



23-0430

**TITLE:** Consider/Discuss/Act on a Project Grant Request Submitted by Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary (#23-06) in the Amount of Fifty Thousand and NO/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00) for Construction of a Permanent Animal Food Cottage for the Animal Exhibit. Amount Requested Represents 60% of the Total Project Cost.

**COUNCIL GOAL:** 5: Enhance Quality of Life in McKinney  
(5B): Create affordable recreational and cultural arts activities for all ages throughout the city.  
(5D): Develop sustainable quality of life improvements within the City of McKinney.

**MEETING DATE:** May 25, 2023

**DEPARTMENT:** McKinney Community Development Corporation

**CONTACT:** Cindy Schneible, President

**ITEM SUMMARY:**

- Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary is seeking funding for a project to construct a permanent animal food cottage for one of its animal exhibits.
- This cottage will provide a safe workstation for animal care staff to prepare diets and medications and sanitize food and water containers.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- Founded in 1967 by Miss Bess Heard, The Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary is a natural science exploration center focused on interpreting the natural world for people of all ages.
- The mission of the Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary is to bring nature and people together to discover, enjoy, experience, preserve and restore our priceless environment through:
  - Educational programs emphasizing appreciation and conservation of nature;
  - Preservation of a portion of North Texas land with its native vegetation

- and wildlife, in as near a natural condition as possible;
  - Museum exhibits, examples of natural history, nature-related art works and memorabilia from Founder Bess Heard; and
  - Indoor/outdoor nature experiences geared to all age and educational levels.
- The outdoor animal exhibit workstation building known as “The Cottage” was built as a temporary structure in 2008 to support what was planned as a short-term exotic animal exhibit.
- Due to popularity, the exotic animal exhibit is transitioning to a native animal exhibit.
- Construction of a new “cottage” will facilitate work done by animal care staff to prepare diets, medications, and sanitize food and water containers for the animal exhibit at the museum.
- The Heard offers guests the unique experience to understand Collin County’s natural heritage as well as how lifestyle decisions we make today will affect how Collin County will look in the future.
- The Heard experience involves both indoor and outdoor activities throughout the 289-acre sanctuary.

#### **FINANCIAL SUMMARY:**

- Funds allocated for MCDC discretionary Project Grants for FY23 total \$2,177,223.00, and \$1,960,385.50 in funds remain unallocated.
- The request is eligible for MCDC consideration under Section 505.152 of the Texas Local Government Code - definition of “Recreational or Community Facilities.”

#### **SUPPORTING MATERIALS:**

- Application Packet
- Presentation

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[Application Packet -- 23-06 Heard Museum.pdf](#)