



CITY OF OMAHA
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June 29, 2022

Clerk of the Legislature
Mr. Patrick J. O'Donnell, Clerk
State Capitol
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Mr. O'Donnell,

Enclosed, please find the reporting for the 2020-2021 South Omaha Turnback Tax Grant as required by Nebraska Revised Statute 13-2610:

- i. A description of the projects funded during the most recently completed calendar year – p. 2
- ii. A description of where such projects were located – p. 2
- iii. A description of the outcomes of such projects – pp. 3 – 9
- iv. A ten-year strategic plan on how the committee plans to meet the goals described in subdivision (3)(a) of §13-2610 – pp. 10 – 13

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. Committee members can be reached via phone, 402-444-5522, or email, vinny.palermo@cityofomaha.org. You may also contact the City Council office directly at 402-444-5547 or email sarah.lara-tonney@cityofomaha.org.

Sincerely,

Vinny Palermo
Grant Committee

Roger Garcia
Grant Committee

Victor Baez
Grant Committee

Sarah Dragon
Grant Committee

2020 - 2021 South Omaha Turnback Tax Grant Recipients

Project Descriptions, Locations, and Funding Received

	APPLICANT	CITY	STATE	ZIP	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE	AMOUNT AWARDED	Project Name
1	Bannister's Leadership Academy	Omaha	NE	68152	APPROVE		\$18,000.00	South Omaha Family Navigator Juvenile Justice Program
2	Big Brothers Big Sisters Midlands	Omaha	NE	68131	APPROVE		\$6,500.00	Community Based Mentoring in South Omaha
3	Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands	Omaha	NE	68131	APPROVE		\$5,000.00	SMART Moves Program at the South Omaha Boys & Girls Club
4	Cinco De Mayo	Omaha	NE	68107	APPROVE		\$12,000.00	Virtual South O Conference
5	City Sprouts	Omaha	NE	68131	APPROVE		\$15,600.00	South Omaha Urban Farming Internship
6	Completely KIDS	Omaha	NE	68105	APPROVE		\$4,000.00	Shelter Youth Healthy Activities Program at Stephen Center in South Omaha
7	El Museo Latino	Omaha	NE	68107	APPROVE		\$25,000.00	Latino Artists in Nebraska: History, Culture and Arts at El Museo Latino
8	Estrellitas de Omaha	Omaha	NE	68107	APPROVE		\$7,500.00	Mexican Sports: Interviews with South Omaha Families
9	Father Flanigan's Boys Home	Omaha	NE	68107	APPROVE		\$3,700.00	LIFT Together with Boys Town - Common Sense Parenting Classes in South Omaha
10	Girls Inc.	Omaha	NE	68104	APPROVE		\$10,000.00	College & Career Prep: Success Prep and Eureka! at Emma Lozier Center in South Omaha
11	Heartland Hope Mission	Omaha	NE	68107	APPROVE		\$5,000.00	Hunger and Homeless Prevention Program: COVID 19 Response
12	Latino Center of the Midlands	Omaha	NE	68107	APPROVE		\$7,000.00	Healing Circulos: Leadership Development Activities for South Omaha High School students
13	Latino Peace Officers Association	Omaha	NE	68107	APPROVE		\$15,600.00	LPOA 19th Annual Easter Egg Hunt/Basketball Mentoring in South Omaha
14	Miguel Keith Project	Omaha	NE	68134	APPROVE		\$16,800.00	The Miguel Keith Project - revitalization of Miguel Keith Park and Memorial in South Omaha
15	Police Athletics for Community Engagement	Omaha	NE	68107	APPROVE		\$32,172.53	2020 PACE Athletic Programming and Field Improvemntnst to the Bob Campos Memorial Soccer Complex and the Christie Heights Baseball Complex
16	Salvation Army Kroc Center	Omaha	NE	68107	APPROVE		\$7,500.00	Kroc Academy Education Support & Opportunities for Remote Learning Due to COVID
17	Victory Boxing Club	Omaha	NE	68107	APPROVE		\$25,000.00	Youth Sponsorship for 10 Youths and Maintenance of Youth Programs
							\$216,372.53	

2020-2021 South Omaha Turnback Tax Grant Report Project Outcomes

Final reports submitted 2020-2021 grant recipients are available electronically via Google Drive: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZRLCSS0umHM-MxLi0b18iHwGHjgevRik?usp=sharing>

1. Bannisters Leadership Academy | Family Navigator Program

The Family Navigator Program is designed to prevent Bannister Leadership Academy (BLA) mentees from becoming system-involved, or, if they already are system-involved, to help them navigate the system by providing them with an alternative to detainment and probation. BLA provides character education and leadership development to mentees, and helps empower their families by brokering services and staying in touch through weekly calls. All Family Navigator facilitators use the evidence-based model and the Twelve Pillars of Leadership – Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Citizenship, Caring, Fairness, Honesty, Integrity, Perseverance, Courage, Unity, and Creativity – to engage, challenge, and empower youth with resources, services and education to help them lead in their school and the community.

Program objects are to improve academics, reduce trancies and absences, and reduce behavioral suspensions and office visits. BLA partners with the Kroc Center to facilitate the program in South Omaha. Program components include Pre- and Post-Assessments, Character Education Discussion, Leadership Development Team Building, and Peer to Peer Social Capital Development. The Family Navigator Program directly serves mentees from the following South Omaha schools: Bryan High School, Chandler View Elementary, Highland Elementary, and South High School.

2. Big Brothers Big Sisters Midlands | Community Based Mentoring in South Omaha

The Community Based Mentoring Program strives for all youth to achieve their full potential. Youth matched with a Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS) Mentor stay in school, have improved relationships with family and peers, and avoid risky behaviors. Mentors provide youth with a sense of safety and security, emotional support, social skill promotion, and help with academic, technical, and other skills which in turn assists with the reduction of street and gang violence.

Report results indicate that 97% of program participants consistently maintain or improve their attitudes toward risky behavior, meaning they are less likely to use violence to solve problems or skip school. Funding is used to recruit, screen, and train mentors in the South Omaha community so BBBS can match them with youth in the program. Funding is also used to provide ongoing support to existing mentor/mentee relationships while continuing partnerships with local groups and organizations committed to improving the South Omaha community. The target area of the South Omaha Turnback Tax Grant represents 19% of the total program funds spent, consisting of 129 supported matches during the grant period.

3. Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands | SMART (Skills Mastery and Resilience Training) Program

The Boys & Girls Club formula for impact defines specific strategies to increase measurable outcomes in Academic Success, Good Character & Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles. The clubs provide youth with an experience filled with life-saving programs, fun and enriching activities, and supporting relationships with peers and caring adults. The SMART Program and the South Omaha Club is focused on building youth's attitudes and skills that supports healthy decision making and increases youth's ability to avoid risky behavior like gang involvement and violence.

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Grant funding for the SMART Program covered personnel time spent planning, implementing, and evaluating the program, along with fringe benefits and payroll taxes; supplies and materials needed for program curriculum, activities, and participant rewards; printing costs for recognition materials; transportation costs for planned field trips to local businesses and historical venues; and administrative costs related to running the program. The SMART Program integrates high-quality youth development practices and explicit social-emotional skill building to promote healthy lifestyle choices and decision making for at-risk youth. The program is delivered in age-specific cohorts that allow the curriculum to be delivered based on the youth level and development and needs. Program curriculum includes educational instruction and classroom activities, role playing scenarios, and field trips to develop positive decision making skills while learning to avoid violence and gang involvement.

In 2020 the program implemented specific modules that focus on social-emotional awareness, self-regulation techniques, impulse control, and stress management for youth. The new modules have been found to be especially effective in reducing the youth's participation in risky behaviors with negative consequences outside the program.

4. Cinco de Mayo Omaha | Virtual South O Conference

2021 marked the 100th anniversary of the Omaha Cinco de Mayo celebration which takes place on historic South 24th Street. The event draws approximately 250,000 attendees over a three day weekend and features live music and entertainment, exhibitors, health fair, children's section, and parade.

Grant funds were used to hold a virtual conference in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the purpose of which was to highlight aspects of South Omaha and its growing community. The objective was bring in speakers and workshops which highlighted historic contributions to the community, the importance of education and how it relates to the health of minorities – specifically Latinos – in the South Omaha community. Funds were spent on marketing conference materials to build attendance and instruct participants on registration, equipment to host the conference, and staff time.

5. City Sprouts | South Omaha Urban Farming Internship

City Sprouts is dedicated to building communities through sustainable gardening education. Based at the Dorothy Patach Environmental Area, City Sprouts South features a community garden where neighbors can rent garden beds, a Free Farm maintained by staff and volunteers and free for anyone to harvest from, and gardens that provide food for local organizations through our CSA program. Education about sustainable gardening is also made available through the Little Sprouts Program, Summer Urban Farming Internship, and bilingual Growing Gardeners Workshop Series.

Grants funds were used to offer leadership positions to one (1) second year intern and two (2) first year interns, expanding the number of youth able to participate in the paid internship program. Teens and youth are especially at risk to street and gang violence during summer months when they are out of school, not working, or have access to reliable transportation or a positive place to channel their energy. Interns in the Summer Urban Farming Internship are responsible for building relationships with community gardeners, volunteers, donors, urban farmers, and CSA members at the Latino Center of the Midlands. Through this work, interns learn to build a foundation for strong, long-lasting connections with community members. Funds paid for the second year intern to receive

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leadership training and increased responsibilities, staff time supervising and mentoring all three interns, and supplies needed for the program such as soil, compost, and mulch.

6. Completely Kids | Shelter Youth Healthy Activities Program

Completely KIDS is in their 100th year of serving the Omaha community with child and family activities that impact kids' social-emotional development, academic outcomes, and relationships with peers and adults. Services include after-school and summer programs that expose students to academic and life development skills, including literacy, art, computers, physical fitness, mindfulness, leadership, gardening, and more. Annually, Completely KIDS serves 2,500 children, youth, and families at fifteen (15) sites across the Omaha metro including nine (9) Omaha Public Schools, seven of which are in South Omaha. Youth and families are also served at All Saints Catholic, the Ronald McDonald House, and three homeless shelters including South Omaha's Stephen Center.

Grant funds allowed Completely KIDS to continue partnering with the Stephen Center, offering academic and life skills activities, tutoring, mentoring, and educational field trips for homeless children and youth residing at the center. The program goal is to engage kids with fun and enriching experiences, attention, and social-emotional development to help keep them off the street and acting out in unhealthy or violent ways. Grant funds enabled the program to serve approximately 40 youth at the Stephen Center.

7. El Museo Latino | Latino Artists in Nebraska: History, Culture, and Arts

El Museo Latino provides crucial support for at-risk youth in the community to have access to the visual and performing arts, enhancing the effectiveness of these programs by providing a safe space year-round, mentoring, leadership, and life skills. The organization is the only museum of Latino culture in the 1,000 miles between Denver and Chicago, and serves as the primary resource about Latino culture for educators and students of all backgrounds in a multi-state region.

Annually welcoming more than 60,000 visitors, grant funding enabled El Museo Latino to research, develop, and present the exhibit "Latino Artists in Nebraska – History, Culture, and Arts" along with accompanying educational programs. Grant funds were also used to purchase exhibit and administrative supplies needed to produce and present the exhibit, as well as assist with personnel costs associated with staffing the exhibit and programs. The exhibit and educational programs allowed the museum to engage visitors in learning about Latino arts and history, the role of the artists and their creative process, the role artists have and how their work reflects Latino history, culture, traditions, and current issues and concerns.

8. Estrellitas de Omaha | Mexican Sports

Founded in 1990 by Dr. Jim Ramirez and Rosemary Flores, Estrellitas de Omaha is a historic research organization focused on the documentation and preservation of Latino contributions to the Omaha community through the use of historical archives, publications, presentations, educational materials, and special events.

Grant funds were used to hire and coordinate a research team who conducted and preserved interviews with multigenerational Mexican American families in South Omaha through sports activism. The untold story of Mexican American sports in baseball and basketball in South Omaha goes back to the 1940s, and the histories of these families are in danger of being lost if the interviews are not conducted and preserved.

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9. Father Flanagan’s Boys’ Home | LIFT Together with Boys Town – Common Sense Parenting

LIFT Together with Boys Town works to appropriately assess youth and families in the South Omaha Community to match them to services prior to any type of system involvement, thus enabling them to engage in services that are least restrictive. Boys Town collaborates with local organizations such as the Kroc Center and South Omaha schools to offer In Home Family Services, school resource services, and Common Sense Parenting (CSP) with the goal of strengthening families through community collaboration. This collaboration provides for a community-wide impact and ensures the safety of youth participants by decreasing absenteeism and disruptive behavior in the classroom, while increasing parental engagement at both universal and targeted levels.

A total of \$3,725.34 was used to purchase Common Sense Parenting books, workbooks, skill cards, and postage as many classes were held virtually due to COVID-19, allowing the entirety of the grant award - \$3,700 – to be spent on achieving program objectives and positively impacting 160 parents in the South Omaha Community. CSP materials provided to parents during classes allowed them to address complex issues such as communication, discipline, decision making, relationships, self-control, and school success. The six session class allowed parents to learn, practice, and implement new parenting skills which allowed them nurture their child’s development while combining affection and discipline to decrease negative behavior. These CSP strategies align with those of the Office of Juvenile Justice and effectively prevent youth from joining gangs: strengthening families, reducing youth conflict, and providing training for delinquent/disruptive youth.

10. Girls Incorporated of Omaha | College & Career Prep: Success Prep and Eureka!

Opened in 1975 and currently operating two locations in North and South Omaha, Girls Inc. serves girls and families with significant challenges, from low household income to single parent families to children living in foster care. Girls Inc. strives to mitigate these challenges by offering programs in areas aligned to their mission: STRONG (Health & Nutrition), SMART (Academics), and BOLD (Life Skills, Independent Living, and Advocacy). Through the Success Prep and Eureka! programs, Girls Inc. prepares girls for college while introducing them to potential career opportunities with an emphasis on STEM.

Grant funding supported the Success Prep and Eureka! programs at the Emma Lozier Center in South Omaha. Programming was delivered virtually due to COVID-19, with STEM kits being delivered directly to participant’s homes, holding virtual field trips, and placement in remote internships. Short term goals of the programs include academic motivation and self-efficacy, participation in leadership and volunteers activities, and developing a plan for post-secondary education. Participants are also mentored in the creation of long term goals, including enrollment in post-secondary education, maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle, and becoming a responsible member of the community.

11. Heartland Hope Mission | Hunger & Homelessness Prevention Program: COVID-19 Response

Heartland Hope began as an effort to meet the needs of the South Omaha community after a small Hispanic church became overwhelmed with requests for help. Founded by business and community leaders, the organization focused on addressing hunger relief and homelessness prevention by supplying basic necessities to working poor families: food, clothing, hygiene items, and housewares. Heartland Hope pantries distribute a seven- to nine-day supply of food to each person in the household, as well as diapers, clothes, and other items needed to help make ends meet and provide the ability for the family to stay in their home. At the onset of the pandemic, Heartland Hope

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Mission saw the need for their services quadruple, serving nearly four times the amount of families through a drive-through process and food distribution to low-income housing areas in South Omaha.

Grant funds were utilized to offset the cost of food in the fourth quarter of 2020 and into the first quarter of 2021. Heartland Hope Mission collaborated with multiple organizations in the community, including The Hawks Foundation, Mutual of Omaha, Immanuel Vision Foundation, Conagra Brands Foundation, and Cox Charities, to provide food and services to an additional 20,000 people over this same time period than the last three years combined. Providing families with safe, healthy access to food minimizes the negative, destructive, and self-destructive impacts on families, making the Mission a vital resource in helping to keep South Omaha safe and healthy.

12. Latino Peace Officers Association – Omaha Chapter | 19th Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Basketball Mentoring

The officers of the Latino Peace Officers Association (LPOA) serve as positive role models for youth, exposing them and their families to career opportunities in the criminal justice system through events with personal contact. The organization provides educational scholarships to youth going on to post-secondary education, serves as a liaison between the Hispanic community and law enforcement, sponsor youth athletic programs to build community relationships, and participate in the Police Athletics for Community Engagement (PACE) program.

Grant funds were used to offset costs of LPOA's free Easter Egg Hunt, annually attended by approximately 2,300 youth and their families, where the South Omaha community and local police officers come together for food and entertainment. The event breaks down barriers between the officers and the community they serve, builds trust, and allows open communication between participants. The relationships developed at this event – and others like it – work to reduce street and gang violence. Funding was also used to support the Beyond Basketball Program, pairing mentors with youth in the grants target area who are interested in developing careers in videography and playing basketball. Youth are taught how to record live game action, edit recorded film, and then feed the footage to streaming sources allowing participants to develop a skill set through practical experience.

13. Latino Center of the Midlands | Healing Círculos: Leadership Development Activities

Founded in 1971, the Latino Center of the Midlands is a community resource for education, wellness, and opportunity. The Center connects struggling students, workers, and families – many of whom live or work in South Omaha – to new opportunities through three main program areas: Pathways to Success; Workforce, Education & Innovation; and Family & Community Well-Being.

The Latino Center's Healing Círculos leadership development program is a culturally fluent strategy for building protective factors around struggling Latino youth and keeping them positively engaged in school and in their communities. The model has been shown to effectively dissuade teens from high-risk behaviors and is recognized as an evidence based program. Grant funding covered the costs of two leadership development activities in 2021: local field trips for approximately 140 students, and an extended camping trip for approximately 20 students.

14. Miguel Keith Project | Miguel Keith Project c/o Midlands Community Foundation

In 2009, the Miguel Keith Project began to rejuvenate the Miguel Keith Park and Memorial, located at 30th and Y Streets in South Omaha. The park and memorial have since grown to include a yellow ribbon sidewalk, citation monument, the Marine Corps Seal, benches, lighted flag poles,

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landscaping, interpretive panels, and a life-size statue of Miguel Keith was added in 2019. Collaboration with The Simple Foundation allowed the addition of a full-size soccer field, concession stand, sheltered restrooms, walking trail, second parking lot, state of the art playground equipment, and a rejuvenated baseball diamond. In 2020, the Project added lighting for the artwork and purchased three sets of flags.

Grant funds were used to purchase flags, sealant to repel graffiti from artwork, installation of QR codes for digital exhibition of park art, installation of a brick sidewalk memorial, and ongoing maintenance of artwork in the park. Memorial bricks are engraved with names and dates of service and illustrate the brotherhood of service personnel. Visitors to the park are able to scan any QR code to hear the stories of Miguel's service, the meaning of each flag, the statue, ship, citations, and the CAP Marines. The codes are bilingual to serve the needs to the community and visitors.

15. Police Athletics for Community Engagement | 2020 P.A.C.E. Athletic Programming & Field Improvements

Police Athletics for Community Engagement (P.A.C.E.) combines community policing, crime prevention, youth development, and education via organized team sports for "at-risk" and disadvantaged inner-city youth in Omaha to develop discipline, self-esteem, and positive moral values through wholesome sports competition and education programs. Omaha Police Department (OPD) officers participate, acting as mentors and role models, coaching youth recruited from area schools, parent referrals, juvenile probation office referrals, and neighborhood events. P.A.C.E. "free" athletics and educational programs provide community-based gang prevention, intervention, and suppression through this key partnership with OPD, while partnerships with the City of Omaha and the Douglas County Community-Based Juvenile Services group provide time, operational space, financial assistance, and statistical data for project evaluation.

Grant funds were used to purchase player seats, backstop padding, training tees, anchors and bases, a pitching machine, plugs, grass seed, fuel, supplies and repair equipment for bleachers and sprinkler systems, field marking paint, landscaping, and wind fencing for athletic fields in South East Omaha. Items continue to be used to maintain and improve the Southeast Omaha Baseball and Soccer fields. P.A.C.E. was able to hold its regular 2021 season and saw more than 700 participants in the baseball program, 2,000 participants in the soccer program, and more than 250 participants in the flag football program.

16. Salvation Army Kroc Center | Kroc Academy

The Salvation Army Kroc Center provide opportunities to grow in knowledge and develop personal skills, enabling individuals to reach their potential and inspiring them to break the cycles of poverty and hopelessness. The Center is open seven days a week and provides programming for all ages from the four pillars of Education and Arts, Health and Fitness, Spiritual Life, and Sports and Recreation. Programs focus on increasing the individual potential of youth and families, providing them with fun, safe alternatives to gang life by engaging them in activities and with role models designed to develop their skills and talents.

Grants funds allowed the Kroc Academy to provide educational support and extended educational opportunities to students at local area elementary schools experiencing remote learning due to COVID-19. Students were provided learning opportunities in the areas of STEM, fine arts, academics, and tutoring. Collaboration with local schools allowed the Academy to deepen and broaden the

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scope of services offered to better serve youth and families and provide enrichment activities that allowed them to maintain critical skills in reading and math in a safe and productive environment.

17. Victory Boxing Club | Youth Sponsorships & Program Maintenance

Victory Boxing Club is a non-profit faith-based organization committed to addressing gang activity, school truancy, and childhood obesity. Following their mission of providing a place of refuge and mentoring through boxing, Victory Boxing Club offers a safe space to at-risk youth ages 12 – 18 years old in South Omaha. Victory Boxing Club provides character building, fosters a sense of community, involves parents and families in club activities, and offers stable, safe program for participants. Involvement in the club offers youth a positive alternative to gang life, provides role models/mentors, builds relationships with youth in the community, and reinforces a healthy lifestyle by teaching positive eating habits, encouraging exercise, and supporting positive academic performance while decreasing juvenile violence, school truancy, and gang activity.

Grants funds were used to purchase toys and food for the Christmas Walk-Through; boxing shoes and uniforms for more than ten youth participants including new jackets and pants for events; travel to tournaments throughout Nebraska, including Columbus, Hastings, Rising City, Schuyler, and Sioux Falls; and travel to the USA National Tournament in Shreveport, Louisiana with three boxers, two of whom were nationally ranked based on their performance.

South Omaha Turnback Tax Grant Strategic Plan: 2021 – 2031

I. Purpose

The strategic plan will ensure that the South Omaha Turnback Tax Grant Committee can continue to manage Turnback Tax Grant application and awards in a sustainable way. It provides a framework for sustainability by describing the South Omaha Turnback Tax Grant Committee's approach, roles and responsibilities, and reporting practices. This sustainability plan will support the Committee's commitment to reviewing grant applications and making awards to nonprofit organizations and small businesses in the South Omaha Community.

Per the revised Nebraska Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act (the Act), ten percent (10%) of the funds received by the City of Omaha in "turnback tax" from the State each year will be distributed to areas with a high concentration of poverty. Those funds are to be used to showcase important historical aspects of those areas or to assist with the reduction of street or gang violence in the target areas, or assist with small business and entrepreneurship in such areas.

II. Roles and Responsibilities

The South Omaha Turnback Tax Grant Committee is responsible for soliciting, reviewing, and awarding grant applications and reports on an annual basis.

The committee consists of four (4) voting members and one (1) non-voting member:

1. The member of the city council whose district includes a majority of the census tracts which each contain a percentage of persons below the poverty line of greater than thirty (30) percent.
Councilmember Vinny Palermo, representative of District 4, has filled this appointment since his election to the City Council in 2017.
2. The commissioner of the county whose district includes a majority of the census tracts which each contain a percentage of persons below the poverty line of greater than thirty (30) percent.
Douglas County Commissioner Roger Garcia, representative of District 1 has filled this appointment since his election in 2021.
3. Two (2) residents of the area with high concentration of poverty, appointed by the aforementioned two members of the committee, shall be appointed for four (4) year terms. Resident Committee Members were initially solicited in August 2021. The passing of Commissioner Mike Boyle in September 2021, necessitated the application process being put on hold until a special election was held to fill the vacant District 1 seat. Commissioner Garcia was elected in October 2021, and the process of soliciting and selecting two resident committee members was resumed in November. Public notice was provided on November 24, 2021, that applications were being accepted through December 8, and members would be selected at a public meeting at the South Omaha Library on December 16, 2021. Victor Baez and Sarah Dragon were selected from a total of four (4) applicants residing within the target grant area.
4. The member of the Legislature whose district includes a majority of the census tracts which each contain a percentage of persons below the poverty line of greater than thirty (30) percent...shall be a nonvoting member of the committee.

South Omaha Turnback Tax Grant
Ten Year Strategic Plan

Working with the City Planning Department, census reports were reviewed to determine that Senator Tony Vargas, representative District 7, fills this nonvoting committee appointment.

Each member receives two binders:

1. General Information – given to the member upon his/her appointment to the committee, includes target area map, the Act, applicants and award recipients from the previous two years, annual timeline of events, and other miscellaneous general grant information. This binder is updated periodically as new information is received.
2. Grant Applications – once the period has closed, all applications are tabbed in alphabetical order for committee members to review prior to the decision meetings. This binder will be updated annually.

It is the responsibility of each member to review all applications prior to the first public meeting to make award decisions. At this/these meetings, each member takes it in turn to summarize the application and requested amount, after which, the full committee has a discussion regarding potential award amount, including questioning the applicant as necessary. Grant awards may go through several rounds before being finalized based on the total amount available to award.

III. 2021 – 2022 Approach

As outlined in the Act, each area with a high concentration of poverty – North Omaha and South Omaha, respectively – shall establish a development fund and form a committee which shall identify and research potential projects to be completed in the area with a high concentration of poverty or in an area within close geographic proximity if the project would have a significant impact on the area itself.

In the most recent funding cycle of 2021-2022, once the Grant Committee was in place, public notice was provided on December 6, 2021, that 2021-2022 South Omaha Turnback Tax Grant Applications would be accepted December 20, 2021, through January 28, 2022. Public meetings were held at the South Omaha Library on February 16, 2022, and February 22, 2022, to review applications and make awards. Letters and awards were mailed on March 11, 2022, to twenty-seven applicants, totaling \$136,000.00. Funded organizations are required to submit a grant report describing how the award was spent, along with receipts, in November of the funded year.

IV. 2022 – 2023 Approach

A tentative timeline for the 2022-2023 Grant Cycle is included below, and will be finalized in August of the current funding year.

- September 21 - public hearing to open grant application
- September 21 - November 2 -- grant applications accepted
- November 7 - grants distributed to committee for application review
- November 14 - public hearing to review & award applications
- November 21 - public hearing to review & award applications (*pending, as needed*)
- November 22 - grant financials and award amounts delivered to finance for check processing (*ten days for processing and printing, either December 8 or December 15*)

South Omaha Turnback Tax Grant
Ten Year Strategic Plan

- December 9/16 - award letters and checks mailed, press release issued with recipients and amounts

V. Strategic Plan

A. Process

The grant period takes place September – December annually. The committee will hold an initial meeting in September to open the grant cycle, distribute applications, and answer questions from applicants. Applications will be accepted for a period of six (6) weeks, with the application being available online via the City and Douglas County website. The public will be made aware of the meeting and application availability via notice in The Daily Record, posted notices on the City and Douglas County websites, and an email to previous applicants.

Once the application period closes, the committee will have approximately two weeks to review applications individually before publicly meeting to review and make award decisions. Each meeting will be publicly noticed via The Daily Record, and the City and Douglas County websites, allowing applicants and the general public to attend and participate.

After the final meeting, recipient award amounts are delivered to the Finance Department, along with a copy of the application and W-9, for check processing. This takes approximately ten days, during which time award letters are processed and prepared for mailing upon receipt of checks from Finance.

Committee members will be (re)elected and (re)appointed in the following years, according to their election cycle and term limits:

- 2024 – Douglas County Commissioner, District 1; Resident Committee Members; Legislative Member
- 2025 – City Council, District 4
- 2028 – Douglas County Commissioner, District 1; Resident Committee Members; Legislative Member
- 2029 – City Council District 4

Additionally, the Committee will conduct an annual review of any amendment to the Act.

B. Goals

A committee formed under subdivision (3)(b) of the Act shall solicit project ideas from the public and shall hold a public hearing in the area with a high concentration of poverty. The committee shall research potential projects and make the final determination regarding the annual distribution of funding to such projects. Short- and long-term goals shall include:

- the solicitation and review of such applications for funding;
- annual review of recipient award reports to ensure effectiveness of award and consistency with Act guidelines;
- review of short- and long-term goals as needed to meet community needs

South Omaha Turnback Tax Grant
Ten Year Strategic Plan

C. Action Plan

1. Seek community feedback regularly to assess and prioritize community needs
2. Ensure awards meet community needs by reviewing reports and maintaining regular communications with recipients
3. Annual review recipients to determine whether consecutive funding limit has been reached under subdivision (3)(f) of the Act, and if it has, determine whether project is eligible for continued funding based on the criteria listed under subdivision (3)(f)i-iii.