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City of San Jose Awards #BeautifySJ Grants to 71 Community Groups

Grants of up to \$5,000 will help support dozens of volunteer-led beautification projects – including tree plantings, litter pickups, landscaping projects, graffiti abatement and mural and art box paintings – to be completed in 2018

San Jose, Calif. – This morning, the City of San Jose announced the launch of its inaugural #BeautifySJ grant program that will award 71 neighborhood groups and community organizations funding for local beautification projects in 2018.

The \$5,000-or-less #BeautifySJ grants will support a variety of community-led projects in neighborhoods across the city, including:

- 48 clean-up events
- 20 landscaping projects
- 11 mural and art box paintings
- 7 tree-plantings

[View the list of #BeautifySJ grant-funded projects.](#)

“We know that a modest investment of \$5,000 or less from the City can have an outsized impact, and I’m grateful that so many of our residents have been willing to leverage their own ‘elbow grease’ to help improve their neighborhood,” said Mayor Sam Liccardo. “This program represents one of the many ways that we’re working in partnership with our community to create a cleaner, safer and more vibrant San Jose.”

Launched in early 2017, Mayor Liccardo’s #BeautifySJ: a campaign that aims to reduce trash, graffiti and other sources of blight in our city. Since then, the City has taken steps both to improve its own beautification-related services and enhance partnerships with neighborhood and community groups committed to beautification. To better leverage community-led beautification efforts, the City Council allocated \$300,000 in its final FY 2017-18 budget to support the new grant program managed by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS).

Through the #BeautifySJ grant program, neighborhood associations, volunteer organizations and community groups could apply for up to \$5,000 in grant funding for a local beautification

project. To ensure that the limited City dollars had the greatest impact possible, each grantee was required to provide matching funds or volunteer time equaling at least 50 percent of value of the grant.

“The quality of life in our City thrives because of volunteers,” said Angel Rios, Jr., director of PRNS. “The Trust for Public Land estimates that San José residents have dedicated more than 154,000 volunteer hours to enhance our parks, serve nutritious senior meals at our community centers, clear away graffiti and litter, and assist in fun events. As PRNS builds community through service, #BeautifySJ grant recipients will add to the current equivalent of \$6.14 million in volunteer hours.”

The various grantees have begun planning for their #BeautifySJ grant projects, to take place throughout 2018. For volunteer opportunities and updates on #BeautifySJ grant projects, please visit www.beautifysj.org.

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