

National Western Center Authority Community Benefits Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting:	June 11 th , 2025	Time:	4:00pm – 5:00pm
Minutes Prepared by:	Lori Laurita	Location: ONLINE	Zoom

Meeting Details

In Person: 5115 Race Ct. Denver CO 80216
 Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VYOBqFtGRdmHjp4ETr4Xtg

Attendance at Meeting

Name	Present	Absent	Notes
Ernest House		X	
Brad Buchanan	X		
Lori Laurita	X		
Jenna Garcia	X		
Steve Nalley	X		
Kathrine Archuleta	X		
Angela Garcia	X		
Sandra Ruiz		X	
Shannon Hoffman	X		
Carolina Acha	X		
Candi CdeBaca	X		
Lillian Flores Amaro	X		

Key Updates and Discussions:

1. Community Investment Fund (CIF):

- **Grant Cycle Update:**
 - CIF announced 18 grantees for the second grant cycle, an increase from 10 grantees last year.
 - Grants were distributed to a broader range of organizations, with most receiving less than requested to maximize reach.
- **Celebration Event:**
 - A celebration for grantees is scheduled for Friday, June 20th, at 5 PM at Johnson Rec Center.



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- **Focus Areas:**
 - Grantees include projects around food access, cultural healing, and community support.
- **Revenue Sharing:**
 - CIF continues to advocate for a revenue-sharing mechanism across the National Western Center campus, with a goal of \$16 million to address community needs like housing, childcare, food access, and small businesses.
- **Training Program:**
 - CIF is engaging with Boston Impact Initiative for training on fund management and growth.

2. Framework Agreement and Relationship:

- CIF emphasized the need to formalize its relationship with the National Western Center Authority in the framework agreement for clarity and transparency.
- Discussions included the process for elevating proposals to amend the framework agreement and ensuring public transparency.

3. Community Benefits and Hotel Development:

- Ongoing work to define mechanisms for community benefits, including the 1% hotel fee and promotion of local businesses.
- Suggestions for reallocating public art funds to other community priorities like housing and public buildings were discussed but require further exploration.

4. Transparency and Documentation:

- CIF requested that meeting recordings be posted publicly for transparency. National Western Center staff noted capacity challenges but agreed to explore this.

5. Future Collaboration:

- Monthly meetings between CIF and National Western Center Authority will continue, with Steve Nalley joining to provide additional support.
- CIF expressed interest in working collaboratively to identify new revenue sources and mechanisms for sustainability.



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Action Items:

1. Framework Agreement Process:

- Develop a formal, transparent process for elevating proposals to amend the framework agreement.

2. Meeting Recordings:

- Explore posting meeting recordings on the National Western Center website for public access.

3. Revenue Sources:

- Continue discussions on creative revenue mechanisms and restricted funding opportunities.

4. Acknowledgment of Funds:

- CIF to update its website to clearly document the sources of funds from National Western Center events.

5. Community Benefits:

- Define and memorialize community benefits in legal terms within the development agreement.

Upcoming Events:

• CIF Grantee Celebration:

- Friday, June 20th, 5 PM at Johnson Rec Center.

Closing Remarks:

- Participants emphasized the importance of collaboration and transparency to strengthen the community and the CIF's impact.

