



# City Council Report

**Date:** April 20, 2020  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** Scott J. Butler, Deputy City Manager, Government Relations  
**From:** Sharon Skinner, Grants Coordinator  
**Subject:** Resolution of support for the submittal of a grant application by Arizona State University Foundation to the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation in the amount of \$90,000.00 for their Garden Commons project at the Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus. and approving the City Manager to accept and administer subsequent awarded funds as a pass-through grant.

## Purpose and Recommendation

This request is seeking a City Council resolution of support for Arizona State University Foundation's application to Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for Proposition 202 funding. If awarded, the grant will provide for their Garden Commons project at the Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus. A Council Resolution supports this effort to secure a grant and commits the City to receive it on behalf of the non-profit and pass it through in its entirety to them, if awarded.

As this program serves the needs of City of Mesa residents, staff recommendation is for Council to adopt this resolution.

## Background

The Garden Commons is as an urban oasis on the Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus that serves as a multi-functional outdoor classroom embracing sustainable land design, with a focus on local food systems and hyper-local gardening. Current features include a community garden and citrus orchard, a resource center and student event space; these will support the educational and emotional needs of our students as well as community members of Mesa, including children from area schools, who access the public space. The future aim for this project is to implement an optimized version of active and hands-on learning in a biomimetic, outdoor classroom in order to better convey the importance of sustainability and local food systems to students.

The funding request will support operational cost to run and maintain the community garden, the Farm Stand, and food systems events, and workshops for the greater Mesa community. The Garden Commons is projected to serve between 5,000 - 10,000 Mesa residents annually.

## **Discussion**

A resolution of support for this grant request will complete the necessary documentation for Arizona State University Foundation to file their application by May 1, 2020 and be considered for funding from Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. Mesa's participation in Proposition 202 Indian Gaming Grants has returned over \$1 billion to Arizona communities since its passage in 2002 from four surrounding tribal governments.

## **Alternatives**

The only alternative to adopting this resolution would be to not adopt. Such an action would deny Mesa sponsorship for this request and require Arizona State University Foundation to seek an alternate local government for access to this funding source.

## **Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact on the City of Mesa, should this grant be awarded for Arizona State University Foundation will be negligible except overhead expenses in accounting to accept and reissue the grant check. The City does not administer the grant and signs an MOU or IGA with each tribe to limit our liability to only the pass-through transaction.