ARPA funding request possibilities for StoDEI Task Force so far

From Amanda Potratz:

We need a significant endowment fund ($100,000 minimum) to be able to build upon and then draw off the interest generated for specific projects. The goal will be to create opportunities for individuals who have traditionally had more difficulty accessing economic resources.

These funds could also be used to offer scholarships for students of underrepresented and underserved populations who will be attending higher education. Increasing the opportunities available for Stoughton youth to attend higher education institutions will improve the rates of income inequality by reducing some financial barriers facing minority students. The ability to participate in higher education increases the earning potential of Stoughton youth and encourages families of minority children to attend school at SASD because they feel supported by the Stoughton community.

These funds could be used to offer free interview and business wear for individuals who are not able to afford the wardrobe necessary to secure a job or educational opportunity.

These funds could be used for business grants for individuals of underrepresented and underserved populations. Some areas of business carry more risk (restaurants for example) and are difficult to obtain loans for. Additionally, minority individuals are less likely to already have banking leverage from home equity or other sources, may not have monetary family support and are less likely to be independently wealthy - all creating difficulties in obtaining funding for a start-up. Offering Business grants to minority individuals would increase their participation in city leadership roles, reduce poverty rates among underrepresented populations in our city, and revitalize the business districts in Stoughton after the ravages of COVID-19.

These funding options are a two-fold idea that encourages minority students to participate in higher education and so they might return to Stoughton to start a local small business thereby increasing minority leadership with the city, revitalizing the Stoughton economy, reduce income disparities among underserved and underrepresented populations in Stoughton, and draw families to the area.

From Sarah Esmond:

$$ to support DEI taskforce and city DEI uptake:

- communications: consultant fees, technology (laptop, software / licenses) for creating online repository, webpage or site, online surveying; designing/branding offerings and otherwise LIFTING UP messaging across city departments and via social media that is DEI values related (so public can see/access)
- respite support for neighbors who want to take part in/engage in the work but who have elder/childcare responsibilities (so need coverage)
- registration for City employees and taskforce members to attend anti-racism training classes or participating in online course work or attending a conference or seminar (perhaps this can extend existing workforce development investments?)
- meeting expenses, honoraria/incentives for giving participants (neighbors) who gather for listening/feedback sessions on innovations city could adopt
- incentives for gathering youth for feedback sessions (valuing their time) and/or employing them in roles to support DEI activities
- annual and one-off event sponsorships

From Tess Bergeson-Gallun:

- video/documentary ideas (will be discussing further in July)