



Request for Action

TO: Economic Development Authority
THROUGH: Deanna Kuennen, Community & Econ Dev Director
FROM: Samantha Markman, Econ Development Coordinator
MEETING DATE: March 18, 2021
SUBJECT: Placemaking Program - Update

Background

At the February 2021 EDA meeting, staff discussed the possibility of creating and funding a Downtown Placemaking program, as proposed by the Faribault Main Street. While the proposal identified did not meet the vision the EDA had for an applicable Program, members of the EDA had expressed continued interest in a placemaking initiative with a partner organization facilitating the Program – much like the EDA’s existing Downtown Micro Grant program administered by the Faribault Main Street.

Since that time, Staff has coordinated with the Paradise Center for the Arts (PCA) who has expressed interest in administering a placemaking program for the EDA. Moving forward, Staff will coordinate with the PCA to establish applicable program policies and guidelines. Staff intends to connect with the Musicant Group to facilitate a thinking session about what the Program Guidelines could entail.

As part of the application process, Staff envisions contracting the Musicant Group to facilitate a pre-application meeting to get potential applicants thinking about projects and visions for creative placemaking in the Downtown to spur additional people and foot-traffic to the district.

Requested Action

At this time, Staff is requesting a discussion and feedback from the EDA regarding the proposed Program – ensuring this continues to be of interest for the EDA and collaborating with the PCA.

Based on these discussions, Staff will coordinate with the PCA and bring a formal program back to the EDA for consideration at a future meeting date.