

## A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE NEW ORLEANS REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING AWARDS FOR THE NEW ORLEANS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FACILITIES FUND GRANT PROGRAM

RES. NO: 2024-13

**MEETING:** 

December 9, 2024

BY:

**Commissioner:** 

**Johnson** 

SECONDED:

Commissioner:

Antrum

The undersigned, being the duly elected Secretary of NEW ORLEANS REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana ("Authority"), hereby certifies that by written consent, the following resolution was duly adopted:

WHEREAS, the New Orleans Early Childhood Education Facilities Fund Grant Program ("NOLA ECE Facilities Grant Program") was created through a partnership between the Authority and Agenda for Children, Inc. ("AFC"), as a direct result of a new property-tax millage approved by New Orleans voters in 2022 and pursuant to the cooperative endeavor agreement between the Authority and AFC, authorized by the Authority on February 15, 2024, through Resolution 2024-02, to administer the ECE Facilities Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Authority approved and adopted the ECE Facilities Grant Program Policies and Procedures (the "ECE Policies & Procedures") on June 10, 2024, through Resolution 2024-06, which acknowledged three (3) grant levels available to awardees: (1) SEED Grants up to \$50,000 for design and business-development technical assistance and minor facility improvements; (2) SUPPORT Grants up to \$100,000 for design and business-development technical assistance and facility renovations and expansion; and (3) GROW Grants up to \$250,000 for business-development technical assistance, expansion of existing facilities, and construction of new facilities, and that any grant will be both recoverable and forgivable over a two- to ten-year period, based on the grant level; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the ECE Policies & Procedures, SEED and SUPPORT Grants are approved by the Executive Director of the Authority, and GROW Grants are approved by the Board of Commissioners of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Application Period, as that term is defined in the NOLA ECE Facilities Grant Program Policies & Procedures, was held from September 4, 2024, through October 11, 2024, seeking applications from facility operators and developers to improve or build new early childhood education facilities; and

WHEREAS, responsive applications were reviewed by a scoring committee, composed of staff members of the Authority, which recommended grant awards to a total of two (2) applicants; and

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WHEREAS, the Authority's staff recommends the award of two (2) GROW Grants of \$250,000 each to the following applicants: (1) Inquisitive Thinkers Learning Center, LLC for the development of a new early childhood education center at 2314 Louisiana Avenue that proposes to be complete by November 2025 and create 60 new early childhood education seats in Orleans Parish, and (2) Wilcox's Academy Central City Inc for the development of a new early childhood education center at 2723 Freret Street, adjacent to 2517 Washington Avenue that proposes to be complete by November 2025 and create 144 new early childhood education seats in Orleans Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Authority seeks the approval of the Board of Commissioners to award a GROW Grant of \$250,000 each to the following two (2) applicants, or their corporate affiliates and/or application partners as determined by the Executive Director of the Authority, in accordance with the terms of the ECE Policies & Procedures: (1) Inquisitive Thinkers Learning Center, LLC, and (2) Wilcox's Academy Central City Inc;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the award of one GROW Grant of \$250,000 each to the following two (2) applicants, or their corporate affiliates and/or application partners as determined by the Executive Director of the Authority, in accordance with the terms of the ECE Policies & Procedures: (1) Inquisitive Thinkers Learning Center, LLC, and (2) Wilcox's Academy Central City Inc; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to negotiate, prepare, and execute any and all documents necessary to complete the awards.

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, ROLL WAS CALLED ON ADOPTION OF SAME, AND THE VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: 6 NAYS: ABSENT: 3

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT EXCERPT OF THE RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NEW ORLEANS REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,

Hattie Brousgard

Secretar