RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-292

MEETING: June 2, 2020

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director

RE: Arts & Transportation Rapid Response Application

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Ratify an application to the Smart Growth America Arts & Transportation Rapid Response Grant Program; and authorize the Chair to sign any necessary documents to implement the grant if awarded (subject to approval as to form by County Counsel).

The proposed project will fund implementation of creative placemaking strategies for quickly addressing COVID-19 pandemic-related transportation challenges. If selected, the partnership between the Mariposa County Planning Department and Mariposa County Arts Council will be matched with an artist who will work with the partnership over the next few months on a proposed project, which involves using creative placemaking strategies to safely activate the Mariposa Creek Parkway while maintaining and promoting safe social distancing protocols. These could include interactive wayfinding and informational signage, comfortable furnishings to support outdoor working spaces, and other unanticipated ways of activating the Parkway in a safe and appropriate manner.

Participating artists will receive between $5,000 to $20,000 to support their time and project materials, as well as a short series of training sessions to prepare them to work with the transportation agencies. Other than staff time, neither the Planning Department or Arts Council will have any financial obligations for supporting this grant.

Because the grant is intended to be a rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the period of time in between when it was announced and the application deadline was compressed. Accordingly, this ratification is coming after the grant application materials have been submitted.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
This effort builds on previous creative placemaking endeavors, including those specific to the Mariposa Creek Parkway. These include:

The Transportation For America State of the Art Workshops, in which the partnership participated in 2018. The LTC authorized application to that competitive process with
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The Creative Placemaking Master Plan, for which the partnership was awarded a $75,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2019. This project is currently underway and also involves installing creative placemaking interventions in the Mariposa Creek Corridor. The Board approved an agreement with Atlas Lab, Inc. to support this effort with RES-2019-677 (11/26/2019).

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
Negative action will limit the capacity of the partnership to promote safe outdoor recreation and enjoyment of the Mariposa Creek Parkway during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ATTACHMENTS:
200526 Smart Growth America_Arts & Transportation Rapid Response (DOCX)

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey