

Date: July 18, 2022

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Brent Dennis, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Martin Luther King Jr. Park Vision Plan**

On April 5, 2022, the City Council requested the City Manager to work with the Public Works (PW) and Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) Departments, and in conjunction with community partners, to identify funding and begin pre-planning efforts to develop a park vision plan for Martin Luther King Jr. Park (MLK Park). This memorandum provides an update on resources available for this effort.

City Fabrick, a Long Beach-based 501(c)(3) urban design firm, and Long Beach Alliance for Food and Fitness (LBAFF) have secured \$120,000 in funding from the Resources Legacy Fund and the partners within the Link Initiative, including the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation and First 5 LA, to complete the Martin Luther King Jr. Park Vision Plan. City Fabrick and LBAFF are direct recipients of the grant and will work in conjunction with the City of Long Beach Public Works, PRM and Health Departments, and Office of Equity, community partners, and elected officials on facilitating engagement and developing design concepts for the vision plan. Resources Legacy Fund is a philanthropic organization that works across various sectors “to promote smart policies and secure equitable public funding for the environment, climate change resilience, and healthy communities.” They have funded programs in the Western U.S. and across the world that protect coastal communities, address climate change, and conserve natural resources. The Link Initiative is supporting similar community-based park planning efforts in four other communities across Los Angeles County.

City Fabrick promotes “progressive urban design that enhances the livability of communities and the health of residents” and has worked with PRM on several vision plan efforts as well as park capital improvement design projects, leveraging their internal landscape architecture and planning teams to provide feasible concept plans that are used to pursue implementation funds, including most recently MacArthur Park. Their continued partnership with the City has provided them the navigational tools to implement vision plans within the context of our diverse communities.

LBAFF is an initiative of The Children’s Clinic, which supports community members, nonprofit agencies, and public organizations that want to make policy changes which will bring quality, affordable, healthy foods to Long Beach residents and create opportunities for them to be more physically active in a safe environment. They are a frequent collaborator with other community organizations and Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. LBAFF will facilitate a community-driven engagement process to include a park user survey which examine existing

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conditions and opportunities, as well as community outreach workshops and park steering committee engagement.

Between the community, Resources Legacy Fund – Link Initiative, City Fabrick, LBAFF, and the City, an MLK Park Vision Plan will be developed through a series of engagement workshops and activities, in a manner that encompasses principles of equity and sustainability in alignment with the City’s goals as demonstrated in planning documents. For example, Goal #5 of the Parks Make Long Beach: PRM Strategic Plan is to connect clearly and transparently internally and with the community, with an outcome of engaging community members and partners in conversations about park facilities and programming in an equitable, accessible, and authentic manner. The action items listed in the Strategic Plan will guide the visioning process, resulting in a document that is consistent with City policy. The planning process will also acknowledge the historical context of the park as a cultural hub and community gathering space and draw connections between physical spaces and park user experiences, desired activities, and community access to programming.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 570-3170.

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