

Update - Equitable Grand River Restoration Initiative

September 15, 2020
Presented by
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PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- W.K. Kellogg Grant Overview
- Grant Outcomes
- Implementation Strategies
- Equity
- MLBE Registration Program
- Contracts & Policy Development
- Strategic Partnership Collaborations
- Challenges/Barriers
- Grand Rapids Community Foundation Grant
- Q & A

GRANT OVERVIEW

Funder

- W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Award Amount

- \$300,000.00

Timeline

- August 2019–July 2021

Purpose

- The EGGRI is designed to identify and address racial bias and systemic barriers related to the Grand River development project

Led by

- Office of Equity and Engagement





**DESIRED
GRANT
OUTCOMES**

Equity language and metrics embedded into all City operations related to the Grand River restoration project

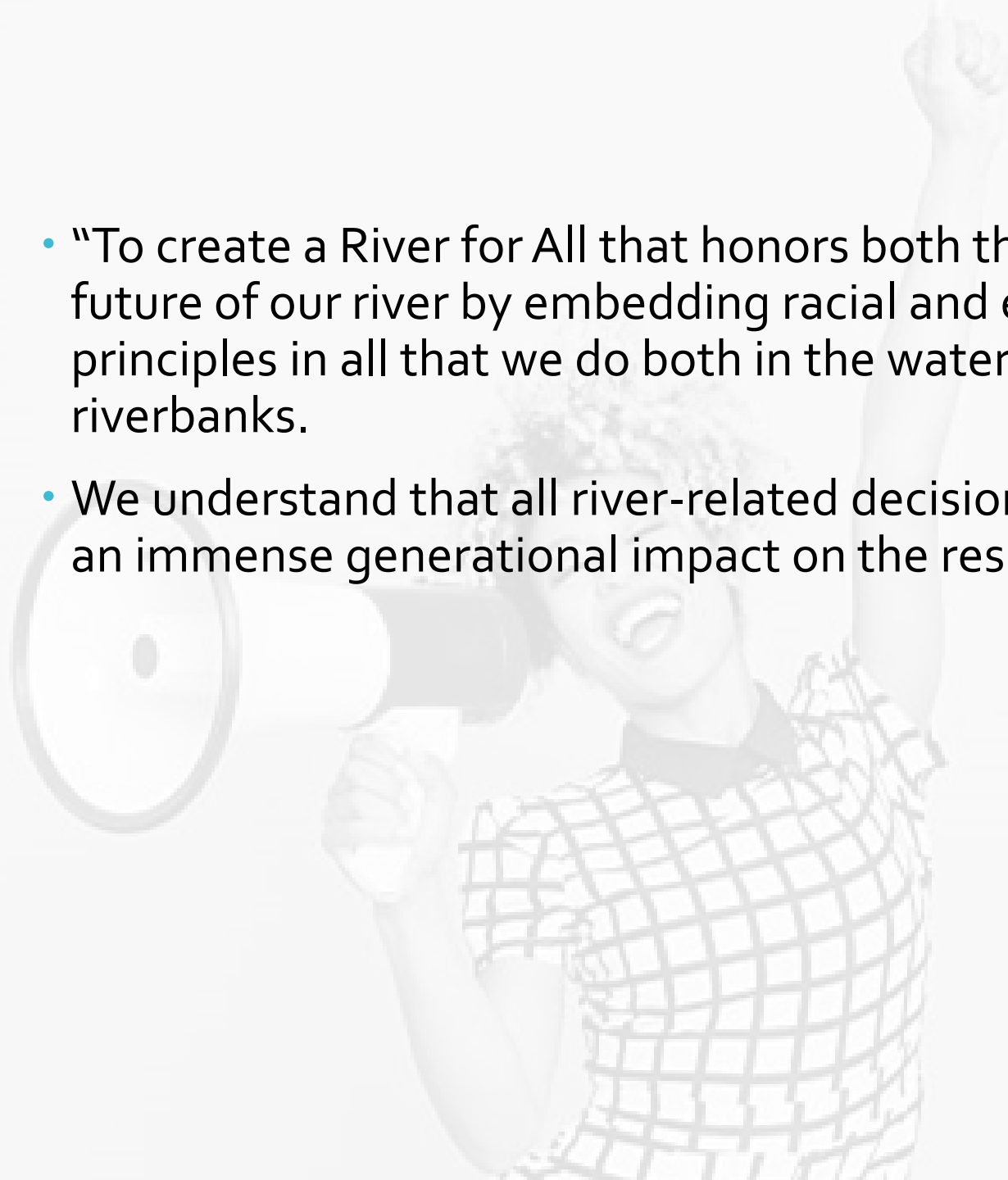
Increased number of MLBEs registered as vendor with the City of Grand Rapids

Create an evaluation system to track equity outcomes for residents, businesses and entrepreneurs of distressed communities benefitting from the river

STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTED TO ACHIEVE GRANT OUTCOMES

EQUITY STATEMENT

- “To create a River for All that honors both the history and the future of our river by embedding racial and economic equity principles in all that we do both in the water and along the riverbanks.
- We understand that all river-related decisions today will have an immense generational impact on the residents of our city.”



EQUITY MODEL

Welcome Community Engagement

+

Intentional engagement of residents of color/entrepreneurs/businesses surrounding river education, engagement and opportunities

Wealth Economic Development

=

MLBEs have equitable access to education, jobs, contracts, training, and business funding & opportunities that will result from this project

Equitable Outcomes

Eliminate racialized disparities at the community-level through wealth creation for persons of color

EQUITY EFFORTS

Requires seats at several tables

- River Project Team
- Downtown Grand Rapids, INC - Organizational Leadership Committee
- Internal City of GR River Equity Small Group
- External River for All Equity Group
- National Equity Centered conference calls
- Local collaborative partnership meetings
- and many more



LAUNCHED MLBE REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Purpose

To help ensure equitable wealth creation as the River for All construction takes place

Timeline

July 7, 2020 - October 31, 2020

Goal

30-40 new companies registered on the City of Grand Rapids MLBE List

WEST MICHIGAN
MINORITY
CONTRACTORS



CONTRACTS & POLICY DEVELOPMENT

In collaboration with several
City of Grand Rapids
Departments and Staff

Contract Work

- Embedded equity language into the Construction Manager contract for river restoration work
- Established practice to ensure capacity building dollars in contracts with local partnerships

Policy Work

- Reduced restrictions for
 - MLBE Certification Program
- Reduced barriers and added new best practices and procedural policies to
 - Construction Guidelines
 - Goods and Services Guidelines

CHALLENGES/ BARRIERS

MLBE's

- Bonding / Accounting Statements
- Limited inventory and expense of prime Commercial Real Estate
- Lack of access to capital
- Lack of opportunity due to refusal to few de-bundled bids
- Construction Industry is “who you know”

Outdoor Engagement for People of Color

- Negative historic narratives (both external & internal)
- Racism, and personal safety concerns
- Lack of sufficient means to afford several recreational activities
- Lack of knowledge in relation to safety/rules, etc.
- and more



The work
continues!

RIVER FOR ALL RACIAL & ECONOMIC EQUITY (RAREE) GRANT OVERVIEW

Funder

- Grand Rapids Community Foundation

Award Amount

- \$800,000.00

Timeline

- 2022-2026

Purpose

- This grant is designed to continue equity work to identify and address racial bias and systemic barriers related to the Grand River development project

Led by

- Office of Equity and Engagement



Goal #1

Employ an
Equity Analyst
for the
River for All
construction and
development



Goal #2

Incubation of
MLBEs for
operations
alongside the
riverbanks



Goal #3

Environmental Equity
via strategic outdoor
engagement with
residents of color



Goal #4

Water Quality Notification System & Beacons



Thank You! | Q&A?

**Ciarra Adkins &
Mike Staal**