

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****August 19, 2025**

Page 1 of 2

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM – THE MR FRED ROUSE MEMORIAL

This informal report is provided to inform you of the City Manager's Office (CMO) upcoming recommendation to appropriate Community Partnership funds in the amount of \$232,377.00 to support the Mr. Fred Rouse Memorial as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget process.

Overview of the Community Partnerships Program and the Mr. Fred Rouse Memorial*Community Partnerships Program*

The Community Partnerships program is funded via PayGo each year as part of the annual budget process. Its purpose is to foster community investment, improve local services, and address specific community needs. Requests for Community Partnership funds are evaluated based on predetermined criteria, including alignment with municipal strategic vision and priorities, impact on community well-being, feasibility, sustainability, and evidence of community support.

The Mr. Fred Rouse Memorial

On December 11, 1921, Fred Rouse was lynched at the corner of NE 12th Street and Samuels Avenue by a white mob. The Mr. Fred Rouse Memorial will honor the only documented Black person to be lynched in Fort Worth, serving as a place of remembrance and rejoicing Mr. Fred Rouse's life that ended in tragedy.

The Mr. Fred Rouse Memorial will be constructed at 1000 NE 12th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102 and will have public access.

Evaluation

Evaluation of qualifying project criteria for Community Partnership funding includes:

- Projects must serve a large subset of the community
- Community organizations are expected to pledge private partnership, foundation, or other agency funds of equal or equivalent value to the requested use of City funds
- Funding requests must be used for one-time capital expenditures (no landscaping, operations, maintenance, etc.) and City funds are not required to subsidize ongoing operations
- A maintenance plan must be presented and funded by other sources
- Funds cannot be used to supplement projects previously budgeted
- Private or other non-City funds will be expended first before City contributions
- Assets created by these partnerships will belong to the City upon completion unless otherwise noted

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Page 2 of 2

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MEMORIAL****Background on Request**

Tarrant County Coalition for Peace and Justice (TCCPJ) submitted an initial funding request to the City of Fort Worth in April 2024 to fund construction of the Mr. Fred Rouse Memorial. An updated Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC) and construction schedule was submitted in June 2025. TCCPJ provided a detailed funding schedule totaling 85% of the OPCC from community organizations such as the Rainwater Foundation, Episcopal Diocese, and the Mellon Foundation.

TCCPJ will merge with Transform 1012 in the first quarter of 2026 and will provide maintenance and ongoing operational cost for the Mr. Fred Rouse Memorial. TCCPJ will own the Mr. Fred Rouse Memorial and upon merger, will be owned by Transform 1012.

The City of Fort Worth's Community Partnership funds would supplement the final remaining financing gap in the amount of \$232,377.00 needed for construction of the Mr. Fred Rouse Memorial.

If you have any questions, please contact Christianne Simmons, FWLab, at (817) 392-6222 or April Rose Escamilla, FWLab, at (817) 392-7371.

**Jesus "Jay" Chapa
City Manager**