

## Information Item

**Date:** June 13, 2023

**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

**From:** Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager

**Subject:**

Information Regarding Funding Request from Creative Corridors Coalition for Design of the Peter Oliver Pavilion Gallery

**Strategic Focus Area:** Economic Vitality and Diversity

**Strategic Objective:** Promote Travel and Tourism

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No

**Key Work Item:** No



Over the last five years, the Creative Corridors Coalition (CCC) has retained Walter Hood, a world-renowned African American landscape architect, to develop a public open space on the site of the former four-acre farm of Peter Oliver, an enslaved man who spent much of his life in the Moravian community of Salem and eventually became free. The site is comprised of two acres located near the Strollway off Liberty Street. CCC officials and Hood Design Studio have completed the schematic design for the Peter Oliver Pavilion Gallery, a pavilion and garden space that would commemorate the life, achievements, and resilience of Peter Oliver. CCC officials have engaged Peter Oliver's descendants, which include the family of Wake Forest and NBA star Chris Paul, as well as community members and city and state officials. In January, the CCC unveiled renderings of the Peter Oliver Pavilion Gallery at a public event at the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts.

In early May, CCC board members met with City staff to provide an update on the project and request a financial contribution from the City to support the next phase of design. According to the attached letter from CCC officials, the City's contribution would total \$100,000 to be paid over two years at \$50,000 per year. CCC officials noted that the request is less than 25% of the cost of the next phase of design and less than 2% of the anticipated total project cost. CCC officials estimate the total cost of the project to be between \$6 million and \$8 million.

CCC officials would apply the City's contribution toward the development of comprehensive design development plans to construct the project. The attached letter provides a general description of the services involved in this phase. The scope would include a comprehensive review of the design development plans by an operations and maintenance consultant to develop a strategy and budget for the short-term and long-term needs for maintaining the facility.

CCC officials will provide a presentation on the Peter Oliver Pavilion Gallery at the Finance Committee's June meeting. If committee members support their request, staff will identify funding and prepare an action item for the City Council's consideration in August.