



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on City Services and Innovation Technology
Kenzie Bok, Chair

One City Hall Square ♦ 5th Floor ♦ Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ Fax: (617) 635-4203

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

February 7, 2023

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on City Services and Innovation Technology was referred the following docket for consideration:

Docket #0211, Message and order for your approval an order appropriating from the Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund the sum of One Million Four Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$1,475,000.00) for projects described in the attached order. The Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund Commissioners met on December 7, 2022, and voted to approve these projects and to establish a dedicated repairs and restoration fund for the Browne Fund Projects.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and was referred to the Committee on January 25, 2023.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #0211 is an appropriation in the amount of \$1,475,000 to be expended to the following organizations for the fund of the following projects:

- To the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy for design services for lighting at Chin Park in Chinatown in the amount of \$50,000
- To the Chinatown Community Land Trust for the design of the Chinatown Workers Statue Project, location selection will be part of the design process in Chinatown in the amount of \$50,000
- To the Fenway Civic Association and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for design services for the John Boyle O'Reilly Monument at Back Bay Fens Park in the vicinity of the Boylston Street Bridge, Fenway in the amount of \$50,000
- To the Frederick Douglass Sculpture Committee and the Boston Arts Commission for artists' fees and installation costs for the Fredrick Douglass Memorial on Tremont Street in Roxbury in the amount of \$125,000
- To the Coconut Grove Memorial, specifically for costs associated with the contemplation benches, educational plaques and related site work at Statler Park, Back Bay in the amount of \$75,000
- To the Friends of Crite Park and Boston Public Works Department for Allan Rohan Crite Park improvements, specifically for site furniture in seating alcoves in the park on Columbus Avenue and Appleton Street in the South End in the amount of \$125,000

- To the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry to improve public access to the greenspace at First Church Roxbury, specifically for costs associated with the pathway and seating area between Roxbury Street and Dudley Street on the western end of the church property in Roxbury in the amount of \$50,000
- To the Codman Square Neighborhood Council and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department to support improvements to the greenspace at Codman Square, specifically for costs associated with the artistic letters and artistic paving at the corner of the park near Washington and Talbot Streets in Roxbury in the amount of \$125,000
- To the Friends of the Public Garden for the lighting of the William Lloyd Garrison Memorial Statue on Commonwealth Avenue Mall in Back Bay in the amount of \$50,000
- To the Gardens for Charlestown, Inc. to improve the publicly accessible community garden, specifically for costs associated with reconstruction and beautification of borders and retaining walls at the garden located at 44 Main Street, Charlestown in the amount of \$125,000
- To the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester to improve the publicly accessible space at the new Dorchester Fieldhouse at 315 Mount Vernon Street, specifically for costs associated with creating a welcoming public park entrance and landscaped edge along Mount Vernon Street in Dorchester in the amount of \$125,000
- To the Friends of Memorial Hall Committee for additional support for improvements to the Memorial Hall fence and associated landscape on Green Street in Charlestown in the amount of \$25,000
- To establish a dedicated repair and restoration fund to provide periodic support for previously funded Browne Fund projects that require investment beyond the regular maintenance required of grant recipients. Support toward repair and restoration project costs should be generally consistent with the Browne Fund grant's portion of the original total project costs in the amount of \$500,000

The Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund Commissioners met on December 7, 2022, and voted to approve these projects and to establish a dedicated repair and restoration fund for Browne Fund projects.

Information Received at Hearing

A public hearing was held on this docket on Monday, February 6, 2023. Maureen Garceau, 1st Assistant Collector-Treasurer, and Margaret Dyson, Trust Manager, both from the Treasury Department testified on behalf of the Administration.

Ms. Dyson stated that the Order is for the appropriation of \$1,475,000 from the Browne Fund to assist in the funding of various projects across the city. She highlighted the establishment of a dedicated repair and restoration fund stating that many of the projects that were awarded funding built 30 to 40 years ago are in need of restoration and repair. There is an established maintenance agreement with all the grantees. However, a lot of the grantees who were awarded funds in the early days of the Browne Fund are not as active as they once were so there is a need to dedicate funds for the purpose of maintenance.

Ms. Dyson discussed how the restoration and repair funds will be administered stating that the City conducts annual inspections of past projects which will be the baseline for determining which projects need the greatest amount of maintenance. The City will recommend repair and restoration funding for projects to the Commission that have estimated maintenance costs greater than \$50,000. For repairs under \$50,000, the Treasury will work with their facilities manager and

the property owner to identify the best course of action for a repair, especially in instances that require swift action like damage due to vandalism.

Ms. Dyson discussed the Browne Fund application process stating that there is a three-level system to process applications. First, Treasury staff will determine if a project is eligible - constant with Mr. Browne's goal of ornamenting the city's streets, ways, and parks. Second, the Browne Fund Committee will vet applications to then make recommendations to the Browne Fund Commission. Lastly, the Commission will review applications, request more information on certain projects, and then make recommendations to the Boston City Council.

Ms. Dyson added that this year's Browne Fund's appropriation is higher than usual because the City is awarding projects approved from 2021 and 2022. There was no funding awarded in 2021.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on City Services and Innovation Technology, I recommend moving the listed docket from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that the matter **OUGHT TO PASS**.



Kenzie Bok, Chair
Committee on City Services and Innovation
Technology