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From the Economic Development Director, Department of Administrative Services requesting authorization to apply for, accept, and implement an Idle Sites Redevelopment Program Grant in a maximum amount of \$200,000 from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to assist in the Urban Ecology Center Riverland Development Project, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is the State of Wisconsin’s (the State) lead economic development agency, focused on sustainable business growth and job creation; and

WHEREAS, WEDC’s Community Development Investment Grant Program is meant to incentivize community redevelopment in the State by providing grants for the redevelopment of sites that “have been idle, abandoned, or underutilized for a period of at least two years,” and funds from these grants can be used toward “demolition, environmental remediation, infrastructure or site-specific improvements to advance the site to shovel ready status or enhance the site’s market attractiveness;” and

WHEREAS, Economic Development, Department of Administrative Services, is seeking authorization to apply for and act as a passthrough grant recipient, in partnership with the Urban Ecology Center (UEC), for an Idle Sites Redevelopment Project grant, in an amount up to \$200,000, to assist in the development efforts of their Riverland Development project (the Project); and

WHEREAS, the development is the creation of a premiere event space in a historic warehouse to provide needed gathering and storage space in their Riverland property, adjacent to the current UEC Riverside Park branch; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the Project are to repurpose an existing building to create this vacant property into a new, 300-person, eco-friendly event space, as well as the creation of easily accessible, flexible, and expanded storage capacity for essential site work and land management equipment, creation of a new outdoor gathering space and play area, and modifications to the existing Riverside Park building to create more classroom space, centrally-located office space, and much-needed storage solutions; and

WHEREAS, the required 50 percent local match shall be satisfied by the UEC budget and fundraising funding already committed to the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks and Culture, at its meeting of January 23, 2024, recommended adoption of File No. 24-128 (vote 5-0); and

46 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of January 25, 2024,
47 recommended adoption of File No. 24-128 (vote 6-0); now, therefore,
48

49 BE IT RESOLVED, Economic Development (ED), Department of Administrative
50 Services (DAS), is hereby authorized to apply for, accept, and implement an Idle Sites
51 Redevelopment (ISR) grant, in an amount up to \$200,000, from the Wisconsin
52 Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), in partnership with the Urban Ecology
53 Center (UEC), to assist in funding their Riverland Development Project (the Project);
54 and
55

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if awarded the grant, ED-DAS is authorized to
57 enter into an ISR Grant Agreement with WEDC, and a Memorandum of Understanding
58 (MOU) with UEC, subject to the approval of the Risk Management Division, DAS, and
59 the Office of Corporation Counsel; and
60

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MOU shall include at least the following terms
62 and conditions:

- 63 (a) Submittal to WEDC of paid, itemized invoices for eligible expenses, with proof
64 of payment for reimbursement purposes, as required by WEDC
- 65 (b) Semi-annual performance reporting during the life of the Project, with a final
66 report due upon completion, as required by WEDC
- 67 (c) Indemnification in favor of Milwaukee County (the County), in the event of a
68 default entitling WEDC to a return of any grant funds expended
- 69 (d) Guarantee that the County is not responsible for financial obligations of the
70 UEC
- 71 (e) Access to Project records during the life of the Project, and for at least three
72 years thereafter for auditing purposes.
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