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Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

# **DON Grant Programs Update**

**March 3, 2017**



# Community Investments Division

- Neighborhood Matching Fund
- Your Voice, Your Choice: Parks & Streets
- Duwamish River Opportunity Fund
- Summer Opportunity Fund



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# What We've Heard

Reimbursement-based grants and other requirements are challenging, especially for grassroots organizations

Application and reporting processes are too difficult

“Too much competing self-interest as well as an absence of technical expertise” in review processes



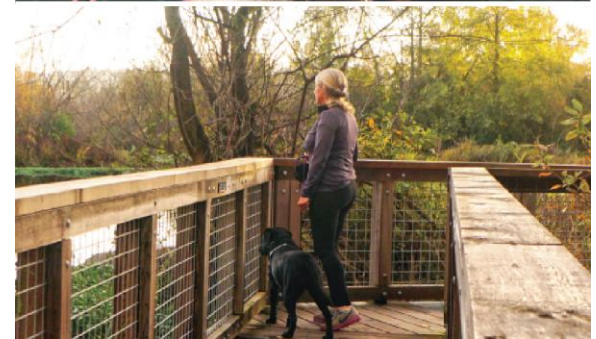
The Community Investments Division has a key role in achieving the department's mission of **strengthening Seattle by engaging all communities.**



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# How We Support This

- Simplify and streamline our processes
- Broaden engagement
- Reduce barriers to participation



# Simplify and Streamline Our Processes

Simplified NMF funding opportunities – going from three to two

Created a single application form for both NMF funding opportunities

Simplified match requirements to 1/2:1 for all NMF projects

No application required for Your Voice, Your Choice



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# Broaden Engagement

Applied a participatory budgeting approach to Neighborhood Parks and Street Fund

Redesigned project development in Your Voice, Your Choice to be more inclusive

Providing more options to participate or receive information online

Working more closely with our Community Liaison program to engage new communities



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# Reduce Barriers to Participation

Increased funding limits for Small Sparks (NMF) from \$1,000 to \$5,000

Providing up-front funding for DROF projects in 2017

Removed restrictions for community-based groups and District Councils to apply for up to \$100,000 through the NMF

Increased NMF application opportunities from one to three times a year for up to \$100,000





# What's Happening Now

## Your Voice, Your Choice Idea Collection

- *Over 900 project ideas collected*
- **Project Development** starts March 2



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# What's Happening Now

## Neighborhood Matching Fund

- First NMF Community Partnership Fund Application Deadline March 27
- NMF Small Sparks open and receiving applications

**Do you have a community project idea?**

Join us for a Neighborhood Matching Fund Workshop!

**January 25, 6 - 7:30pm**  
2100 Building (2100 24th Ave S)

**February 2, 6 - 7:30pm**  
Phinney Neighborhood Center (6532 Phinney Ave N)

**February 7, 6 - 7:30pm**  
Neighborhood House (6400 Sylvan Way SW)

**February 15, 6 - 7:30pm**  
Bailey Gatzert Elementary (1301 E Yesler Way)

**March 1, 6 - 7:30pm**  
University Heights (5031 University Way NE)

- Learn about funding opportunities ranging from \$1,000 to \$100,000.
- Find out if your project idea matches our funding requirements.
- Get tips for a competitive application.



Questions? Contact us at  
206-733-9916 or [NMFund@seattle.gov](mailto:NMFund@seattle.gov)

RSVP for a workshop at:  
[surveymonkey.com/r/SNJDYDH](https://surveymonkey.com/r/SNJDYDH)



# What We're Hearing: NMF Improvements

“...increasing the Small Sparks to \$5,000 will be transformative.” – Community Member

“We love these changes. It's going to be a lot easier to do projects.” – Festival Sundiata Committee

“This is FANTASTIC. I'm just thrilled.” – Family Variety Show

“Sounds like a significantly enhanced opportunity for our project.” – Volunteer Park Trust



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# What's Happening Now

## Duwamish River Opportunity Fund

- launching this spring



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