



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

AGENDA: 4

James Cary Smith Community Grant Program Update

**Community Equity, Health and Justice Committee
September 11, 2024**

Aneesh Rana, Senior Staff Specialist
arana@baaqmd.gov
Elinor Mattern, Senior Staff Specialist
emattern@baaqmd.gov

Larisa Casillas, Urban Habitat
Ken Szutu, Citizen Air Monitoring Network

Presentation for Information Only

- No action requested at this time

Presentation Outline

- James Cary Smith (JCS) Community Grant Program
Info & Background
- Overview of current grant cycle (2022 - 2025)
- Program evaluation findings
- Upcoming Request for Applications (Fall 2024)
- Grantee perspectives: Project impact

James Cary Smith

- The Community Grants Program is named for Jim Smith, the Air District's former Community Outreach Manager.
- Mr. Smith passed away in 2015 from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and the program extends his vision of more engaged and empowered communities.



James Cary Smith

JCS Community Grant Program

- Unique, multiyear grant program supporting community-based organizations – the majority of them Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)-led – to implement capacity-building projects in environmental justice (EJ) communities.
- The Air District has embraced recommendations from community partners and external evaluators to strengthen and refine its community grant program over the past ten years.

Background on Grant Program

- From 2019 - 2021, the Air District operated two community grant programs concurrently: James Cary Smith Community Grant Program & Community Health Protection Grant Program.
- To reduce confusion and strengthen partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs), in 2021 the Air District consolidated the programs, creating one aligned JCS Community Grant Program.
- The inaugural 3-year grant cycle launched in 2022, and will conclude in Summer 2025. The next Request For Applications (RFA) is scheduled for Fall 2024.

Current Grant Cycle

- Grants awarded to projects based in Bay Area EJ communities
- Wide range of capacity-building projects serving diverse populations
- Multiyear grants; up to \$100,000 per grantee per year
- \$6.4 million to 33 projects over 3 years

2021-2022 JAMES CARY SMITH COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDEES



Approaches to Building Capacity

Assessing Community Needs

Gathering information on community priorities, concerns, and values

Supporting Leaders

Sustaining engagement with multiple touchpoints over time

Facilitating Community Education

Connecting with community members to introduce topics of air quality and environmental justice

Activating Community Outreach Workers

Community leaders increasing community participation and capacity

Program Components

- Ongoing customized support for grantees via workshops, office hours, and technical assistance
- Grantee Coalition meetings held quarterly
- Grantee Google group to share resources & funding opportunities
- Grantee Resource Library

Evaluation Findings

- Grant funds are **developing community leaders**
- Grant funding is **leveraging local capacity and expertise**
- Grant funds are **reaching and impacting diverse communities**
- The Air District **expanded the grant program's reach into EJ communities**

Upcoming Request for Applications

- Anticipate releasing next RFA in October 2024
- Multilingual outreach campaign
- Multiple technical assistance opportunities

Next Steps

October 2024	Release a new RFA for the JCS Community Grant Program; conduct outreach
October - December 2024	Technical assistance for prospective applicants, including optional informational webinars
January 2025	Grant application period closes; Application Review Panel scores grant applications
February 2025	Notification of status of award to applicants
Spring 2025	Staff develop 3-year scopes of work with grantees
May 2025	Board of Directors considers approving grant agreements
2025 – 2028	Grantees execute funded projects

Grantee Perspectives

- Urban Habitat
- Citizen Air Monitoring Network

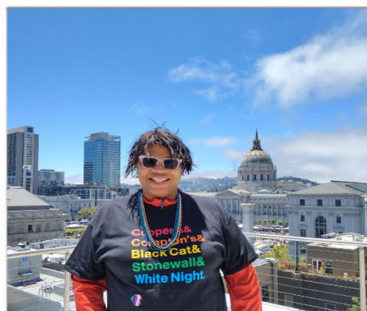


Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute (BCLI)

Trained and supported 29 advocates and leaders from East Palo Alto, Mountain View, North Richmond, Oakland, Pittsburg, Richmond, San Francisco, San Jose, and Santa Rosa.

Experienced an increase in content knowledge, newfound confidence to serve as commissioners, and broadened their professional network of advocates and organizers.

Multi-year support gives organizations ability to budget for future, and for us, space to experiment, learn, and adjust as needed.



Hillary



Alondra



Sejal



Vallejo - A refinery community without a refinery

- Asthma rate three times the state average
- 2016 P66 Oil Spill and Toxic fume incident

Raising awareness - Clean Air Ambassador Program

- Train the trainer
- Practice what we learn

JCS Grant

- Enables long term planning - 501(c)(3), University of California (UC) Davis cooperation, Community Advisory Council (CAC)
- Great support

Questions?



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AGENDA: 5

Overview of the July 25 Community Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting

**Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee Meeting
September 11, 2024**

**John Kevin Jefferson III
Community Advisory Council Co-Chair**

Presentation Outcome and Outline

- **Requested Action:** None; Informational Item
- **Introduction of CAC Co-Chair Jefferson**
- **CAC Update on the July 25, 2024 meeting:**
 - **Action Item**
 - Selection of a Compliance and Enforcement Ad Hoc Committee
 - **Informational Item**
 - Air District Strategic Plan Update

July 25, 2024 CAC Special Meeting

- Special meeting held due to conference room construction and moving the CAC meeting date from its regular third Thursday
- **Action Item:** Selection of a Compliance and Enforcement Ad Hoc Committee
- **Purpose of Ad Hoc Committee:**
 - Collaborate with staff and community stakeholders in developing an agenda of Compliance and Enforcement topics to be discussed during the 2025 CAC meetings
 - Develop a process to respond to and share real-time Compliance and Enforcement information on the set of priorities established by the Ad Hoc committee

July 25, 2024 CAC Special Meeting (cont.)

- **Current members of the Compliance and Enforcement Ad Hoc Committee approved by the CAC:**
 - Co-Chair Ken Szutu
 - Council Member Ms. Margaret Gordon
 - Council Member Dr. Jeff Ritterman
- **Alternates:**
 - Co-Chair Kevin Jefferson
 - Council Member William Goodwin
- **New CAC Members will also be asked of their interest in joining**

July 25, 2024 CAC Special Meeting (cont.)

- **Informational Item:** Air District Strategic Plan Update
- **Dr. Philip M. Fine presented on:**
 - Purpose and Scope of Strategic Plan
 - CAC and Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy Ad Hoc committee roles
 - Draft Strategic Plan framework
 - Accountability through resource alignment, action plans and reports
 - Reflections on Benefits of Collaboration with staff and CAC members
 - Public workshops July 30 & August 1. Public comment ended August 5
 - Action planning collaboration resumes with EJ Ad Hoc in September

Reflections on the benefits of collaboration on the Strategic Plan

- Dr. Meredith Bauer, DEO of Engineering and Compliance shared about the benefits of working collaboratively with the EJ Policy Ad Hoc
- Rio Molina, Co-Chair of the EJ Policy Ad Hoc shared a collection of reflections from CAC members on both benefits and lessons learned

“Some of the key benefits were individuals collaborating on realistic strategies and processes to help advance environmental justice issues. Community raising those concerns while leaning on Division Directors to honestly and strategically map out a process or procedure that is EJ lead.”

- CAC EJ Policy Ad Hoc Member

Questions