**From:** Brownie.Newman@buncombecounty.org
**To:** Andrew Celwyn
**Cc:** Esther Manheimer
**Subject:** Re: $5 million TPDF Grant Proposal
**Date:** Sunday, April 5, 2020 2:36:15 PM

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Andrew, Julie and Esther:

So, I am hearing two ideas here. One is grants to artists for beautification or other types of short-term projects. The other is using funds for grants/ forgivable loans to restaurants to get their businesses re-started.

I am open to both ideas. Of course, I'd prefer to see some of the advertising funds used rather than just TPDF but it sounds like from the emails, this is just being envisioned as as a use of TPDF funds.

In terms of the idea of artist projects, it would be helpful for me to hear some examples of some types of projects this might involve. I am not coming up with any great ideas on my own but if I could see some examples of what others are thinking, perhaps I'd have a few ideas.

One other brief comment. If there is going to be some amendment to the hotel tax law to make funds available during the Covid-19 emergency, I certainly hope no one tries to enact controversial, permanent changes to the hotel tax law. I think there would be a lot of public outrage if some positive changes were made to help workers and businesses in the short term were to be attached to a hotel industry version of changing the hotel tax law for the long-term. I think we need to keep those issues separate.

Brownie Newman
Sent from my iPad

> On Apr 2, 2020, at 6:21 PM, Andrew Celwyn <andrew@herbiary.com> wrote:
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>
> Good evening to you both.
>
> With little help from my fellow board members (and others on the call), I'm turning to both of you to see if you would like to help coordinate putting together a $5million dollar TPDF grant over the next three weeks.
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> My preference would be to solicit projects around the city and the county that could be tackled in a relatively short period of time, 1-3 months, and could inject some money into our community during this critical time. Artistic endeavors that could beautify our county and other projects that might fall within the typical TPDF parameters would be critical to making this application strong.
>
> Getting this together by April 21st or 22nd would be helpful as the next board meeting is April 29th. There is Currently $4.6 million in the TPDF fund and there will be more than $5 million available after March receipts are included.
>
> You both have a lot on your plates at the moment, as do I with keeping my business afloat and getting applications in for grants and SBA relief. If the two of you are able to provide some staffing to actually put the proposal together, I'm willing to help get the word out to the community that we need people to put forward projects that would be worthy of TPDF money. Lots of people may be disappointed that their projects aren't funded, but we've got a lot of creative juices out there as well as people with time on their hands who can help make this "kitchen soup" TPDF project a success.
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> Maybe it only ends up as $2 million or $3 million depending on what comes in. I've got to think that's better than letting that money sit for another six plus months.
>

> If the legislature isn't going to help out, I hope we can find a way to help ourselves.
>
> Thanks for considering this idea.  Happy to discuss further when you have time.
>
> -Andrew