Town of Monterey

Proposal for use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds – Form

- Completed forms are due no later than Thursday October 13th, 2022.
- Please use as many words and images as you feel necessary to describe accurately your proposal. Do not be limited to this document and feel free to attach supporting documents as appropriate.
- Please reach out with any questions to the Select Board at selectboard@montereyma.gov or mail to Town of Monterey Select Board / Post Office Box 308 / Monterey, MA 01245.

Requestor information

Name of requesting entity (public body, Town department, individual citizen, etc.)

Monterey Community Center

Contact information for submitter:

Name: Laurie Shaw

Phone number: 413-528-0343

Email: shaw419@verizon.net

Mailing address: PO Box 86, 419 Main Rd., Monterey, MA 10145

Date request is submitted September 25, 2022 (previously submitted May 18, 2022)

Funding information

Amount of request: \$85,000

Will additional funds be required to complete the project?

If this application is approved in a timely manner, the costs should remain the same. However, building costs are increasing daily so a speedy approval of this application is critical to maintaining the costs.

If yes, where will those funds be obtained?

As a last resort, if there are unanticipated costs, there might need to be some fundraising which the MCC committee would undertake, along with the Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House.

Will additional expenses be incurred regularly for maintenance or replacement after the initial project?

No

If so, how will maintenance be funded? (Operating expenses within the Line item budget in annual Town Meeting, regular replacement or maintenance to be added to the capital plan, or other – please specify)

Not applicable

Proposed project

What is the proposed use of these funds?

The Monterey Community Center Committee is proposing the construction of a pavilion on the MCC property in order to provide safe outdoor activities for the community.

Since its opening 5 years ago, the Monterey Community Center has become a hub for activities in the town, with a wide array of recreational activities, very frequent use from the Council on Aging as well as a comfortable place to hold various town committee meetings. While affected by the pandemic, the use of the MCC has risen significantly each year. In FY 19 there were 432 visitors and in FY 20 there were 752 visits. There are no statistics for FY 21 as the Community Center was closed most of the year. During FY 22, there were 2,043 visitors either in the building or under the tent. This did not include off site activities at the library. In the first quarter of FY23 there have already been 1,032 visitors up until September 20.

At the height of the Covid -19 pandemic, the MCC was necessarily closed which created a huge void in the social life of the town. In order to provide some activities in a safe manner, the MCC committee has in the past three years rented tents so that people could gather for classes and activities without being confined to an indoor space.

This is not a sustainable plan as the cost of tent rental has significantly increased and the availability of tents has decreased.

Therefore, the MCC Committee is proposing the construction of a pavilion on the property, which would allow the people of Monterey to engage in outdoor activities year round. While the expenditure would initially be significant, it would be a one-time expenditure and would provide decades of use. As the Covid pandemic shows no signs of abating and will most likely take on the status of an endemic health issue, a pavilion on the property of the Monterey Community Center would allow people to gather in a safe environment, providing opportunities for exercise and social interaction, both of which are critical to physical and mental well being.

The project would consist of a 20 x 40 foot pavilion providing 800 sq. ft. of space. There would be no sides on it and no middle post. The roof would be asphalt and the structure would be erected on a concrete pad. With sufficient funds, it would be made ready for electricity. Many local contractors and several businesses have been contacted and some estimates have been received. The most promising of these is Hometown Structures in Westfield who provided an estimate including prevailing wages. (Please see the attached estimate and drawing of the proposed pavilion.) Bathroom facilities would be provided in the main building. The timetable, once the application is approved, would be about 6 months.

Statement of benefits

How will this project benefit the residents of Monterey?

Residents will benefit from an array of classes, programs and cultural events that will take place in a safe outdoor setting. The pavilion can be in use most of the year and will extend opportunities for exercise, social engagement and access to the arts. We have learned from the experience of Covid -19 that these are essential to maintain physical and mental health. This is especially important for many of our older citizens who live alone and must seek out ways of maintaining connections with others.

Documentation of the effects of social isolation can be found in the following articles:

Loneliness and Isolation During the Covid 19 Pandemic https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7306546/

The Double Pandemic of Social Isolation and Covid 19: Cross-Sector Policy Must Address Both https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/forefront.20200609.53823/

Who in the community will be most directly served?

The pavilion has the potential to serve every resident of Monterey, should they choose to do so, as activities will be provided for all ages. The majority of the population of Monterey is over 55 and the MCC pavilion would allow easy access to activities that enhance physical and mental well being, without having to travel outside the community. As the town does not have a Senior Center, The Council on Age is already a frequent user of the MCC and this would provide even more opportunities for our seniors to stay actively and safely engaged with others.

Relevance to the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act

According to the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Resources released by the Office of Inspector General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

"Under the American Rescue Plan Act, passed by the federal government in March 2021, Massachusetts state, county, tribal and local entities will receive federal aid to respond to the public health and economic impacts of the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic" and "may use funds for capital expenditures that support an eligible COVID-19 public health or economic response."

This project is a direct response to the Covid-19 pandemic. A facility for outdoor activities was not planned prior to the pandemic. In response to this public health crisis, the MCC provided tents for the past three years in order to provide safe outdoor activities. This has become cost prohibitive. The construction of a pavilion on the MCC property will directly contribute to the physical, social and emotional well being of our citizens.

How will this project fulfill the purpose of ARPA?

The American Rescue Plan Act was passed in order to provide relief to citizens directly affected by the pandemic. The proposal to construct a pavilion will be a public health benefit, providing safe outdoor activities that foster physical and mental health, which are critical to a healthy society.

(Information from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and KP Law about the ARPA program can be found on the Select Board website

https://www.montereyma.gov/select-board/pages/american-rescue-plan-act-arpa or upon request at Town Hall)

Additional comments

Is there anything else that the Select Board should know while considering this proposal for use of ARPA funds?

The MCC Committee respectfully requests that you consider the long term benefits of this proposal, one which directly affects our citizens. It is an investment in our people and in their well being, not just a construction project. The Covid-19 pandemic has taken a toll on us all.

This project is a way of restoring and maintaining the health of our residents, our most important community resource.

I am enclosing the following attachments:

- 1) An email and rendering from Joel Nisly from Hometown Structures in Westfield, outlining an estimate for the project, \$ 56,500, plus an estimated \$20,000 for the cement slab. This would leave \$8,500 for electrical work and cost increases.
- 2) The results of an informal survey of some of the citizens of Monterey expressing interest in a pavilion on the grounds of the Community Center.

Please email completed forms to selectboard@montereyma.gov or mail to Town of Monterey

Select Board / Post Office Box 308 / Monterey, MA 01245.

ARPA pavilion quote from HS/ Joel Nisley

From: Mary Makuc (marymakuc@gmail.com)

To: shaw419@verizon.net

Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 09:25 AM EDT

We are at 56,500 from Joel Plus cement slab 20,000

76,500 plus lighting.

I will ask an electrician I know for a quote on lighting pavilion. Also asked Joel if anyone from Westfield might have a quote.

Thanks Mary

----- Forwarded message ------

From: Joel Nisly <joel@hometownstructures.com>

Date: Wed, Jul 20, 2022 at 9:18 AM

Subject: Re: SB wants more details before they vote on

To: Mary Makuc <marymakuc@gmail.com>

Hi Mary,

The 8x8 post upgrade isn't needed structurally if we're sticking with a 20' wide structure with standard post spacing. We originally needed it on the quote for a 30' wide pavilion, but now that we're back to a 20' wide unit, we can eliminate that and go back to the standard 5x5 posts unless you want the beefier look of the 8x8 posts.

Attached are a photo and rendering of the 5x5 posts.

The pricing without the 8x8 post upgrade is as follows:

\$ 55,200 base price of a 20' x 40' Traditional Wood Pavilion with standard architectural shingles

- \$ + 1,300 engineer's seal
- \$ + 0 stained (standard)
- + 0 delivery (free)
- \$ + 0 installation/assembly (free)

\$ 56,500 installed, pre-tax

Thank you,

Joel Nisly, Sales joel@hometownstructures.com (413) 417-2623

Thank you

On Wed, Jul 20, 2022, 8:14 AM Mary Makuc <<u>marymakuc@gmail.com</u>> wrote:
ARPA pavilion for MCCenter

Is there a reason we would need a post upgrade?

I am looking at the latest estimate from you and it had a question about post upgrade.

What do you think?

Otherwise I would like to hand in the 63.500 then we would just need to tack on lighting and cement slab?

Any idea what the lighting would cost? Or who in Westfield might give me a quote? If anyone.

Thanks



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Screenshot_20220720_090904.png



A pavilion for the community center.

For the third year, the community center has rented a large tent so our programs can be held safely outside. This has been a very successful COVID accommodation both for continuing programing and for the benefit of just being outside whenever possible.

The town is now considering how to allocate the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to "Build Back Better" from what has been learned due to the pandemic. The Monterey Community Center is seeking to build a pavilion in lieu of an annual three-month tent rental (at a cost of \$4-5000 each year, and for just three months) that would provide for so many programs that can be held in a healthy and joyful setting.

While the tent has been wonderful during June-July-August, a pavilion would provide space when weather permits all year round. Fall parties, a Winterfest celebration, chair yoga, tai chi, etc. are examples of events that could take advantage of a permanently covered outdoor space.

Also a pavilion could increase the appeal of the venue for private events, generating revenue for the town.

Many of the details for a pavilion are being investigated, but it would be very helpful if you would be willing to add your name and street address in support of this use of the ARPA money as we make our case to the Select Board. There have been many lessons, and changes, due to COVID, and this fund is intended to support such improvements, to "Build Back Better."

We would like to show the Select Board that the Community would like to see a pavilion at the Community Center. May we add your name and street address to our list of supporters?

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6. Elaine Lynch	22 Tyringham Rd
7. William JOHNSON	140 main Ed
8. PHINELIS JOHNSON	140 MAIN Rd
9. Scot Margal	300 Bractown Mt. Rd. 01245
10. MARK ANDREWS	23 SYLVAN RD,
11. MICHAEL STORCH	19 ART SCHOOL RD.
12. Joe WASjuk	126 Hupi Rd
13. JOB D'ELOA	14 St CHANS LAKE RO
14. KEIIN BASCER	
15. Clifford WEISS	
	453 Main Rd Monterey, MA 01245
17. BRIAN BUDAK	453 MAIN RP MONTEREY, MA 01242
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