

Government of the District of Columbia



Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 11
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 727-9945

TO: Dawn Dickerson, Program Analyst
FR: Denise Wiktor, General Counsel
DT: September 25, 2023
RE: Endangered Animals Grant ANC 3C

DW

You asked if a grant for production of ten statutes to be placed in ANC 3C was an acceptable use of ANC funds under the D.C. Official Code. These would be physical statues placed in locations within the ANC for an unlimited amount of time. The licensing of the statues is for a permanent display. In addition to the statue itself, a QR code would be on the statue so that anyone who sees it could look up additional information. The featured animals would be ones that are currently endangered or once lived in Rock Creek Park. In addition, the applicant also plans “to organize events at the lampposts such as trick or treating, a passport for each animal, music at the lampposts for a one-day festival, and more”. The applicant has completed similar art installations in other parts of the city and has obtained the necessary permits from the Public Space Committee. Such a use would be acceptable provided that the funds were used for materials or dissemination of information within the ANC.

ANC grants must be for “public purposes within the Commission area.”¹ A public purpose is one “that benefits the community as a whole and is not done for the primary purpose of benefitting a private entity.”² The statues would be visible to the public and would benefit the community as a whole² in their installation and the planned future events around the statues.

A detailed budget was submitted with the application. I would recommend that the ANC direct its resources to the Materials, Outreach or QR code portions of the budget in order to avoid a potential inappropriate expenditure. The materials alone exceed the amount of the requested grant so it should not prove a detriment to the grantee.

¹ D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(l)(1).²

Id.

² See also *Seasoned Settlers Grant and Grants Generally* found at [Letter-to-OANC-Re-Seasoned-Settlers-Grant-andGrants-Generally-.pdf \(dc.gov\)](#)