



State of West Virginia

05/02/2022

ARPA-22-21

ARP Application - Cabell County

Status: Active**Date Created:** Apr 29, 2022**Applicant**

Kathy McKenna
 kmckenna@ghprd.org
 PO Box 2985
 210 11th St Ste 1
 Huntington, West Virginia 25728-2985
 304.696.5954

Internal Section**Decision**

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Award Amount

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Additional Comments

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Certification

**PLEASE CERTIFY THAT YOU HAVE REVIEWED THE US
 TREASURY GUIDELINES REGARDING THE ELIGIBLE
 USES OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN STATE AND LOCAL
 RECOVERY FUNDS**

Digital Signature

Kathryn B. McKenna
 04/26/2022

Click here for more information
 (<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>)

Contact Information**Organization Name**

Greater Huntington Park & Recreation District

Address

PO Box 2985

Website (if applicable)

www.ghprd.org

Phone Number

304.696.5954

Email Address

kmckenna@ghprd.org

Project Summary

Please provide a narrative overview or summary of your proposal, including but not limited to the following:

1. Brief description of the proposal

GHPRD is seeking funding to complete necessary renovations & upgrades to the Ritter Park Amphitheater.

2. Purpose and key anticipated outcomes

Making the necessary renovations and upgrades to our amphitheater will allow us to continue to support and help grow the community's current annual lineup of events with the outdoor theater, festivals, and other planned events, while increasing the appeal and use of the space by adding more acts to the schedule - both local and national.

3. Individuals or communities served

The City of Huntington will be directly served and the benefits and outcome of this project will expand to the entire tri-state community.

4. How the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated this request

We see this as an opportunity to increase tourism and travel to our community, aiding to help rebuild and speed the recovery of some of the hardest hit industries: hotels, restaurants, recreation, theater and music while also adding to the revenue for local businesses, our parks, the city, and county, creating a long-term solution to aid in minimizing funding issues for the whole of the community.

5. Amount of funding requested

450,000

6. Amount of any bids or cost estimates received to date, if applicable

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7a. Amount of matching funds raised or committed by your organization

200,000

7b. Source of matching funds raised or committed by your organization

Funding requests made to the City of Huntington

8. How ARP funds, if awarded, will be used

The funds would be used to create a more fully inclusive space to be compliant with the accessibility guidelines, install additional lighting while upgrading the current electrical and lighting as needed, construct a clean and dry orchestra space, construct a permanent vendor space, install a new roof, fix drainage issues, upgrade the spaces behind the stage, paint, increase parking, install waysigns, and create a more aesthetic and welcoming entrance.

9. How long it will take you to complete the project if awarded funding

We anticipate being able to complete the work within 2 years, but no more than 3 years.

Proposal Details

1. Please describe the problem or need which your project seeks to address

Having been built in 1977, The Ritter Amphitheater is a space that needs updating. We want to address this issue by increasing use of the space, providing the parks with a way to invent a new revenue stream in order for us to maintain this area of the park long-term, and rely less on outside funding sources.

2. Please describe goals and expected outcomes of your proposal.

By improving the quality and number of events at The Ritter Amphitheater we will be adding to the efforts to increase tourism to our area. Not only will it benefit the parks by increasing revenue so we can continue our mission, but it will also benefit area hotels, restaurants, and other local businesses by increasing revenue for them which, in turn, will increase tax revenues back to the city and county.

3. Please provide your project timeline

We have established a relationship with local business, WhizzBangBAM, to manage the booking of events for our space and also have construction and design plans under way to ensure we can hit the ground running once the funding is in place. For these reasons, we anticipate completing all construction by 2025, focusing first on the things that will allow us to build the programming in tandem with structural improvements being made.

4. Please provide your project's total proposed budget.

We have begun the process of getting bids from area businesses for new roofing, waysigns, and parking, but this process is still underway and not complete. After consulting with local contractors, we believe the total cost for our project will be \$650,000.

5. Please list any partners in this proposal, and the partner's role and your relationship with them.

Partners in this project are the TTA which has committed to providing free transit to The Ritter from Pullman Square for events as well as WhizzBangBAM which will be booking and managing many of our larger events. Huntington Area Regional Theater, Huntington Music & Arts Festival, Funktafest and Huntington Symphony Orchestra are committed to using The Ritter and are excited to have the opportunity for better facilities so they can continue to improve their projects and continue to provide a diverse range of programming for all ages to participate. Solar Holler is providing an assessment for solar panels to reduce utility costs and has committed to donating panels to illuminate entry signage. Ackenpucky is providing graphic design for signage, marketing, and logos at no cost.

6. Please describe your plan for sustainability of the project or initiative after the grant award has been exhausted.

We have established a funding structure with WhizzBangBam so that GHPRD will earn a percentage of ticket and vendor sales for the use of the space so that we are able to financially maintain the facilities and this project long-term. By increasing tourism to the area, there will be an increase in tax revenue to the city and county as well, which will also aid in the financial sustainability of this project as well as the entire park system.

Organization Information

1. Please provide your organization's mission statement.

The mission of the Greater Huntington Park & Recreation District is to provide a wide variety of year-round recreation programs, facilities, parks, open space and natural areas that respond to the needs and desires of the community as we strive to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors to our area,

2. Describe the history of your organization, tell us about your current programs and activities

The Greater Huntington Park & Recreation District (GHPRD) was originally known as the Board of Park Commissioners. Established in 1925 the park commission was set up and governed by elected park officials, not by any city, county, or state. Multiple parks were established and developed in Cabell and Wayne counties to serve the public's recreational needs. In 1984 an act of the WV Legislature changed the name of the park district to the Greater Huntington Park & Recreation District and new funding mechanisms were established. At that time the elected park commissioners expanded from 6 to 11. In 2021, the Cabell County Commission voted for a magisterial redistricting reducing the Cabell County districts from 5 to 3. Because of this change and in an attempt to not lose the majority of our Board, in 2022, the Park District went back to the legislature and was successful in having the official legislation rewritten to allow the Park Board to obtain 3 Commissioners from each of the three districts and 1 from the Westmoreland area. Starting in 2023 the Park Board will consist of 10 elected Commissioners. The park district functions under an executive director and contains a cemeteries division, maintenance division, activities division, and administrative team.

Ritter Park officially opened September 11, 1913, on land purchased in 1908 by the City of Huntington, as well as a generous donation of an additional 20 acres by Charles Ritter. This park is considered one of the American Planning Association's Great Places of America, is on the National Register of Historic Places, and has earned multiple awards for our amenities. The 1,500 seat amphitheater is nearly 100 years old. Ritter Park's amenities include a nationally renowned rose garden, 9 tennis courts, 6 pickleball courts, a jogging/walking track, hiking trails, nationally acclaimed playground, dog park, and spaces frequently used for festivals, car shows, art, weddings, fundraisers, and a diverse number of other events.

3. Please describe three significant accomplishments of your organization.

The St. Cloud Commons All-Inclusive Playground is a very significant accomplishment of the Greater Huntington Park & Recreation District.

St. Cloud Commons Park has been designated a designation from GAMETIME/PLAYCORE Company as an "Inclusive National Demonstration Site" for our commitment to implementing best practice principles and incorporating the 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design:

1. Be Fair- The playground provides social justice by being equitable and usable by people of all abilities so they can enjoy their right to play.
2. Be Included- The play environment supports the participation of individuals with diverse abilities in social and physical activities for inclusive, intergenerational play.
3. Be Smart- The play environment is easy to understand, allowing individuals to be successful and gain confidence through play.
4. Be Independent- The play environment allows children to effectively explore and participate in play at their own level.
5. Be Safe- The play environment addresses current safety standards while providing developmental opportunities needed for exploration and challenge.
6. Be Active- The play environment supports various degrees of physical and social participation in play while minimizing unnecessary fatigue.
7. Be Comfortable- The play environment is usable for individuals with sensory needs, diverse body size, posture, mobility, and motor control.

St. Cloud Commons Park has continued to evolve over the past couple years. The addition of an All-Inclusive Splash Pad on site was made possible through a grant with the National Recreation and Park Association along with the American Water Foundation and West Virginia American Water. Additional parking spaces have been added to accommodate multiple accessible parking spots. The Park also now has six fully accessible restrooms with two being equipped with adult sized changing tables.

Huntington's PetSafe Dog Park at Ritter Park was a huge accomplishment of the Park District and even more importantly the community we serve. In 2011 GHPRD won first place in PetSafe's "Bark for Your Park Contest" awarding us \$100,000 to build a much requested Dog Park in Ritter Park. The Park District and the Huntington community rallied to win this contest by online voting beating hundreds of other cities across the country.

After many years of no recreational programming due to budget constraints GHPRD is extremely proud of our recreation revitalization and increased programming over the past 10 years. The GHPRD Recreation Team hosts over 30 events a year including but not limited to: summer camps, dances, hikes, crafts, movie nights, outdoor theater, senior bingo, and many seasonal holiday events. Most of these events take place at no cost to participants.

4. Please list your Owner(s), Board of Directors, senior staff members, or other key members of your organization:

Executive Director, Kathy McKenna
 Maintenance Superintendent, Mary Ann Haldeman
 Recreation Superintendent, Lauren Patrick

Board of Park Commissioners:

Dr. Rocco Morabito
 Gordon D. Jones
 Kim Miller
 Paul King
 Jill LaFear
 Stacy Wehrle
 Bill Sanders
 Mark Chambers
 Don McCroskey
 Alan S. Morrison
 Randall Rhoades

5. Please list the staff involved with this project and describe their roles and responsibilities:

Kathy McKenna, Executive Director, will be in charge of the financial aspects of this project.

Mary Ann Haldeman, Maintenance Superintendent and Scott Miller, Park Supervisor will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the facilities used at The Ritter Amphitheater and surrounding area.

6. Please upload/attach the following financial documents, if applicable:

Cash flow statement for applicant's most recent fiscal year



JUNE 30, 2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENT.pdf

Uploaded by Kathy McKenna on Apr 28, 2022 at 4:02 pm

Two years of audited financial statements

AUDITS FOR FY 17 AND FY 18

Uploaded by Kathy McKenna on Apr 28, 2022 at 4:04 pm

Current operating budget

fy21-22 budget.pdf

Uploaded by Kathy McKenna on Apr 28, 2022 at 4:05 pm

If the applicant has not been audited, please include an unaudited balance sheet and income statement as prepared by the applicant

MARCH 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT.pdf

Uploaded by Kathy McKenna on Apr 28, 2022 at 4:05 pm

7. List any federal, state, local or private grant awards or funding received in the last three years and the current status of those funds. If your organization has previously received funds from Cabell County, please list the amount, nature of the project(s) and current status of the funding and project(s).

American Water Foundation and NRPA Building Better Communities Grant- \$250,000 for the All-Inclusive Splashpad at St. Cloud Commons- Project Completed

CDBG Funding- Rotary Park Babe Ruth Improvements- \$21, 121.84- project is underway- should be completed soon

CDBG Funding- McClelland Park- \$30,000 New Shelter Structure- Order just submitted

8. If you have made an application for funding for this project from other sources (city, state, private or non-profit organizations) please list the same here.

City of Huntington

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

1. Please explain the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it relates to your request.

Throughout the pandemic our parks were a vital resource for our community, providing outdoor spaces for people to be active and a multitude of outdoor recreational activities provided, taking into consideration the overall health and well-being of our community. We would like to be able to not only continue our programs, but grow them so we are better able to serve an even more diverse populace as well as appeal to a broader area.

As part of the mission of the Park District is to respond to the needs within the community, we believe this project is one more way we can do that. With an uptick in use of The Ritter, we foresee people coming to our city to catch a show, staying in a nearby hotel, and supporting restaurants and other small businesses while they are visiting. This, in turn, will be increasing revenue for the parks, local small business, and the city aiding in our efforts to maintain our parks and continue providing a safe outdoor environment.

2. How will ARP funding, if awarded, aid in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic?

If awarded, the ARP funding will aid in helping rebuild and speed the recovery of some of the hardest hit industries: hotels, restaurants, recreation, theater and music while also adding to the revenue for local businesses, our parks, the city, and county, creating a long-term solution to aid in minimizing funding issues for the whole of the community.

3. Are you requesting lost revenue due to COVID-19

No

Supplementary Information


1. Please enter contact information (name, email, and phone) for at least one third-party reference.

Ian Thornton, WhizzBangBam- ithornton@whizzbangbam.com

Hank Dial, City of Huntington- 304.696.5540 -DialH@Huntingtonwv.gov

Parry Casto - 304.544.1332 - Parry.Casto@me.com

2. Please include any supplementary information or documentation (such as letters of support, newspaper articles, etc) which you feel will be essential to the County's review.

 SUPPORT LETTER - CASTO.pdf
 Uploaded by Kathy McKenna on Apr 29, 2022 at 3:35 pm


Attachments

No attachments

History

Date	Activity
Apr 26, 2022 at 3:06 pm	Kathy McKenna started a draft of Record ARPA-22-21
Apr 29, 2022 at 3:36 pm	Kathy McKenna submitted Record ARPA-22-21
Apr 29, 2022 at 3:36 pm	changed the deadline to Apr 30, 2022 on approval step Application Review on Record ARPA-22-21

Timeline

Label	Status	Activated	Completed	Assignee	Due Date
 Request Letter of Acknowledgement	Issued	Apr 29, 2022 at 3:36 pm	Apr 29, 2022 at 3:36 pm	-	-
 Application Review	Active	Apr 29, 2022 at 3:36 pm	-	-	04/29/2022