



Project Narrative

SoBo Pop-Up Pool

Let's build bigger, better, and finer pools, that's real democracy. Take away the sham and hypocrisy of clothes, don a swimsuit, and we're all the same. —*Nathan Kaufman, Contested Waters: A Social History of Swimming Pools in America*

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Formed in the early 1980s, the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA) is organized to conduct and facilitate improvement of the Riverside Neighborhood Area, including Riverside Park. RNA has evolved from a handful of neighbors working for the

improvement of the neighborhood to a much stronger, more involved group of residents tackling larger issues affecting both the neighborhood and the community at-large.

The Friends of Riverside Park (FORP) is a subcommittee of RNA dedicated to the enhancement of Riverside Park through projects, events, and promotion. FORP was formed as an independent group in the late 1990s. When RNA achieved non-profit status, a merger occurred to bring both groups together. Currently, RNA/FORP organizes a variety of community social events in the park, partners with several community organizations and city agencies to maintain and enhance park amenities, and provides consistent community updates on park activities through RNA's monthly meetings, newsletters, and community social media accounts.

THE SOBO POP-UP POOL: PURPOSE OF REQUEST AND ANTICIPATED RESULTS

Called by neighborhood activists a "sleeping giant", the Riverside Park Pool (RPP) has long been seen as an undervalued community asset. Due to decades of under-investment, the pool building, deck, and grassy areas today do not provide a welcoming atmosphere, and offer limited seating, shade, and activities.

In the summer of 2018, a Riverside resident created an online survey addressing basic pool improvements and received over 240 responses, with 150 (62%) saying they would be willing to make a monetary donation, and 142 (58%) saying they would volunteer their time for a cleanup and upgrades. This type of incredible neighborhood response shows how impactful improving RPP would be for the community.

The Sobo Pop-Up Pool proposes bringing to South Baltimore a well-established "pop-up pool" model which began in Philadelphia in 2015 (for more detailed information, please see Pop-Up Pool Project Background). The intervention is straight forward: bring in pool furniture, seating, shade, activities, and color. Through these aesthetic improvements, RPP will become a much more welcoming place to all South Baltimore residents, helping create the connective tissue that binds us together and anchors our neighborhoods.

ISSUES & EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

PHYSICAL *(Please see site plan in Supporting Documents for additional information)*

- 1) Building disrepair: the majority of the pool building has fallen into disrepair and several rooms are condemned. The entire exterior is painted off-white, with the windows sealed by cinder-blocks.
- 2) Un-inviting entrance: the entry to the pool is through the main building. There is little signage, limited information about hours and activities, and little to support the staff while welcoming visitors and accepting entrance fees.
- 3) Staff area: the staff's interior break area is in disrepair. With ad-hoc furniture and no shade, it does not provide the staff with a comfortable place to work and rest. There is no designated exterior staff area.
- 4) Lack of shade: the pool deck area has only two large umbrellas on the grassy areas, providing very limited shade to a property with over 55,000 square feet, and no shade to any of the concrete deck.
- 5) Limited seating: While the maximum facility load is over 1500 people, only 14 faded and peeling wooden benches and fewer than 15 lounge chairs (hand-me-downs from another pool) are available to pool patrons in the main pool area.
- 6) Limited tables: only 2 aging picnic tables are available (located inside the infant/toddler area) to hundreds of daily pool visitors.
- 7) Uninviting infant/toddler play area: the area for our youngest to play has no color or activities and few seating options (2 picnic tables mentioned above). Half of this area is reservable for groups, but there is little to reserve, as few amenities exist in this area.
- 8) Unattractive pool deck: the concrete deck was once covered with an unattractive green cement paint that is now peeling and faded.

PHYSICAL PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS:

- 1) Building exterior: Paint a welcoming mural around the entrance of the building. This will not only serve pool patrons but also make the park itself more attractive to the hundreds of visitors walking through every day.
- 2) Entrance area: Create high-quality banners and signs that welcome the public and inform visitors of activities and pool hours. Add a new table and chairs to provide staff members with a comfortable and efficient place to check pool passes and collect entrance fees. Add a community board where residents can post and find information about community events.
- 3) Staff area: Bring in comfortable furniture, fans, and shade to support staff members in interior staff room during break times.
- 4) Add shade: Provide at least 15 high-quality, commercial grade colorful umbrellas to the pool deck.
- 5) Add seating: Provide a variety of outdoor, durable furniture, including chairs and loungers, with seating for at least 100 visitors spaced out around the various areas.
- 6) Add tables: Create a separate cafe area on the pool deck for relaxing, reading, eating, and drinking. Replace and add to picnic tables available for families in the infant/toddler area.
- 7) Brighten the infant/toddler area through paint, games, and children's activities, and add seating for adults and groups.
- 8) Transform the pool deck: Power-wash the fading green paint and add splashes of color with concrete paint that can be easily maintained and touched up over the years. Strip, sand, and repaint existing wooden benches. Add plants to soften the edges and brighten the expanse of concrete decking. Add commercial grade trash cans to keep deck clean.

SOCIAL

There is existing tension between some of the residents living adjacent to Riverside Park (who tend to be wealthier and white), and residents from surrounding neighborhoods (which are poorer and more diverse) regarding the pool.

Respondents' comments from the survey conducted in the summer of 2018 clearly demonstrated the challenging division currently felt by the community -- from those that see the pool for its potential as a community hub:

- "It is such a great pool and would be great to be more utilized!!"
- "So much potential to be better! Seating, tables, more shade"
- "The pool is a wonderful neighborhood asset. I'd like to see it get a facelift; paint, murals, flowers would help a lot."

To residents who focused only on current divisions:

- "Make it harder to get access for non-residents of Federal Hill area."
- "Minimize attendance to local residents. Require proof of local area residency to enter."

The Riverside Park Pool, as one of two public park pools serving the South Baltimore community, is a civic asset to a diverse set of stakeholders, including:

- Students and family from Federal Hill Preparatory School. Located at 1040 William St, Baltimore, MD 21230, the school serves a diverse student body of 353 students, 61% African American, 24% white, and 8% Latino. Please see attached Letter of Support.
- Students and family from Francis Scott Key Elementary. Located at 1425 E Fort Ave, Baltimore, MD 21230, the school serves a diverse student body of over 440 students; 64% African American, 29% white, and 5% Latino. Please see attached (2) Letters of Support.
- Students and family from Thomas Johnson Elementary. Located at 1100 E Heath St, Baltimore, MD 21230, the school serves a diverse student body of over 540 students; 21% African American, 69% white, and 5% Latino. Please see attached (2) Letters of Support.
- Students and Family from the St Ignatius Loyola Academy. Located at 300 E Gittings St, Baltimore, MD 21230, the school serves boys in grades five through eight from underserved Baltimore neighborhoods. Please see attached Letter of Support.
- South Baltimore summer camps. Ella Bailey Recreation Center, adjacent to Riverside Park, hosts on average 60 children from around South Baltimore. This and other recreation centers visit the Riverside pool on a daily basis, often bringing 60 students/day and up to a combined 240 children/day to the pool. Please see attached Letter of Support.
- Young adults. As a great source of work experience, the Riverside pool provides local young adults with summer employment as lifeguards.
- Residents from across South Baltimore, including: Riverside, Federal Hill, Federal Hill South, South, Baltimore, Key Highway, Locust Point

Please see attached Letters of Support from 6 local neighborhood associations, 9 local organizations, and 4 local schools.

In response to this diverse constituency, the SoBo Pop-Up Pool purposefully seeks to create an inclusive space. By creating a vibrant, lively, and fun place for everyone to cool off in the summertime, this project will create a community hub where all feel welcome.

Project sustainability in the long term is also relatively efficient. Financial investment in the first year is much larger due to initial furniture, paint, and supply purchases. In following years, investment and fundraising needs drop significantly, to an estimated 10% of initial investment, as basic maintenance is the major cost, and a strong volunteer network is already in place to complete the work.

POP-UP POOL PROJECT BACKGROUND

A small investment makes our public pools into a hub for community gathering and free summer relaxation. I've never felt prouder to live in Philadelphia! -Philadelphia resident, Swim Philly Survey, 2016

The idea for the "SoBo Pop-Up Pool" came from Philadelphia's Pop-Up Pool Project, first begun in the Francisville neighborhood in 2015. A local urban planner, Ben Bryant (along with the help of Nicole Buchholz, co-author of this grant application) transformed a local pool through furniture, paint, and landscape improvements. After the spectacular public response, the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department created the "Swim Philly" program. The city now provides "fun activities, comfortable seating and lounges, and umbrellas and plants" to a select number of pools each year.

In the summer of 2017, Nicole Buchholz (a new South Baltimore transplant!) in partnership with a long-time Philadelphia resident, co-led the Marian Anderson Pop-Up Pool project. This was unique because the project was 100% volunteer-funded and led. The aesthetic improvements were a great success, with the pool season extended by four weeks, usage greatly increasing (often with lines to enter the pool on the weekends), and a palpable increase in neighborhood connection. Among the many benefits were increased use of the adjacent rec center (including a newly created theater program), regular volunteer clean-ups, and a highly active social media community.

For additional information, please see supporting documents, and visit:

- Swim Philly: <https://www.phila.gov/programs/swim-philly/>
- "The Pop-Up Pool." <https://vimeo.com/162515205>

ALIGNMENT WITH SBGP STRATEGIC PLAN AND SBG MASTER PLAN

"Enhancing the vitality of SB neighborhoods by 1) fostering community development and revitalization, 2) making communities cleaner greener and healthier, and 3) improving the health and wellbeing of residents."

A growing body of research shows that by investing in public spaces-- creating places that all of us want to occupy-- the value of nearby real estate may increase. In addition, by creating spaces that welcome people of all ages, races, and incomes, strong community bonds are formed, increasing personal investment in the neighborhood. These bonds may lead to increased civic engagement and residential and business investment, and may even decrease crime. By providing the financial investment for supplies and raw materials, this grant will empower a community organization to bring local residents together to create

meaningful change, build a sense of community, and enhance a public space that all can enjoy and take pride in.

Sitting in the center of Riverside Park, the pool is a central gathering point for many South Baltimore (SB) neighborhoods. Making pool improvements enhances the value of the park as a whole and supports current multi-year efforts to invest in the park's fields, playground, and other public spaces. A substantial financial investment in the pool, as requested, shows a definitive commitment to enhancing the pool and park in an impactful and sustainable way, as the proposal also lays the groundwork for the community to maintain the space for years to come. RNA, in particular, has a track record of partnering with local organizations, businesses, and community volunteers to improve Riverside Park and provide public programming with the assistance of funding from various sources, including donations and grants.

Unlike private pools with expensive membership fees, the Riverside Park Pool (RPP) offers highly affordable daily (\$2/day) and season passes (\$30/summer). This, in addition to its central location to many SB neighborhoods, makes it highly accessible to the greater community as a safe and enjoyable space supporting recreation and healthy lifestyles. RPP is currently used by a diverse population, including groups that promote physical activity for people of all ages and backgrounds: children's summer camps, lap swimmers, and a local synchronized swimming organization, Fluid Movement. In addition to general recreation, RPP is a Baltimore City-designated space for city residents to stay cool and safe during Code Red Heat Alert days, as declared by the Baltimore City Health Commissioner. In support of its many and diverse visitors, RPP should offer higher quality amenities to its patrons.

"Achieve meaningful and measurable change in the South Baltimore Gateway Communities and in the lives of the residents, regardless of their background or income."

RPP is a community gathering place for SB residents of all ages, races, and income levels. Public pools, in particular, provide a safe and enjoyable space for all to congregate and have fun, regardless of socio-economic factors. Unfortunately, they suffer from a lack of funding and therefore also the amenities found at private facilities. This project would bring meaningful change by addressing regularly voiced concerns of SB residents and making the space comfortable and accessible for all through the addition of multiple seating options, shade, designated space to gather, activities, and a general sense of value. The impact can be measured by documenting the community response as well as tracking pool attendance, as described further below.

MEASURING SUCCESS

In order to track success, RNA, in partnership with Baltimore Aquatics and volunteers, proposes the following metrics and strategies to track pool usage and the success of the SoBo Pop-Up Pool:

- Pool attendance, potentially also tracking patrons' neighborhoods of residence.
- On-site feedback postcards: RNA will place colorful feedback postcards so patrons can provide on-the-ground feedback. This type of feedback is highly useful in receiving both praise and suggestions from a wide range of patrons, as it is easy and can be done at the pool.
- End of summer 2019 online survey: with the closing of the pool, RNA will circulate a detailed survey to evaluate the success of the SoBo Pop-Up Pool.
- At the end of the 2019 summer season, RNA will also evaluate the following metrics:

- Citizen engagement: One of the greatest signs of success will be community engagement. Did the number and diversity of volunteers grow? Is there a lively social media group?
- Programming: Was there increased demand for programming? What programming can be created with community support?
- Fundraising: How successful were volunteer fundraising efforts? How engaged were local businesses and community organizations?

TIMELINE

February 2019: RNA begins planning the SoBo Pop-Up Pool, in partnership with the City of Baltimore Aquatics and Recreation & Parks Departments. SBGP grant submission.

March - April 2019: detailed site planning, furniture supply list, sign design, and mural design. RNA to launch a local fundraising program (likely through Facebook's free platform), as well as reach out to local businesses for their support. The money resulting from community fundraising is to be earmarked for public art and summer programming at RPP.

May 2019: Depending on total amount raised:

- RNA will order furniture, paint, plants, signage and other supplies
- RNA will host two volunteer days to prepare the pool area for the 2019 season. Activities to include power washing, painting, landscaping, and furniture set-up
- Local artists, with the help of volunteers, will paint mural on exterior of pool building

May 27th, 2019: Riverside Park pool opens for the season; weekends only

June 22nd, 2019: Riverside Park pool opens 7 days a week; RNA and Aquatics plan to host a community party

September 2nd, 2019: Riverside Park pool closes for the season

- All furniture, games, and other supplies are inventoried and properly stored for the following summer
- RNA will circulate end-of-season survey to assess SoBo Pop-Up Pool impact

Fall-Winter 2019: RNA and volunteers continue work, maintenance, evaluation of Summer 2019



Pop-Up Pool Budget

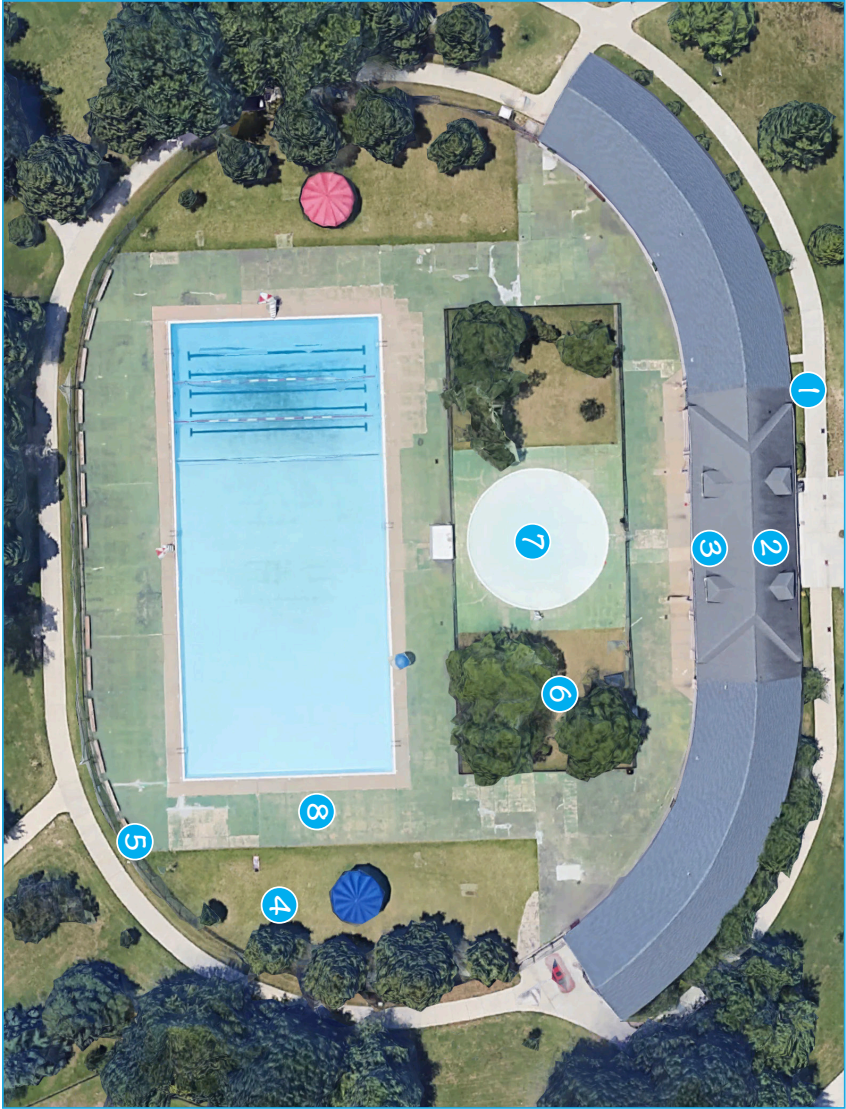
| Personnel | Description | Quantity | Cost | Total |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------|----------|---------------------|
| General contractor | strip and sand 12ft benches (est. 4hr/bench; 14 benches total) | 14 | \$ 120 | \$ 1,680.00 |
| General contractor | power-washing concrete deck (\$15/hr) | 66 | \$ 15 | \$ 990.00 |
| Consultant(s) | Urban planner (Nicole Buchholz), Landscape Architect (Scott Huot) | n/a | in-kind | \$ - |
| Other: | Contingency (landscaping, electrical, plumbing, etc) | n/a | \$ 500 | \$ 500.00 |
| Project stipends | Muralist (working with MICA Community Arts program) | 1 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Subtotal: Personnel | | | | \$ 8,170.00 |
| Supplies | | | | |
| Public art paint | Paint supplies | | \$ 4,500 | \$ 4,500.00 |
| Power-washer rental | Clean pool deck (remove green paint) | | \$ 500 | \$ 500.00 |
| Cement paint | For pool deck (H&C COLORTOP Solvent-Based Solid Color Concrete Sealer); in gallons | 80 | \$ 48 | \$ 3,879.20 |
| Pool paint | For infant/toddler pool; ULTRA - 2 PART EPOXY POOL PAINT | 10 | \$ 209 | \$ 2,090.00 |
| Exterior building paint | Pool building, white box on deck | | | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Paint supplies | Drop cloths, brushes, rollers | | \$ 500 | \$ 500.00 |
| Staff furniture | Tables, chairs (entrance & break room) | | | \$2,000 |
| Lounge chairs | Country club strap chaise lounges (River White Frames) | 40 | \$ 150 | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Adirondack chairs | wooden, for toddler pool area | 10 | \$ 100 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Adult outdoor chairs | IKEA Skarpo | 25 | \$ 60 | \$ 1,499.75 |
| Childrens outdoor chairs | IKEA Bunso | 25 | \$ 18 | \$ 449.75 |
| Picnic tables | Jayhawk recycled plastic square picnic | 10 | \$ 670 | \$ 6,700.00 |
| Umbrellas | 7-1/2' Dia. Fiberglass Market Umbrellas | 15 | \$ 199 | \$ 2,985.00 |
| Umbrella stands | 88 lbs, Loko | 15 | \$ 60 | \$ 900.00 |
| Delivery charge | Furniture delivery to Riverside | n/a | \$ 500 | \$ 500.00 |
| Multicolor Pennant Banner | Fence decoration | 50 | \$ 13 | \$ 649.50 |
| Plants | Perennial grasses from Perennial Farm | 60 | \$ 5 | \$ 300.00 |
| Lap swimming flag stanchions/supports | Requested by lap swimmers | 4 | \$ 200 | \$ 800.00 |
| Lap swimming flags | Requested by lap swimmers | 1 | \$ 100 | \$ 100.00 |
| Lap swimming hand paddles | Requested by lap swimmers | 8 | \$ 10 | \$ 80.00 |
| Lap swimming pull buoys | Requested by lap swimmers | 10 | \$ 8 | \$ 80.00 |
| Lap swimming pace clock | Requested by lap swimmers | 1 | \$ 300 | \$ 300.00 |
| Trash cans | Deluxe Thermoplastic 32 Gallon | 5 | \$ 450 | \$ 2,250.00 |
| Games/activities | Giant jenga, connect four, cornhole, chalkboard paint, chalk, playground toys | 10 | \$ 100 | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Contingency | | | \$ 500 | \$ 500.00 |
| Subtotal: Supplies | | | | \$ 42,563.20 |
| Events | | | | |
| Volunteer food | volunteer meals, season welcome party | | \$ 500 | \$ 500.00 |
| Entertainment | DJ/music summer party | | \$ 500 | \$ 500.00 |
| Staff t-shirts | | | \$ 250 | \$ 250.00 |
| Programming | Fitness classes (Aqua Zumba, yoga) Family Fun day | | | \$5,000 |
| Contingency | | | \$ 500 | \$ 500.00 |
| Subtotal: Events | | | | \$ 6,750.00 |
| Communications | | | | |
| Flyers, Printed Materials | durable welcome/informational banners | | \$ 500 | \$ 500.00 |
| Banners, signs | | 10 | \$ 200 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Contingency | | | \$ 500 | \$ 500.00 |
| Subtotal: Comm. | | | | \$ 2,000.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | | | | \$ 59,483.20 |

INCOME

| Program Income | Description | Quantity | Cost | Total |
|-----------------------------|--|----------|------|---------------------|
| SGBP | | | | \$49,500 |
| Community fundraising | Facebook, GoFundMe • Muralist Stipend (working with MICA Community Arts program): \$5,000 • Fitness classes (Aqua Zumba, yoga) Family Fun day: \$5,000 | | | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Sponsorship(s) | Local business support | | | TBD |
| TOTAL INCOME | | | | \$ 59,500.00 |
| TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET | | | | \$ 59,483.20 |

Riverside Park Pool

current conditions



1 POOL BUILDING



2 ENTRANCE



3 STAFF AREAS



4 SHADE



5 SEATING



6 TABLES



7 INFANT/TODDLER AREA



8 POOL DECK



Riverside Park Pool

pop-up!



1 POOL BUILDING



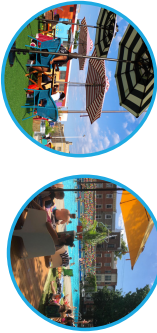
2 ENTRANCE



3 STAFF AREAS



4 SHADE



5 SEATING



6 TABLES



7 INFANT/TODDLER AREA



8 POOL DECK



CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

REGINALD MOORE, Director
DR. RALPH W. E. JONES, JR. BUILDING
3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
410-396-7900

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

South Baltimore Gateway Partnership
101 W. Dickman Street, Suite 1000
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) is the city's leading provider of affordable, year-round leisure and recreational activities for citizens of all ages and abilities. The department adheres to the three pillars of Health & Wellness, Conservation and Social Equity. To this effort, the department makes available public swimming pools throughout the city for summer time fun away from the heat and a chance to learn water safety through our "Learn to Swim" Program at six large Park pools, 12 neighborhood pools, and three indoor pools.

Riverside Pool is one such aquatics facility that has traditionally been an active and diverse space where families swim; the community gathers; youth learn to be lifeguards and children cool down during the summer months.

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks is fully committed to supporting the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s efforts to improve the Riverside Park Pool. Seeing the impact of such projects on Philadelphia's pools provides the department with assurances of its success. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality and could serve as a model for other pools in Baltimore City.

Specifically, BCRP will provide additional support to this effort through:

- Access to pool space for volunteer work, meetings, and planning during the pool season
- Coordinated programming open to all ages and to all citizens of Baltimore
- General in-kind services and department support as needs arise
- Volunteer coordination and technical support

The improvements proposed in this application will increase the use of a public green space by South Baltimore residents, help strengthen community ties, and could even improve property values in surrounding neighborhoods. Such improvements have had wide success at public pools in Philadelphia and New York City, showing a community impact well beyond aesthetics. By investing in a public space that truly brings together people of all ages, races, and incomes, a wider benefit is felt throughout the neighborhood. Neighbors meet for the first time, friendships are made, and local residents become much more invested in their community. Other pools which have received similar "pop-up" investments have seen attendance dramatically increase, volunteer groups grow, and citizens become more engaged.

RNA, along with key volunteers, have a depth of knowledge that will make this project a success. RNA has proven its ability to be a successful steward of the rest of the Park through dedicated volunteers and hard work. This grant will allow them to keep the pool up to the same standard. As this project comes into view,



CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

REGINALD MOORE, Director
DR. RALPH W. E. JONES, JR. BUILDING
3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
410-396-7900

RNA and BCRP will work together to insure the project's success and proper implementation.

Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided. Your consideration for what we think is a worthy project is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions at 410-396-6132 or Reginald.Moore@BaltimoreCity.Gov

Respectfully,

Reginald R. Moore

Director, Department of Recreation & Parks, City of Baltimore





Fitness Fun & Games

non-profit, licensed

810 Weatherbee Road, Baltimore, MD 21286, 410-433-2719

www.FitnessFunandGames.org

Fitness Fun & Games
100 E. Health St.,
Baltimore, MD 21230
Amber McFarlan, Thomas Johnson Site Director

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

Fitness Fun & Games (FFG) supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

FFG is a nonprofit organization established to provide quality programs for children ages 2-8, which support healthy growth of the individual including cognitive, physical, social and emotional development, during out of school hours. FFG runs a summer camp, and children utilize the Riverside Park Pool daily.

The Riverside Park Pool is a historic landmark in South Baltimore. As one of two park pools in South Baltimore, Riverside Park Pool has served the broader community for years, but the physical space, decor, and deck furniture do not meet the needs of its patrons. These issues were exacerbated last year, when electrical complications prevented the pool from opening on time and required all available maintenance resources. This affected the FFG summer camp as the children did not swim until August, the last week of camp. The Riverside Park Pool requires and deserves beautification worthy of both its local history and current use in the community.

RNA, along with key volunteers, have a depth of knowledge that will make this project a success. RNA has proven its ability to be a successful steward of the rest of the Park through dedicated volunteers and hard work.

Your consideration for what we think is a worthy project is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Amber McFarlan

Site Director



Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

SouthBMore.com and the Lynch family (5) of the South Baltimore Neighborhood

SouthBMore.com and the Lynch family supports Riverside Neighborhood Association's (RNA) request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would greatly benefit all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

In so many communities the pool is the social center of the neighborhood in the summer months. It's where friendships are made, it's where kids play, it's where adults socialize, and where important swimming skills are developed. There are swim teams, there are social events and birthday parties, there are good snacks, and there are lots of spaces to enjoy a nice day. I have fond memories of the pools I belonged to growing up, and often take my young kids to pools in my friends' communities out in the suburbs.

The Riverside Park Pool is currently not the social center of South Baltimore. The hours and programming are limited, the facilities are lacking, and most members of our community don't even consider spending a day there. Last summer, the pool didn't even open mid-August.

I have had countless conversations with people about how Riverside Pool is a sleeping giant. It's a large space, it's a large pool, it has a large attached building, and it's in the middle of an amazing community. I hope I'm around to see the day that other communities are jealous of our pool and the activities that take place there.

I support RNA's efforts to request funding improvements to the Riverside Park Pool. RNA's track record of taking care of Riverside Park is incredible and a model for all public parks. I have complete faith in their vision for the pool and their ability to follow through on their commitments.

Thank You,
Kevin Lynch
Founder of SouthBMore.com and South Baltimore resident

410-533-2990
Kevin@inceptmm.com



FROM: Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance

DATE: February 22, 2019

RE: Support Letter for RNA Grant to assist Riverside Pool

To Whom It May Concern:

The downtown Baltimore Family Alliance (DBFA) writes in support for the current request of grant assistance to the Riverside Neighborhood Association in order to make necessary improvements to the Riverside Pool.

DBFA is an independent, non-profit alliance of parents, educators, and community leaders devoted to supporting Baltimore families. Recognizing the critical role families play in the economic stability and growth of the city, DBFA is dedicated to making Baltimore a city that all families love to call home through its work connecting, empowering and advocating for families and children throughout Charm City.

DBFA actively promotes organizations and programs that improve access to accessible public spaces. In a town where backyards are few and far between, we have actively advocated for improving public parks. Some of our strongest attended events take place during the summer

DBFA, P.O. Box 6462, Baltimore, MD 21230

months at parks like Riverside or Patterson. And, it has been our experience that improvements to the public pool at Riverside would bring a significant value to families across South Baltimore.

Not only is the Riverside Pool a historic landmark in Baltimore, but it is a central focal point of family activity during the summer months. Its closure over the 2018 summer season due to prolonged repairs put a damper on many families, in addition to key summer camps and programs that use the pool. Now that the pool has been repaired, it would be excellent to leverage further opportunities for additional improvements. For this reason, DBFA is excited that RNA has taken steps to make these necessary improvements.

Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would bring to fruition the necessary improvements for enhanced use and beautification. Similar projects at public pools have shown a direct increase in attendance at the pool, which in turn can bring additional value to the surrounding community. It would surely become an even greater anchor for families and residents from across South Baltimore's neighborhoods.

In closing, DBFA believes RNA holds the necessary resources and volunteer engagement to make any such progress a success. For this reason, we stand in support of their grant request. Please feel free to reach out with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Tony Stephens

Executive Director, DBFA

tony@baltimorefamilies.org

410-929-2047



Downtown Baltimore
Jewish Community Center

Live, Learn, Play
in your Neighborhood

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

The DBJCC, located in the heart of Federal Hill, offers a colorful and welcoming indoor play space for families. We have playrooms, Baby & Me classes, workshops, special holiday programs and neighborhood events. The DBJCC is open to people of all faiths and backgrounds. Our mission is to engage professionals with young children living downtown, helping families to find fulfillment in urban Baltimore. The DBJCC and the Riverside Neighborhood Association share a common goal of strengthening the Baltimore family community.

DBJCC supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

The Riverside Park Pool is a historic landmark in South Baltimore and played a significant role in Baltimore's desegregation of city pools in the 1960s. As one of two park pools in South Baltimore, Riverside Park Pool has served the broader community for years, but the physical space, decor, and deck furniture do not meet the needs of its patrons. These issues were exacerbated last year, when electrical complications prevented the pool from opening on time and required all available maintenance resources. This affected children's summer camps, local recreational organizations, and the general South Baltimore population. The Riverside Park Pool requires and deserves beautification worthy of both its local history and current use in the community.

The improvements proposed in this application will increase the use of a public green space by South Baltimore residents, help strengthen community ties, and could even improve property values in surrounding neighborhoods. Such improvements have had wide success at public pools in Philadelphia and New York City, showing a community impact well beyond aesthetics. By investing in a public space that truly brings together people of all ages, races, and incomes, a wider benefit is felt throughout the neighborhood. Other pools which have received similar "pop-up" investments have seen attendance dramatically increase, volunteer groups grow, and citizens become more engaged.

RNA, along with key volunteers, have a depth of knowledge that will make this project a success. Project leads include local residents who have lived in the neighborhood for years and know the pool, its patrons, and its needs well, as well as a newer resident who spearheaded similar city pool improvements in Philadelphia over the past three years with great success. RNA has proven its ability to be a successful steward of the rest of the Park through dedicated volunteers and hard work. This grant will allow them to keep the pool up to the same standard.

Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided. Your consideration for what we believe is a worthy project is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Emily Wright
DBJCC Assistant Program Coordinator
dbjcc@jcc.org
410-559-3618

1118 Light Street, Baltimore 21230 (Federal Hill)



Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

Fluid Movement, a non-profit community performance art group celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, is writing in support of the RNA's request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

Fluid Movement has partnered with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks since 1999 to rehearse and present community-based water ballets, roller shows, dance pieces, and other performance art. As pool users and community members, Fluid Movement is integrally connected with Riverside Park and pool. The pool, poolhouse, and surrounding area are in need of investment and repair in order to reflect the pool's true value in the neighborhood as a meeting place and community commons across demographics.

Investing in beautifying the pool will also tell local children that they matter, that they are worth something beautiful and well cared for, rather than a blank and primer-colored municipal cinderblock building. The pool is managed, staffed and programmed by dedicated Aquatics workers who lend and often donate their time to build swimming skills in youth and adults in the Riverside neighborhood, and they deserve a building that reflects their value to the area as well.

The RNA will assemble a large team of skilled volunteers to make the best use of every penny of this grant. It is a supremely worthy cause, money well spent, and an investment in the pursuit of happiness and well being for people in the Riverside area and beyond in the city of Baltimore.

Thank you,
Valarie Perez-Schere
President, Fluid Movement
valarieps@gmail.com

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

Ella Bailey Recreation Center uses the Riverside Park Pool every summer for our Summer Camp participants. We have about 70 children enrolled in the program and the improvements proposed would help tremendously during those times. Including giving the children more space to sit, as well as some new games and even possibly some better shading. In addition we have a new teen council that is looking forward to volunteering their time to help make improvements to a swimming pool that they use daily during the summer hours.

Ella Bailey Recreation Center supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

The Riverside Park Pool is a historic landmark in South Baltimore, and played a significant role in Baltimore's desegregation of city pools in the 1960s. As one of two park pools in South Baltimore, Riverside Park Pool has served the broader community for years, but the physical space, decor, and deck furniture do not meet the needs of its patrons. These issues were exacerbated last year, when electrical complications prevented the pool from opening on time and required all available maintenance resources. This affected children's summer camps, local recreational organizations, and the general South Baltimore population. The Riverside Park Pool requires and deserves beautification worthy of both its local history and current use in the community.

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Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided. Your consideration for what we think is a worthy project is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Macy Drake
Ella Bailey Recreation Center
100 E. Heath St Baltimore, MD 21230
410-396-4634

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

The Riverside Masters Team whole-heartedly supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. Our team has been dedicated to improving the pool for all swimmers over the past 6 years. In that time, we've secured lane lines, began hosting free annual '1000 lap challenges' and hold free regular master's swimming practices. The Masters swimmers fundraise every year to support the free programming and purchase lap swimming equipment for the pool. While these efforts have greatly impacted attendance and the quality of lap swimming at the pool, there is much more that could be done. The pool is such an integral part of the community and an important asset to the city. It provides a safe place for children to spend their summers and brings people together from different neighborhoods and backgrounds. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

The Riverside Park Pool is a historic landmark in South Baltimore and played a significant role in Baltimore's desegregation of city pools in the 1960s. As one of two park pools in South Baltimore, Riverside Park Pool has served the broader community for years, but the physical space, decor, and deck furniture do not meet the needs of its patrons. These issues were exacerbated last year, when electrical complications prevented the pool from opening on time and required all available maintenance resources. This affected children's summer camps, local recreational organizations, and the general South Baltimore population. The Riverside Park Pool requires and deserves beautification worthy of both its local history and current use in the community.

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Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided. Your consideration for what we think is a worthy project is greatly appreciated.

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

As the Pastor of Salem Lutheran Church I am aware that many members of the congregation here make use of the community pool. We celebrate having an accessible and affordable public swimming pool for neighbors and visitors alike.

Salem Lutheran Church supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

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Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided. Your consideration for what we think is a worthy project is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
the Rev. Lauren Muratore

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Martore". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Laura" and last name "Martore" clearly distinguishable.

PastorSalemBaltimore@gmail.com

Thank you,
Riverside Masters Team

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Shaw'.

Email: riversidemasters@googlegroups.com

Email: bshaw02@gmail.com

Cell: 480-452-8127



February 21, 2019

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership:

The National Federation of the Blind is one of the oldest and largest organizations of blind Americans. For decades our national headquarters has been located in the Riverside neighborhood of South Baltimore, right next to the beautiful and historic Riverside Park. It is for this reason that the National Federation of the Blind supports any efforts to maintain the beauty and safety of Riverside Park and its many features, including the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant, in the amount of \$50,000, to improve the Riverside Park Pool. On a more personal note, my family and I live in the South Baltimore Peninsula and use the Riverside Park Pool regularly throughout the summer. I am certain that my children would greatly appreciate the improvements that this grant would fund in order to have a clean, safe, and beautiful pool to swim in with their friends and neighbors. More importantly, this project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

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Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided. Your consideration for what we think is a worthy project is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Riccobono", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark A. Riccobono, President
National Federation of the Blind



February 21, 2019

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

Federal Hill Neighborhood Association strongly supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

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Thank you,
elizabeth whitmer
Beth Whitmer. President
Federal Hill Neighborhood Association



KEY HIGHWAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

Key Highway Community Association (KHCA) supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

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with great success. RNA has proven its ability to be a successful steward of the rest of the Park through dedicated volunteers and hard work. This grant will allow them to keep the pool up to the same standard.

Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided. Your consideration for what we think is a worthy project is greatly appreciated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janan Broadbent', written in a cursive style.

Janan Broadbent, Ph.D., President
Key Highway Community Association
100 Harborview Drive # 200
Baltimore MD 21230
www.keyhca.org



Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

Federal Hill South Neighborhood Association consists of the properties that are bounded by Cross Street, Light Street, Covington Street and Fort Avenue. Many of our members use the Riverside Pool when it is open in the warmer months.

FHSNA supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

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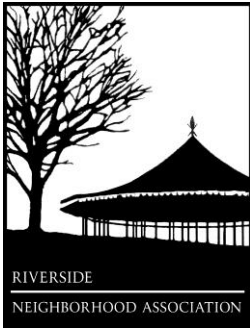
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Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided. Your consideration for what we think is a worthy project is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Mark J.A. Jaskulski
President FHSNA



Riverside Neighborhood Association
200 Wells Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

February 21, 2019

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

Riverside Neighborhood Association

The Riverside Neighborhood Association strongly supports the request for a South Baltimore Gateway Partnership grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods and committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

The Riverside Park is a central part of Peninsula life. The Park is used by thousands of residents, hosts numerous social events throughout the year, serves as a vital public green space, and houses the Riverside Park Pool. Although the park itself is updated and tended to by RNA, the pool has been neglected and its physical space, decor, and deck furniture do not meet the needs of its patrons. These issues were exacerbated last year, when electrical complications prevented the pool from opening on time and required the expenditure of all available maintenance resources. This affected children's summer camps, local recreational organizations, and the general South Baltimore population. The Riverside Park Pool and Peninsula residents requires and deserves this beautification effort.

RNA's subcommittee Friends of Riverside Park, have a depth of knowledge that will make this project a success. The Friends of Riverside Park have a proven record of accomplishment as related to securing donations and funds for events and improvement projects and successfully allocating those funds to positively affect Peninsula residents. For this grant proposal RNA has secured project leads that include local residents who have lived in the neighborhood for years and know the pool, its patrons, and its needs, as well as, a newer resident who, over the last three years, has spearheaded similar city pool improvements in Philadelphia with great success. RNA has proven its ability to be a successful steward of the Park through dedicated volunteers and hard work. This grant will allow us to bring the pool up to that same standard of excellence.

Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided. Your consideration for what we think is a worthy project is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

John G. Pare, Jr., President
Riverside Neighborhood Association

LOCUST POINT



CIVIC ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT
MATT FARCOSKY

VICE PRESIDENT
KATE MCCOMISKEY

**CORRESPONDING
SECRETARY**
GINNY RAJNES

RECORDING SECRETARY
JUSTIN GROSSMAN

TREASURER
SARAH SWIGER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COREY BENEDICT

EMILY HOOPER

TIM HOY

WILL JOVEL

BRIAN MCHALE

DAMIAN O'CONNOR

CAITLIN REGAN

JESSICA ROENICK

JOHN SHEA

MIKE ZAKRJEWSKI

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

The Locust Point Civic Association (LPCA) supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

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Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided. Your consideration for what we think is a worthy project is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Matt Farcosky, President

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

South Baltimore Neighborhood Association (SBNA) supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

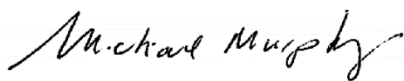
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Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Murphy" clearly legible.

Michael F Murphy
SBNA, President
president@mysobo.org



ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA ACADEMY

EDUCATING BOYS • TRANSFORMING LIVES

February 20, 2019

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

St. Ignatius Loyola Academy is a tuition-free private Jesuit school where boys in grades five through eight from underserved neighborhoods in Baltimore transform their lives through education. We are committed to our students' obtaining success both at the Academy and in their future endeavors, and our program is designed to support this mission. The Academy's program elements include an extended school year that prevents summer learning loss, a rigorous curriculum with high expectations for achievement, experienced mission-driven teachers, and continued mentoring and support services in high school and college that give our students the tools they need to be successful.

Since the Academy opened 26 years ago, 98 percent of our alumni have graduated high school and 88 percent immediately enroll in college after high school. These figures are significantly higher than the same figures for male students at Baltimore City public schools, where only 64 percent receive a high school diploma.

St. Ignatius Loyola Academy supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Our students and school regularly use Riverside Park, especially its fields, and improvements to the Park Pool would greatly improve the overall park and benefit our school community. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

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Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided. Your consideration for this worthy project is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Ciccone", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John J. Ciccone
President

FEDERAL HILL PREPARATORY SCHOOL #45

**1040 William Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
410-396-1207**

February 19, 2019

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

Federal Hill Preparatory School supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods including students that we serve. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

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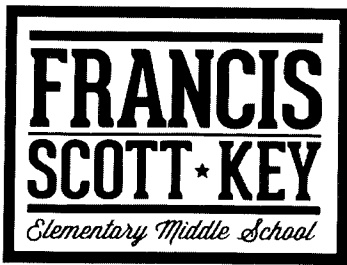
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Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided.

Thank you,



Sara Long
Principal



Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

Francis Scott Key Elementary/Middle School is a school located in the Locust Point area of Baltimore City. We serve a large portion of students on "The Peninsula" that would benefit from the upgrades at Riverside Park Pool.

FSK supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. This project would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods. Committed funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality.

The Riverside Park Pool is a historic landmark in South Baltimore and played a significant role in Baltimore's desegregation of city pools in the 1960s. As one of two park pools in South Baltimore, Riverside Park Pool has served the broader community for years, but the physical space, decor, and deck furniture do not meet the needs of its patrons. These issues were exacerbated last year, when electrical complications prevented the pool from opening on time and required all available maintenance resources. This affected children's summer camps, local recreational organizations, and the general South Baltimore population. The Riverside Park Pool requires and deserves beautification worthy of both its local history and current use in the community.

The improvements proposed in this application will increase the use of a public green space by South Baltimore residents, help strengthen community ties, and could even improve property values in surrounding neighborhoods. Such improvements have had wide success at public pools in Philadelphia and New York City, showing a community impact well beyond aesthetics. By investing in a public space that truly brings together people of all ages, races, and incomes, a wider benefit is felt throughout the neighborhood. Neighbors meet for the first time, friendships are made, and local residents become much more invested in their community. Other pools which have received similar "pop-up" investments have seen attendance dramatically increase, volunteer groups grow, and citizens become more engaged.

RNA, along with key volunteers, have a depth of knowledge that will make this project a success. Project leads include local residents who have lived in the neighborhood for years and know the pool, its patrons, and its needs well, as well as a newer resident who spearheaded similar city pool improvements in Philadelphia over the past three years with great success. RNA has proven its ability to be a successful steward of the rest of the Park through dedicated volunteers and hard work. This grant will allow them to keep the pool up to the same standard.

Please let us know if you need additional information beyond that already provided. Your consideration for what we think is a worthy project is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corey Basmajian".

Corey Basmajian
Principal, Francis Scott Key Elementary Middle School
cbasmajian@bcps.k12.md.us



Thomas Johnson Elementary Middle School

100 East Heath Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
410.396.1575 Fax: 410.545.7345
www.baltimorecityschools.org/84

James A. Dendinger, Principal

February 21, 2019,

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

Thomas Johnson Elementary Middle School (TJEMS) supports the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. As the principal of TJEMS for the past 11 years, and since TJEMS is directly across the street from Riverside Park, I know that this is an important project for the community. The Riverside Park Pool is used by many families of students who attend my school. Many of my students have learned to swim at this pool. Furthermore, the pool provides an affordable and safe option for swimming to people in this community.

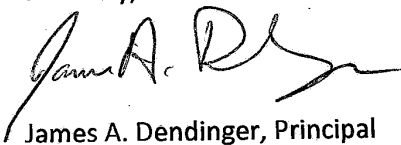
The Riverside Park Pool is one of two park pools in South Baltimore and has served my students for years, but unfortunately the facilities are now below standard. Electrical problems prevented the pool from opening on time and required extensive maintenance resources. This affected my student's summer camps and my students had to leave their community go to a public pool.

Having a nice pool in the neighborhood will improve community ties which is important to the well-being of the Thomas Johnson Elementary Middle School community. By investing in a public space that truly brings together people of all ages, races, and incomes, a wider benefit is felt throughout the neighborhood. Neighbors meet for the first time, friendships are made, and local residents become much more invested in their community. This community investment is important to students and families who attend TJEMS.

Other pools which have received similar "pop-up" investments have seen attendance dramatically increase and citizens become more engaged. RNA and community members have a depth of knowledge that will make this project a success. Project leads include local residents who have lived in the neighborhood for years and know the pool, its patrons, and its needs. I know several parents of students who attend my school who are invested in the Riverside Park Pool and who will continue to volunteer and support the pool. This grant will allow RNA to keep the pool up to the same standard.

Thank you for your consideration of this project that will truly benefit students from TJEMS.

Sincerely,



James A. Dendinger, Principal

ROBBYN LEWIS
Legislative District 46
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 304
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3772 · 301-858-3772
800-492-7122 Ext. 3772
Fax 410-841-3341 · 301-858-3341
Robbyn.Lewis@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 22, 2019

South Baltimore Gateway Partnership
101 W. Dickman Street, Ste. 1000
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear South Baltimore Gateway Partnership,

We are writing in support of the Riverside Neighborhood Association (RNA)'s request for a grant to improve the Riverside Park Pool. Funding from the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership would make this project a reality and would have lasting benefits for all South Baltimore neighborhoods.

The Riverside Park Pool is a historic landmark in South Baltimore and played a significant role in Baltimore's desegregation of city pools in the 1960s. As one of two park pools in South Baltimore, Riverside Park Pool has served the broader community for years, but the physical space does not meet the needs of its patrons. These issues were exacerbated last year, when electrical complications prevented the pool from opening on time and required all available maintenance resources. This affected children's summer camps, local recreational organizations, and the general South Baltimore population.

The improvements proposed in this application will increase the use of a public green space by South Baltimore residents, help strengthen community ties, and improve property values in surrounding neighborhoods. By investing in a public space that truly brings together people of all ages, races, and incomes, a wider benefit is felt throughout the neighborhood. Other pools which have received similar "pop-up" investments have seen attendance dramatically increase, volunteer groups grow, and citizens become more engaged.

RNA, along with key volunteers, has a depth of knowledge that will make this project a success. RNA has proven its ability to be a successful steward of the rest of the Park through dedicated volunteers and hard work. This grant will allow them to keep the pool up to the same standard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robbyn Lewis".

Delegate Robbyn Lewis
District 46 – Baltimore City
6 Bladen Street, Room 304
Annapolis, MD 21401
(o)410-841-3772

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brooke Lierman".

Delegate Brooke Lierman
District 46 – Baltimore City
6 Bladen Street, Room 311
Annapolis, MD 21401
(o)410-841-3319