



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

www.washoecounty.us

CM/ACM KS
Finance KE

DA ML

Risk Mgt. N/A

Comptroller CH

HR N/A

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 18, 2017

DATE: March 16, 2017

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Rosemarie Entsminger, Fiscal Compliance Officer, Community Services Department Regional Parks, 328-2044, rentsminger@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Ben Hutchins, Director, Finance and Administration Division
Community Services Department, 954-4646, bhutchins@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Accept cash donations [\$387,720.64] from the Wilbur May Foundation: \$220,000 restricted for Fiscal Year 2016-17 general operating support of the Wilbur D. May Center, excluding all County overhead expense items; \$100,000 restricted to support Fiscal Year 2016-17 temporary exhibits at the Wilbur D. May Museum; and, \$67,720.64 restricted for marketing, software and sound system improvements. (Commission District 3.)

SUMMARY

Accept cash donations in the amount of \$387,720.64 from the Wilbur May Foundation: \$220,000 restricted for Fiscal Year 2016-17 general operating support of the Wilbur D. May Center, excluding all County overhead expense items; \$100,000 restricted to support Fiscal Year 2016-17 temporary exhibits at the Wilbur D. May Museum; and, \$67,720.64 restricted for marketing, software and sound system improvements.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Stewardship of our Community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

Support in the form of cash donations has been provided by the Wilbur May Foundation and accepted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) annually since Fiscal Year 1983-84.

BACKGROUND

Since our partnership with the Wilbur May Foundation began in Fiscal Year 1983-84, the Foundation has generously donated \$16.1 million in direct cash donations to Washoe County to subsidize facility operations and maintenance and for site and programming improvements. The collection of artifacts on permanent loan to Washoe County in the Wilbur D. May Museum is priceless and the May Arboretum's mature horticulture comprises the most tree species-diverse area of Northern Nevada.

AGENDA ITEM # 8.B.

Tree inventory and computer modeling indicates that the aggregated benefit of the Arboretum trees (summing up the categories of reduced energy use, decrease in air pollution, erosion control and aesthetics) is approximately \$150,000 per year and values the aggregated replacement value of the trees alone at over \$3 million dollars.

The contract between the Wilbur May Foundation and Washoe County contains a commitment to grant a total of \$200,000 each year to support operations at the Wilbur D. May Center at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2003-04, the Foundation began providing an additional \$50,000 annually to bring high quality, educational exhibits to the Wilbur D. May Museum; this was increased to \$100,000 in Fiscal Year 2007-08. In FY2015-16 the Foundation made a three year commitment to provide a \$20,000 per year subsidy for a program and staff transition in the Museum.

In addition to the annual operating support, the May Foundation provided \$67,720 for Museum marketing and a new sound system, as well as botanical specific software for the Arboretum.

FISCAL IMPACT

All of the donations have been deposited in the “Wilbur D. May Museum Building Fund,” an independent account maintained by the Treasurer’s Office. Quarterly subsidies of \$80,000 are drawn from this account and deposited to the Museum in Other Restricted Fund 270-6, cost center 640200-484000 (\$53,750 per quarter). The Arboretum’s subsidy is \$26,250 quarterly (subsidizes some permanent staff), which is posted to cost center 640300-484000. A subsidy in the amount of \$300,000 is anticipated each year in the May Center operating (Fund 270-6) budget. No budget adjustments are required.

Project expenses are distributed from the “Wilbur D. May Museum Building Fund,” to the appropriate vendors. Assets are recognized by the Comptroller’s Office at the completion of the project.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept cash donations [\$387,720.64] from the Wilbur May Foundation: \$220,000 restricted for Fiscal Year 2016-17 general operating support of the Wilbur D. May Center, excluding all County overhead expense items; \$100,000 restricted to support Fiscal Year 2016-17 temporary exhibits at the Wilbur D. May Museum; and, \$67,720.64 restricted for marketing, software and sound system improvements.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to accept cash donations [\$387,720.64] from the Wilbur May Foundation: \$220,000 restricted for Fiscal Year 2016-17 general operating support of the Wilbur D. May Center, excluding all County overhead expense items; \$100,000 restricted to support Fiscal Year 2016-17 temporary exhibits at the Wilbur D. May Museum; and, \$67,720.64 restricted for marketing, software and sound system improvements.”