Anacostia River Explorers
Informational Session
July 13, 2017

Note from DOEE — Agency strives to be zero waste, including cutting back on handouts and instead passing around temporary materials to reclaim at the end of the tour.

Questions and Answers

Q1. In the past, it was an estimate of 15 people per trip, combination of 1 or 2 hour tours. If a new group was to apply, are new groups expected to follow that format of tour?
A1. Yes, it was outlined in the application package but new ideas are also welcomed. For instance festival tours, sub-hour tours. The focus is the number of participants. The grant isn’t meant to buy a new boat, but it is possible to ramp up the number of tours.

Q2. The way the per-trip estimate is given ($450.00/1 hr or $525.00/2 hr trip x number of people); with a group with one or no boats, would depreciation be included or considered in the grant review process?
A2. The grant isn’t meant to be used on materials to purchase for the tours and should not be included in the budget narrative.

Q3. In the DOEE matching portion of the grant proposal, “use of equipment” is included and could be understood as including boat maintenance, insurance and upkeep for roughly 300 trips a year/50 trips a month. Are matching funds a consideration for this grant?
A3. Matching funds are not a requirement for this grant application.

Q4. Regarding outreach and marketing, focus has been primarily on DC residents in the past; as this program has been reviewed, is there anything that DOEE would like to see more consistently?
A4. Conversations with BIDs and businesses; consistent social media shout-outs, work with OCR to form partnerships; reach out to MOCRs to build support throughout communities and other Wards outside of just the Anacostia watershed; farmers markets, festivals; schools; DOEE would like groups to give shout-outs on social media to assist with outreach (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter) and incorporate DOEE accounts and related hashtags (#trashfreedc).

Q5. Regarding marketing, what tools of engagement beyond social media, Signs on busses, Metro Advertising and Local newspapers.
A5. Applicants can prioritize ANCs along the river and schools within or even outside of the Anacostia watershed, and expand from there.

Q6. Have tours on the Potomac been considered a part of this grant?
A6. DOEE chose not to include the Potomac in the tours for many reasons. One reason is due to the boats that are currently required to fit under the CSX Bridge, a stipulation of this grant, often have issues with stability once they hit the Potomac.

Q7. As the Washington Channel is considered a tributary of the Anacostia River, could it be included in future tours; also, is Bladensburg still included as a launch site?
A7. The Washington Channel would be a welcome addition to the area covered during tours, and Bladensburg is still a reasonable launch site.
Q8. Would DOEE like to see more translated/multi-lingual trips? Including translated tours and materials, particularly in Spanish, especially for charter schools that have large ELL populations and would like to go on tours
A8. Yes. The addition of multi-lingual trips is highly encouraged.

Q9. For handicap accessibility there aren’t any ADA regulations for water vessels, is there any requirement for using ADA acceptable docks?
A9. The more accessible the tours are, the better, but given the nature of the boats and the launch sites we understand not all are accessible.

Q10. Will DOEE expect to see letters of support from agencies to use private launch sites, especially those in public locations like Bladensburg?
A10. No, those responsibilities are on the applicant to receive all applicable permissions for launching tours.

Q11. For Diamond Teague docks, who has the primary responsibility for permits to launch?
A11. The applicant will need to follow up with property manager to determine if a launch site is acceptable for use.

Q13. In the last iteration of the grant, both motorized and self-propelled tours were offered. Are both accepted?
A13. Yes both are accepted but self-propelled is no longer required.

Q14. Can a staff member of your agency provide a letter of support for our boat tour grant proposal?
A14. Letters of support cannot be accepted from DOEE for any DOEE funded solicitation. This would clearly represent a conflict of interest.