

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1483
Appropriations

(Delegate Hixson)

Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2012 - Montgomery County -
Quebec Terrace Lighting

This bill amends the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2012 to alter the location of the Quebec Terrace Lighting grants from Wheaton to Montgomery County.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect the finances or operations of Montgomery County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 444 of 2012 (SB 151) authorized up to \$120,000 in matching funds to the Board of Trustees of ArtPreneurs, Inc. for the planning, design, and construction of the Quebec Terrace lighting in Wheaton. Matching funds are authorized to include in-kind contributions, but may not consist of real property or funds expended prior to the June 1, 2012 effective date of Chapter 444. The grantee has until June 1, 2014, to present evidence that matching funds will be provided. The proceeds of the loan must be expended or encumbered by the Board of Public Works by December 1, 2015; if any funds remain unexpended or unencumbered after that date, the amount of the unexpended or unencumbered authorizations must be canceled.

Chapter 444 authorized two separate grants totaling \$120,000 for this project; the bill's changes apply to both projects.

Background: Arts on the Block, whose legal name is ArtPreneurs, Inc., is located in Wheaton, Maryland. However, Quebec Terrace is located in Silver Spring, not Wheaton. Both Wheaton and Silver Spring are located in Montgomery County.

Arts on the Block provides high school-aged youth of diverse backgrounds with firsthand experience in the principles and business of art and design by fully engaging them in real-life projects with seasoned professionals and their fellow community members. Arts on the Block has completed more than 20 public art and design projects since the organization's inception in 2003. One of its projects involves using art and design to visually transform the community, reduce blight, and provide a sense of safety and neighborhood unification in the Carroll Avenue Quebec Terrace community of Silver Spring.

For decades, the Carroll Avenue Quebec Terrace multifamily apartment community of Silver Spring has been a problematic corner of Montgomery County. During 2011, the Montgomery County Police Department responded to nearly 250 calls from this neighborhood, an area of less than one-half square mile. Of the crimes that were reported, most were vandalism, simple assault, and theft. Gang activity is an ongoing issue. Arts on the Block launched an effort in 2009 to use "crime prevention through environmental design" principles and public art to begin to change the neighborhood. The following projects will be underway in 2013:

- sculpture and lighting for the area at the top of the mosaic-faced stairways on Quebec Terrace;
- sculpture and lighting for the exterior of the YMCA/community center on Carroll Avenue;
- provision of lighting fixtures for the mosaic-faced stairways leading to Quebec Terrace from Carroll Avenue; and
- provision of address plaques and lighting for the front entrance areas for a select number of apartment buildings.

Arts on the Block just hired a project manager and is in the process of interviewing artists for the Carroll Avenue Quebec Terrace lighting project. For the matching funds, Arts on the Block has received \$80,000 from Montgomery County and a verbal commitment from a property owner for an unspecified amount.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of General Services, Arts on the Block, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 15, 2013
mc/ljm

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