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### PRESS RELEASE

# *Mayor McCarthy and The Schenectady Foundation Announce Thriving Neighborhoods Challenge Grants*

*Partnership will invest \$250,000 for twelve neighborhood revitalization initiatives*

**SCHENECTADY** – Mayor Gary McCarthy and The Schenectady Foundation announced twelve grass-roots neighborhood projects to be implemented in 2019 through Schenectady’s Thriving Neighborhoods Challenge. The joint-initiative will invest \$250,000 in funding for these initiatives, \$100,000 of which has been provided by the City of Schenectady.

“Schenectady’s Thriving Neighborhoods Challenge is an exciting new initiative that will help make our neighborhoods stronger, healthier, safer, greener, and more sustainable,” **Mayor Gary McCarthy** said. “We are proud to announce the investment of these twelve neighborhood revitalization projects and look forward to continuing our partnership with The Schenectady Foundation.”

There will be a meeting on **Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 4:00pm** at the Electric City Barn, 400 Craig Street, to help grant recipients understand the grant requirements, and to assist them in their next stages of planning.

In September, the City and The Schenectady Foundation unveiled Schenectady’s Thriving Neighborhoods Challenge, which engages residents to come forward with their ideas for improving their neighborhoods. The proposals were then reviewed by a panel of community members – the Thriving Neighborhoods Council.

“The Challenge has been successful well beyond our hopes,” said **Robert Carreau**, executive director of the Foundation. “We have a lot to do to get these projects off the ground and completed. We’ll then focus our attention on launching a new Neighborhood Challenge before the end of the year.”

In addition to providing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, city staff will provide technical assistance and support to many of the projects. A complete list of the grants is featured below:

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Description</b>
Canvas Murals for Vacant Homes	Hamilton Hill	\$800	Beautify neighborhood by recruiting students to create artwork on canvases to be hung over the windows of vacant homes.
Howe Outdoor Natural Play Space	Howe Elementary School	\$11,500	Create a natural outdoor play space to support nature-inspired learning and recreation.
Our Community Library	Entire City	\$1,400	Build and install "Little Free Library" receptacles around the City, filling them with donated books for neighborhood youth to read and own.
Spray Pad Cooling Area	Woodlawn	\$55,000	Install a water feature to give residents a fun, safe way to cool off and enjoy the summer months.
Show the Love Where You Live	Hamilton Hill & Vale	\$44,000	Decorate trash receptacles to encourage usage instead of littering; educate neighborhood to change the mindset of those who litter.
Rainbow Pride Art	Gateway Park	\$22,000	Install a rainbow pride art sculpture made of colorful wooden frames; including educational panels about LGBTQ equal rights movement.
Cleaner and Greener Mont Pleasant	Mont Pleasant	\$14,000	Organize clean-up efforts in Mont Pleasant, and teach youth the proper ways to recycle and to care about their neighborhood environment.
Northside Pride	Northside/Goose Hill Neighborhood	\$24,200	Provide trash receptacles for residents in the Northside neighborhood, include educational component to change the mindset of the community.
Schenectady and Me	Entire City	\$26,400	Create and display sculptural benches using tiles created by community members, to beautify the area and to increase resident contributors' pride in their work and City.
Phoenix Walks	Hamilton Hill	\$38,500	Create an art walk through the Hamilton Hill community, to include street murals, sculpture and flower gardens, and historical neighborhood information.
Reawakening East Front Street	East Front Street	\$8,900	"Reawaken" a seemingly-forgotten neighborhood by adding welcome banners, trash cans, historical signage, and murals throughout its six streets.
East, Center, and West Alley Trash Containment	East, Center, and West Alleys	\$3,300	Provide trash receptacles for residents in the East, Center, and West Alleys to help clean up and make the streets safer.
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$250,000</b>	