



## Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**SHELTON J. HAYNES**  
President & CEO

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RuthAnne Visnauskas, Chair, Commissioner of NYSHCR  
Robert F. Mujica Jr., Director of BUDGET  
Conway S. Ekpo  
David Kapell  
David Kraut  
Howard Polivy  
Michael Shinozaki

Agenda Item V, 3. October 28, 2021

### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

#### AUTHORIZATION OF AMENDMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE FUNDS GRANT EXPENDITURE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

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**RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation of the State of New York, as follows:

- Section 1. that the amendment of Public Purpose Grants expenditure for Fiscal Year 2020-21 upon such terms and conditions substantially similar to those outlined in the Memorandum from John O'Reilly to Shelton J. Haynes/ RIOC Board of Directors dated October 26, 2021, attached hereto, is hereby authorized;
- Section 2. that the President/Chief Executive Officer or President's designee is hereby authorized to take such actions and execute such instruments as she deems necessary to effectuate the foregoing; and
- Section 3. that this resolution shall take effect immediately.



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### MEMORANDUM

To: Shelton J. Haynes  
President & CEO/RIOC Board of Directors

Fr: John O'Reilly, Vice President/CFO

Date: October 26, 2021

Re: Public Purpose Funds FY 20-21 Closeouts

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Public purpose fund grants were first awarded in 1989 when New York State established the fund to support community uses. In line with RIOC's mission statement and core values, RIOC issues public purpose grant funds to local non-profit organizations that dedicate those funds to services, programs, and projects, that benefit and enrich the Roosevelt Island community.

The application process requires grant applicants to submit a budget along with their desired award amount. At the conclusion of the grant application process, the Board of Directors vote to approve the purpose for which the grant is sought, and the award amount to be distributed to each applicant. This process in turn, creates an obligation of the grant recipient to use the grant award for the purposes outlined and approved in their grant applications. And, in the event a grant recipient is unable to execute the program or project for which funds have been granted, they are not entitled to the award and must seek Board approval to authorize any change in allocation of grant funds.

The PPF cycle, covering FY 20-21, running from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021, was applied for and approved prior to the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Indeed, when NYS entered a state of emergency and Executive Order 202 – NY on PAUSE went into effect, many grant recipients were forced to halt all approved activities, and some organizations, without seeking prior board approval, reallocated funds for other uses. It is important to note however, that during this time, RIOC staff worked – both in-person and remotely – to respond to the pandemic and to ensure that essential and non-essential services and amenities continued throughout Roosevelt Island and were available to respond to any inquiries.

A review of the FY 20-21 grant cycle has revealed no less than four organizations that reallocated grant funds without seeking prior board approval. Said organizations now seek to have the board ratify and approve expenditures that were made unilaterally – by them – outside of the accepted

rules and practices. These organizations now seek to gain Board approval for their unilateral reallocated funds that were made due to the pandemic, and also without prior Board approval. The affected organizations are as follows:

PPF Recipient	Grant Awarded	Board Approved Allocation	Scope Change
RI Disabled Association	\$18,667 (\$0.00 remaining)	\$18,667 for travel, equipment, and operating expenses, programs, and projects	Travel - \$375.79; Equipment - \$8,677.05; & Operating Expenses \$9,608.63 all related to running the food pantry and purchasing PPE and feeding volunteers to the food pantry that worked 12 hr. days; and delivery expenses.
Carter Burden Network	\$15,323 (\$7,661.50 remaining)	\$15,323 for contractual in-person services for professional, instructor-led programming in fitness, health, art, technology, and finance.	In-person services were halted due to the pandemic and expenditures were for the transition to a virtual platform which allowed operations and connections to the elderly and disabled to continue throughout the pandemic. Instructors - \$4,050; & \$11,273 for salary of PT Korean-speaking case worker
RI Historical Society	\$18,333 (\$9,166.50 remaining)	\$18,333 for contractual services (kiosk, speaker honoraria, & historian support); equipment; & operating expenses	3 attempts made to submit first half of expenditure documentation and unclear where money was spent. 1) expenditures were for kiosk services (\$3,490.38) from 12/16/19 – 1/27/20, and furniture outside the current grant cycle (\$3,650.12); 2) sought an exemption from grant rules; 3) expenditures for website (\$2,025); kiosk (\$3,541); and bookkeeper (\$3,699).
Wildlife Freedom Foundation	\$10,000 (\$5,000 remaining)	\$10K for activities related to care and education of wildlife, etc.	Presented an expenditure in the amount of \$1,500 for car insurance. This expenditure is outside approved scope.

Recommendation:

RIOC recommends that the Board determine the best course of action as to reconcile the requested changes of the above-identified organizations. Individual requests from these organizations are attached for your reference. It should also be noted that as RIOCI continues to evaluate submissions by other organizations, further requests for a modification may be necessary.

**Roosevelt Island Historical Society  
Judith Berdy, President  
531 Main Street – Apt. 1704  
Roosevelt Island, NY 10044  
212-688-4836 - Jbird134@aol.com  
rihs.us**

**April 30, 2021**

**To: Daniel Impellizeri, Staff Accountant, Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC)**

**From: Judith Berdy, President, Roosevelt Island Historical Society**

**Re: Request for Budget Change (FY 4/1/20-3/31/21)**

The Roosevelt Island Historical Society is requesting a budget change for FY 4/1/20-3/31/21. We have attached a revision to Appendix D to support this change. The revised allocations are necessary to respond to the situation created by the pandemic, which we could not have predicted. The modified budget includes the following:

- **Historian Support** costs including:
  - **Payment to the independent contractor who provides bookkeeping services.** These services include preparation and submission of required tax documents, correct recording of Visitor Center revenue and payment processing for Visitor Center workers, website maintenance consultant, computer repair help and writers who created content for the *From the Archives*.
  - **Written Contributions to *From the Archives*.** This publication, distributed to over 800 subscribers, has been a critical vehicle through which RIHS has continued to inform and support the community when so many other programs have been forced to shut down.
  - **Website Management and Updates/Computer Maintenance.** During the pandemic, the RIHS website has been an important way to communicate with the community. The website features each issue of *From the Archives* (published 6 days a week with 351 issues published to date) and *Blackwell's Almanac*, our quarterly newsletter. Similarly, computer maintenance is essential so that the historian can compile *From the Archives*, complete essential documents and applications (including funding requests) and participate in key online meetings.
- **Lecture Series Speaker Honoraria.** Due to the pandemic, RIHS reduced the number of lectures within the year to 4 from 8. These online lectures have been a key vehicle to ensure community engagement in the absence of in-person programs.
- **Visitor Center Contract Workers.** Funds enable contract workers to continue to provide a high level of visitor support. The initial request has been reduced as the Visitor Center reduced its hours due to the pandemic.

Public Purpose funds are essential to enabling the Roosevelt Island Historical Society to provide critical educational services to the community. I greatly appreciate your understanding about the need for this budget modification. Please let me know if you have questions or require additional information.



*Roosevelt Island Disabled Association (RIDA)*

*546 Main Street 3rd  
Roosevelt Island, NY 10044  
646-361-6469*

**July 2, 2021**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Roosevelt Island Disabled Association was awarded \$18,667 in the PPF grant for year 2020 to 2021. Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, RIDA was unable to offer the services and events that were planned due to social distancing and sheltering at home. But, due to the food insecurity that we recognized on Roosevelt Island, we stepped up to the plate and offered food distribution and then food pantry to Roosevelt Island Residents form March of 2020 to the present. We are asking for a redistribution of our funds to cover the expenses we incurred such as for equipment, PPEs, delivery expenses, food for volunteers who gave their time endlessly sometimes for 12 hours at time, as well as are other expenses that we ordinarily incur.

Although we are continuing our pantry we are hoping to resume normal activities in the near future.

Thank you for your consideration concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Wendy L. Hersh  
Wendy L. Hersh  
President  
Roosevelt Island Disabled Association

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William J. Dionne

**HEADQUARTERS and  
SOCIAL SERVICE UNIT**

415 East 73rd Street

New York, NY 10021

212-879-7400

**CASE MANAGEMENT UNIT**

445 East 85th Street

New York, NY 10028

646-504-4999

**CARTER BURDEN GALLERY**

548 West 28th Street #534

New York, NY 10001

212-564-8405

**LEONARD COVELLO SENIOR  
PROGRAM, CEMAPP, VOLUNTEER  
SERVICES and CAREGIVER  
RESOURCE PROGRAM**

312 East 109th Street

New York, NY 10029

212-423-9665

917-409-1261 (CEMAPP)

**CARTER BURDEN LUNCHEON CLUB  
AND SENIOR PROGRAM**

351 East 74th Street

New York, NY 10021

212-535-5235

**LEHMAN VILLAGE SENIOR PROGRAM**

1641 Madison Avenue

New York, NY 10029

646-370-5642

**ROOSEVELT ISLAND SENIOR CENTER**

546 Main Street

Roosevelt Island, NY 10044

212-980-1888

April 23, 2021

Shelton J. Haynes  
President and CEO  
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation  
591 Main Street  
New York, NY 10044

Dear Mr. Haynes:

I am submitting a formal request for the Carter Burden Network (CBN) to reallocate funding from our 2020 – 2021 RIOC PPF grant. This generous grant was designated for consultant wages at the Roosevelt Island Senior Center (RISC), supporting the expenses of professionally-led program instruction in the arts, fitness, technology, and more. However, as with many nonprofit organizations, our activities were upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we serve an incredibly vulnerable population, the NYC Department for the Aging mandated that our in-person services be suspended beginning March 16, 2020. In response, RISC quickly streamlined its services to an entirely remote format consisting of virtual and phone-based programming.

As you know, CBN operates four senior centers across the city. One benefit of virtual programming has been that our instructors from other centers can now offer programming to Roosevelt Island members and vice versa. Our RISC instructors (other than one) have expressed limited interest in offering virtual programming, favoring in-person instruction. As such, instructors from our largest senior center, the Leonard Covello Senior Center in East Harlem, have been offering robust programming in the arts, fitness, health and wellness, and technology that is well-attended by RISC members. As such, the expenses incurred by RISC instructors have been limited and totaled \$2,430 through the end of the grant period, leaving \$12,893 remaining from our grant.

While consultant expenses have been limited, RISC has incurred many additional expenses as a result of the pandemic, and CBN has suffered from a significant loss of public funding and philanthropic support, currently estimated at \$200,000. Despite these losses, we have been committed to maintaining the scope and quality of programming for which we are known. As such, we respectfully

request the ability to reallocate \$12,893 in PPF funding to another significant need at RISC, the salary and fringe of our PT Korean-speaking Case Worker, which is completely unfunded for the period of mid-October through December 2020 and significantly underfunded for CY 2021. Our PT Korean-speaking Case Worker is a vital new member of our team, offering culturally responsive services to the Center's Korean-speaking population. Through the pandemic, her case management services and wellness and reassurance calls have been a vital lifeline for clients experiencing food, housing, and income insecurity; as well as loneliness, isolation, anxiety, depression, and fear. Offering services in clients' primary language has built trust and supported clients in navigating complex systems.

Please see attached for CBN's revised Appendix D, which includes the proposed re-allocation of funds. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. We are greatly appreciative of your flexibility during these incredibly challenging circumstances.

Sincerely,



William J. Dionne  
Executive Director



## Wildlife Freedom Foundation, Inc.

Email: [wffny.info@gmail.com](mailto:wffny.info@gmail.com)  
[www.wildlifefreedomfoundation.org](http://www.wildlifefreedomfoundation.org)

Rossana Ceruzzi  
President

Dear Daniel and John -

**RE:** PPF FY 20-21 -- Post award Amendment -- Change in Scope --

We are respectfully submitting a “Change in Scope” into our awarded PPF for FY 20-21 Changes to the objectives, aims and purposes from that which was approved.

Over the last year and a half during the global pandemic, the Wildlife Freedom Foundation has continued to commit to its mission of helping and caring for our beloved companion animals and precious wildlife.

Unfortunately, the economic impact of Covid also negatively affected our donations and fundraising and thus we had to allocate grant funds slightly differently than planned:

We have used the funds for Operating Costs: WFF vehicle Insurance, veterinarian care, food and supplies for our animals’ sanctuaries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rossana Ceruzzi  
President

**Wildlife Freedom Foundation, Inc.**

T. 917-622-9921

Email: [wffny.info@gmail.com](mailto:wffny.info@gmail.com)  
[wildlifefreedomfoundation.org](http://wildlifefreedomfoundation.org)



#wfffoundation



@wffny

[The greatness of a nation and its moral progress  
can be judged by the way its animals are treated.](#)  
[Mahatma Gandhi](#)