



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 25

Agenda Date: June 13, 2024

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood and Housing Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Veronica Garcia, Director

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 2

SUBJECT:

Gardopia Gardens Facilities Project

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the execution of a Chapter 380 Economic Development Loan Agreement in an amount up to \$300,000.00 between the City of San Antonio (“City”), the Inner City Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone #11 (“Inner City TIRZ”), and Gardopia Gardens for the Gardopia Gardens Facilities Project located at 615 and 619 N. New Braunfels in City Council District 2 and within the Inner City TIRZ. This agreement will be funded out of the Inner City TIRZ.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On August 4, 2023, Gardopia Gardens, a 501(c)3 non-profit, applied for funding from the City’s Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Division to undertake its Gardopia Gardens Facilities Project located at 615 and 619 N. New Braunfels in Council District 2 and within the Inner City TIRZ.

Gardopia Gardens plans to purchase the approximate 0.29 acres at 615 N. New Braunfels and 619 N. New Braunfels to serve as its headquarters and create improved facilities and infrastructures. Acquisition of the property will allow Gardopia Gardens to have a permanent,

dedicated location for its garden-based learning programming that benefits the community. Gardopia Gardens has requested an economic development loan in the amount of \$300,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing the property.

The Chapter 380 Economic Development Loan Agreement will be structured as a forgivable loan with a right to reduce the repayment of the loan by \$60,000.00 annually provided Gardopia Gardens meets certain requirements:

- Proceeds from the Purchase Loan will be used to purchase the property
- Gardopia Gardens will operate a garden based learning center for no less than five years after completion of the project
- Gardopia Gardens will work with local school districts to promote and create internship opportunities for students
- Gardopia Gardens will provide annual reports on number of visits and number of education programs held
- Gardopia Gardens will hold a minimum of six free events open to the public focused on garden based learning programs, garden building and optimization, and other similar programs

Gardopia Gardens intends to use other funds from private sources for the full acquisition costs and improved infrastructure at the property.

On May 30, 2024, the Inner City TIRZ Board, through Resolution T11 2024-05-30-03R, approved funding in the amount of \$300,000.00 for the Chapter 380 Economic Development Loan Agreement with Gardopia Gardens for the Gardopia Gardens Facilities Project.

ISSUE:

City Council consideration is requested to authorize the negotiation and execution of a Chapter 380 Economic Development Loan Agreement in an amount up to \$300,000.00 with Gardopia Gardens for the Gardopia Gardens Facilities Project located at 615 and 619 N. New Braunfels in City Council District 2.

ALTERNATIVES:

If City Council chooses to not authorize this Agreement, Gardopia Gardens will need to seek an alternate funding source for the acquisition of this property for its headquarters. This may delay or lead to the cancellation of the project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for this agreement is available through the tax increment produced by the Inner City TIRZ. There is no fiscal impact to the City's General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.