Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh

Urban Matters Program

I. Statement of Purpose

The URA Urban Matters is an arts- and design-based program constructed to teach youth in Pittsburgh's distressed neighborhoods how to examine and communicate URA and other key civic processes to their peers, community residents and other stakeholders. The goals are to: (1) demystify urban policy and planning issues that impact their communities, and (2) increase their participation in decision-making processes that shape their communities.

II. Program Funding

Urban Matters may be funded in part through the City of Pittsburgh, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh and various non-profit, corporate and philanthropic enterprises.

III. Eligibility

The following criteria will be used to determine whether an applicant is eligible participate in an Urban Matters project:

A. Area Eligibility

Urban Matters projects must be located within a distressed neighborhood within the City of Pittsburgh.

The current neighborhoods eligible for Urban Matters projects are listed in Attachment A.

B. Types of Organizations

a. Community Based Organizations
   i. Youth-based Organizations (e.g. after school programs, summer programs)
   ii. Community Development Organizations
b. Middle Schools and High Schools (e.g. any Pittsburgh Public School grades including charter schools, private schools)

C. Types of Activities

Eligible activities include projects, programs, events, and technical assistance that support, encourage, and/or expand youth civic engagement within the City of Pittsburgh.

C. Other Eligibility Requirements

1. The applicant organization must not be delinquent or in default on federal, state or local taxes or any existing private or publicly financed loan and may be required to sign an affidavit to that effect.

2. The proprietor, partner, director or any shareholder of the organization must not have been convicted of a felony.

IV. Parameters of Awards

A. Availability: Awards are provided to applicants of Urban Matters project when applicable.

B. Award Size: While there is no minimum or maximum assistance amount, support exceeding $10,000 requires approval from the URA Board of Directors.

C. Reporting: The URA reserves the right to require reporting on the impact of the supported program or activity, including but not limited to, the number and type of businesses assisted and the number of jobs created.

V. Conditions of the Award

A. The applicant must demonstrate satisfactory to the URA the need for Urban Matters award.

B. The applicant must demonstrate satisfactory to the URA capacity to complete the funded project, program, or activity.

C. The applicant must be willing to provide information regarding the funding to the URA for public relations and marketing purposes.

D. Depending on the nature and size of the project, these conditions may also apply:

a. Any project over $250,000 in total cost must comply with the URA's requirements for a Minority- and Woman-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Plan. The MWBE Plan will document the applicant's strategy to purchase materials and services from minority- and woman-owned businesses. The MWBE Plan must be approved prior to PES reimbursement.

b. Project Evaluation: At its discretion, the URA may require the historical performance of the recipient organization, if applicable, and the organizational leaders will be evaluated to assess the ability to carry out the project and grow businesses. Specifically, this evaluation will include:

i. Financial Performance of the Organization: If applicable, this involves an evaluation of prior year's financial performance, including an examination of tax returns, balance sheets, income statements and cash flow statements.

ii. Management Ability: This involves an evaluation of the experience and skills of the organizational leaders. This includes general ability to carry out the program, program, or activity that is being funded.

VI. Public Benefit Evaluation

Urban Matters applications will be evaluated based on additional criteria measuring public benefits.

1. The degree to which the feasibility of the project depends on the Urban Matters award. The URA reserves the right to reject any application at the URA's sole discretion, including but not limited to rejection based on the organizational capacity and/ or on the amount of other funding/sponsorship dollars.

2. The type of project proposed to the URA.

3. The degree to which the Urban Matters award is assisting a program, project, or activity critical to the vitality of the community and the City.

VII. Waiver of Provisions

The Executive Director or the Board of Directors of the URA may waive certain provisions of these guidelines based on a determination of the private and public benefits of the project.

VIII. Notification

URA reserves the right to:

A. Notify the appropriate community-based organization of applications received from organizations in their neighborhoods.
B. Announce all Urban Matters commitments publicly.
C. Use imagery and materials and press generated from the Urban Matters award for publicity purposes.

IX. Additional Information

For additional information, please contact the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at (412) 255-6669 or via our Web site at www.ura.org. Our TDD number for the hearing impaired is (412) 255-6644.

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age, sexual orientation or national origin. No person, solely on the basis of any of the above factors, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under the loan and grant programs operated by the Business Development Center of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.

Appendix A

Eligible Neighborhoods

Brighton Heights
Marshall Shadeland
Spring Garden
Fineview
East Allegheny
West End
Fairywood
Allentown
Beltzhoover
Knoxville
Mt. Oliver
Arlington
Hazelwood
Glen Hazel
Crawford Roberts
Middle Hill
Bedford Dwellings
The Bluff
Terrace Village
Central Northside
Manchester - Chateau
Perry South
West Oakland
California Kirkbride
Central Oakland
North Oakland
Polish Hill
Garfield
Lincoln Lemington Belmar
Larimer
Homewood West
Homewood South
Homewood North
East Hills
East Liberty

Criteria based on HUD income levels: (From 2010 Census Data)

- Where at least 51% of people are not above low-moderate income levels used by HUD)

and/ or

At least two of the following characteristics (defined by the Allegheny County Department of Health)

- High percentage of female-headed families (37% or more)
- High percentage of high school dropouts (23% or more
- High percentage of working-age males unattached to the labor force (34% or more)