



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager's Office



Date: September 22,, 2016
Board Meeting Date: October 4, 2016
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager

Subject: Use of District-Specific **Measure A** Funds – Supervisorial District 4

RECOMMENDATION:

Measure A: Adopt a resolution authorizing a one-time \$50,000 grant of district-specific **Measure A** funds to Magical Bridge Foundation to purchase an integration carousel for Red Morton Park in Redwood City to equip a playground that reflects the diverse needs of community members regardless of ability, disability, age or size and authorizing the County Manager, or his designee, to prepare and execute the grant agreement.

BACKGROUND:

Measure A is the ten-year half-cent general sales tax approved by San Mateo County voters in November 2012. The Board and County staff have conducted study sessions and community outreach efforts to inform priorities for **Measure A** spending.

On March 17, 2015, the Board adopted the **Measure A** allocation plan for the FY 2015-17 budget, during which the County anticipates **Measure A** receipts of approximately \$80 million annually. The plan included \$5 million in one-time loans or grants, and \$1 million each year for FY 2015-16 and 2016-17, divided equally among the five Board districts, for district-specific needs and projects. On April 28, 2015, the Board approved the criteria and process to be used by staff to administer these funds. In accordance with such criteria, District Four submits the following request to use **Measure A** funds as set forth below and in the attachment hereto:

District/Project	Amount
District 4 (Supervisor Warren Slocum) – Magical Bridge Foundation: Funding to purchase an integration carousel to equip a playground that reflects the diverse needs of community members	\$50,000

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are sufficient **Measure A** funds budgeted in the Non-Departmental Services FY 2016-17 Adopted Budget for this purpose.

ATTACHMENT – Project Summary

**DISTRICT 4 (Supervisor Warren Slocum)
FY 2015-17 Measure A Request
Magical Bridge Playground
Purchase of an Integration Carousel
\$50,000 total**

This is a request to authorize a \$50,000 grant to Magical Bridge Foundation to purchase an integration carousel to equip a playground that reflects the diverse needs of community members regardless of ability, disability, age or size. The proposed grant agreement will be administered and managed by the County Manager's Office.

Overview of Magical Bridge Foundation and Magical Bridge Playground at Red Morton Park

Magical Bridge Foundation advocates for and creates inclusive and innovative playgrounds in communities. The formation of Magical Bridge Foundation is in response to the global need for innovative and inclusive playgrounds.

The vision for innovative and inclusive playgrounds was born when founder Olenka Villarreal discovered her younger daughter, Ava, had developmental challenges. She learned that vestibular movement, such as swinging, would benefit Ava, but her limited upper body strength made holding the swing chains impossible. It wasn't long before Olenka discovered the parks in her hometown could not provide the most basic aspects of play for her daughter. She wondered where all of the other kids with similar needs were playing. After extensive outreach and research, she discovered none of the parks in her area were truly accessible.

With persistent advocacy, encouragement and local support from community leaders, Olenka created the first Magical Bridge playground in Palo Alto where everyone can play. Magical Bridge is not a "special needs" playground, but a welcoming place for all.

The Magical Bridge Foundation chose Redwood City's Red Morton Park as the site for the next Magical Bridge playground.

Magical Bridge playground in Red Morton Park will cost approximately \$3.3 million. The City of Redwood City has approved \$1.5 million for the project. Other sources have been identified to raise the remaining funds necessary to build the playground. The integration carousel for which the \$50,000 is being requested will be one of several other pieces of equipment once the playground is complete.

Goals of the Infrastructure Improvements for Which Funding is Requested

Magical Bridge Foundation's goal is to provide an integration carousel at a Magical Bridge playground in Red Morton Park, Redwood City. The carousel is specifically designed to be accessible at ground level, with the ability to accommodate two wheelchairs that are protected by safety bars.

The carousel can be rotated by pushing or pulling from the outside or by turning the stationary turn-table in the middle, which is also accessible to children in wheelchairs.

This provides an experience for children of all abilities to work together and enjoy the integration carousel as a group.

At the time of the original call for Measure A letters of intent, the plan for the Magical Bridge playground at Red Morton park was not far enough along that the organization was in a position to seek funding.

Performance Measures

The following performance measures will be used to track progress on the impact of these grant funds:

- Purchase of integration carousel for Magical Bridge playground in Red Morton Park, Redwood City which can be enjoyed by children of many abilities, including children in wheelchairs.

Based on the completion of the first Magical Bridge playground in Palo Alto, Magical Bridge Foundation has confirmed that \$50,000 will be sufficient to purchase an integration carousel.

Estimated cost: \$50,000

Benefits to our Community

The proposed purchase of an integrated carousel will benefit the residents in San Mateo County by having playground equipment that is accessible to community members of many abilities. It will be a place for children and families, regardless of ability, to play together in an inclusive environment thus strengthening community relationships.

The total allocation request for Magical Bridge Foundation is \$50,000.

The release of funds will be contingent on the execution of an agreement providing for the County's confirmation of the expenditure of funds before December 31, 2017 for the purposes stated herein.