored these applications using the GTOPs scoring criteria, including:

- Alignment with GTOPs Goals
- Impact
- Success/feasibility
- Budget and fiscal responsibility

After the final scores were submitted by the Committee, the scores were ranked; the top and bottom reviewer scores were then dropped in accordance with the Olympic style scoring system adopted in 2022. The remaining scores were averaged to give the formal score. Bonus points were allocated as programmatically

required, giving the final application score. The final application scores were then entered into an algorithm that distributed awards proportional to the scoring of each organization, within program parameters.

The parameters considered by the algorithm are:

- 1) \$275,000 in GTOPs funds available.
- 2) The minimum amount awarded to any organization is 70% of the requested amount.
- 3) Funds are distributed proportional to differences in scoring.
- 4) The highest number of applications that can be funded considering 1 and 2 will be funded.

RECOMMENDATION

Of the organizations recommended for GTOPs 2023 Core funding, six (6) programs have received GTOPs Core funding in the past and four (4) programs have never been funded by GTOPs Core.

The Committee recommends ten (10) organizations receive funding through GTOPs Core as represented below:

Organization name	Final Score	Request	Award	Percent Awarded
Anthropos Arts	106.5	\$35,000	\$33,097.28	94.56%
Non Pareil Institute	101.5	\$35,000	\$32,392.56	92.55%
Changing Expectations	90.5	\$15,000	\$12,110.68	80.74%
Austin Urban Technology Movement	94.5	\$35,000	\$32,075.44	91.64%
Texas Folklife Resources Inc	94.25	\$35,000	\$31,969.74	91.34%
The Museum of Human Achievement	84	\$35,000	\$31,934.50	91.24%
Building Promise	94	\$35,000	\$31,793.56	90.84%
Latinitas	83.5	\$35,000	\$31,335.49	89.53%
American Youth Works	93.5	\$21,254	\$17,448.55	82.10%
Austin Speech Labs	98.25	\$25,000	\$20,842.20	83.37%

Staff requests the Commission approve the GTOPs Grant Review Committee's recommended 2023 GTOPs Core Awards. Upon Commission ratification and approval, the recommended GTOPs 2023 Awards will be submitted to the Program Manager of the Community Technology Division in the Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs for authorization to begin contract negotiations.

Please feel free to contact me at Dan.Martinez@austintexas.gov if you need additional information.

Dan Martinez, Business Process Specialist

Date

cc: Rondella Hawkins, Officer, Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs