



MEMORANDUM

Ordinance 24-11, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$20,000 from the General Fund Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund for Events, Exhibits, and Programs Celebrating the 40th Year of the Sister-City Relationship between the City of Homer and Teshio, Japan. Lord/Venuti.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: January 3, 2024
From: David Berry, Sister City Working Group Co-Chair
Through: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

BACKGROUND

Calendar year 2024 marks the 40th anniversary of the sister-city relationship between Homer and Teshio, Japan. In August 2023, the City administration formed a Sister City Working Group, which includes several City employees as well as private individuals and representatives of organizations and businesses around Homer. The Group is tasked with planning celebrations for the 40th anniversary.

PLANS FOR THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The Working Group has thoroughly debated and refined a number of ideas for celebrating the anniversary. The major features in the final list:

1. A delegation of visitors from Teshio is expected to arrive in late summer 2024. We have itineraries from past delegation visits which provide guidance on the expected series of events.
2. An exhibit of artworks from the City's Teshio collection, displayed at the Pratt Museum from May 1 to September 6. The exhibit includes banners, a samurai sword and armor and various small objects and sculptures, together with informational signage.
3. Various smaller projects throughout the year, including:
 - a. A performance on Taiko drums by local students in the Japanese Club
 - b. A potluck of trans-Pacific recipes, possibly done while the delegation is here
 - c. Banners along Pioneer Ave. featuring Teshio's mascot, a talking clam
 - d. Refurbishing the Friendship Post which formerly stood in WKFL Park

ESTIMATED COSTS

Item	Estimated Cost	Total Costs
Hosting the Teshio Delegation, August 2024		
Lodging	\$0 (Est. \$2,500 value provided by host families)	
Food	\$1,250	
Transportation	\$500	
Activities	\$1,000	
Gifts	\$2,000	
Miscellaneous expenses	\$1,500	
Translation services	\$5,250	
SUBTOTAL		\$11,500
Exhibit at the Pratt Museum, May-September 2024		
Display space	\$0 (Donated by museum)	
Reception rental	\$480	
Main display mounts	\$3,000	
Small display mounts	\$2,000	
Catalog (web-only or printed)	\$3,000	
Translation services	\$3,750	
SUBTOTAL		\$12,230
Cultural and Educational Projects in Homer, January-December 2024		
Taiko drums for Japanese Club performance	\$5,000	
Potluck	\$500	
Banners along Pioneer Ave.	\$3,200	
Refurbish the Friendship Post from WKFL Park	\$1,000	
Appreciation party for volunteers	\$400	
SUBTOTAL		\$10,100
GRAND TOTAL		\$33,830

ESTIMATED REVENUES

The Group is pursuing funding for these activities through private donations and applications for grants, but we will need some additional funding from the City. In-kind donations of goods and services may lower costs overall.

Funding Source	Amount	Total Funds
Current appropriation from operating fund	\$4,000	
Current appropriation from PARCAC	\$500	
Estimated private donations	\$4,000	
Estimated grant funding	\$6,000	
Requested additional funding from CARMA	\$20,000	
GRAND TOTAL		\$34,500

RECOMMENDATION

Appropriate further funds to support the exhibits, events and programs of the 40th anniversary celebrations.