

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
CITY COUNCIL
STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: April 7, 2020
To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Councilmember Gurney
Sebastopol Cultural Community Center Board
Subject: Approval of Letter of Support – Sebastopol Community Cultural Center (SCCC)
Grant Application to Finley Foundation
Recommendation: That the City Council Consider the Request and Authorize the Mayor to sign the
Letter of Support
Funding: Currently Budgeted: _____ Yes _____ No XX N/A
Net General Fund Cost:
Amount: \$

INTRODUCTION: This item is to request that the City Council Consider the Request for a Letter of Support for the Sebastopol Cultural Community Center for a Grant Application to the Finley Foundation.

BACKGROUND:

Ernest L. and Ruth W. Finley Foundation was founded in 1967. Funding was set aside to help an array of local nonprofits and investment for community give-back. Since its inception, the Finley Foundation has granted Sonoma County community organizations more than \$40 million; however, 2020 will be the last year for this organization and 2020 will be the last year for non-profits to submit applications for grant funding.

DISCUSSION:

During the Flood of 2019, the Community Center sustained major flood damage which has been minimally repaired as of this date. SCCC needs to rebuild the main hall in order to continue services as outlined in SCCC's mandate. Although SCCC sustained major flood damage, it also provided an opportunity to upgrade to modern standards, given the main hall has not had any substantial upgrades since its build in 1982. SCCC will be asking for approximately \$1 million to help with the rebuild of the main hall.

As stated above, this is The Finley Foundation's last year of grant requests for large projects, so it is imperative that SCCC respond to the request now and that the City of Sebastopol support SCCC in this grant application.

Public Notice: This item was noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to scheduled meeting date.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council City Council Consider and approve the Request for a Letter of Support for the Sebastopol Cultural Community Center for a Grant Application to the Finley Foundation and Authorize the Mayor to sign the letter.

Attachment:

Letter of Support

City Council

Mayor Patrick Slayter
Vice Mayor Una Glass
Michael Carnacchi
Sarah Glade Gurney
Neysa Hinton



City Manager

Larry McLaughlin
lmclaughlin@cityofsebastopol.org
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC
Mary Gourley
mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

City of Sebastopol

April 8, 2020

Ernest L. & Ruth W. Finley Foundation
1400 N. Dutton Avenue, Building 12
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Dear Directors:

The Sebastopol Community Cultural Center (SCCC), established in 1982, has served as the de facto Parks and Recreation Department for the City of Sebastopol and West Sonoma County residents for generations. The center hosts more than 70 classes per week, is booked nearly every weekend with a Quinceanera or wedding reception, and hosts more than 30 concerts each year for the community. In 2019, The Sebastopol Teen Club was launched to serve the specific needs of teenagers. The Community Center is the fiscal sponsor for the Sebastopol Area Time Bank, currently working to support young families. SCCC is also launching new concepts to engage the community, such as Bingo, Skate Night, Crafternoon, Virtual Gaming Nights, and Dances. However, the state of the main hall at SCCC is in dire need of a facelift in order to continue supporting and serving our community.

The Sebastopol Community Cultural Center is a beloved institution for families and community members throughout West Sonoma County. Families who cannot afford expensive venues such as wineries, enjoy generations of wedding and quinceanera celebrations at the main hall, and SCCC's facilities have become a mainstay in the community. With the funding from the grant opportunity, SCCC could continue to serve our community, create connections, teach classes, and provide opportunities for community members that they can't get elsewhere, and count on as part of their routines.

In February 2019, the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center's (SCCC) main hall flooded. While staff and city personnel did their best to mitigate destruction, the main hall incurred substantial damage. Because the services provided by the community center are so valued by the City and community members, the City of Sebastopol has committed funding to provide flood mitigation measures to SCCC. Additionally, many private donors provided funds to help the community center stay operable after the devastating flood. Now, more than ever, the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center needs funding to rebuild and look toward the future.

The City of Sebastopol City Council strongly recommends the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center as a grant recipient for Finley Foundation Grant Funds. SCCC has garnered the support of the community for a rebuild (by way of postcard campaign and online petition, totaling over 1000 signatures, and a strong turnout at the City Council meeting in October 2019 showing their support for the center). The City Council endorsed the facility improvements outlined in SCCC's Facilities Plan in October 2019, but unfortunately, the City of Sebastopol cannot fund this entire project. The City of Sebastopol needs the help of The Finley Foundation to build the beautiful and functional main hall Sebastopol residents are asking for and deserve.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Patrick Slayter
Mayor
City of Sebastopol