



# DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center  
1300 Commerce Drive  
Decatur, Georgia 30030

## Agenda Item

File ID: 2024-XXXX

Walk-On Item

4/23/2024

Public Hearing: YES  NO

Department: Board of Commissioners

**SUBJECT:**

Commission District(s): All

Add an Item to the Agenda

**Information Contact:** Commissioner Ted Terry

**Phone Number:** 404.371.4909

**PURPOSE:**

To add an item to the agenda.

**NEED/IMPACT:**

To allow the Commissioners to act on the item.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve adding an item to the agenda.



# DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center  
1300 Commerce Drive  
Decatur, Georgia 30030

## Agenda Item

File #: 2024-XXXX

4/23/2024

File Status: Preliminary Item

Public Hearing: YES  NO  Department: Board of Commissioners - District 6

### SUBJECT:

**Commission District(s):** Commission District 6

To transfer \$12,000 from the District 6 Youth Allocation Fund to the Jane Goodall Institute in support of their Roots and Shoots (R&S) program providing hands-on environmental education workshops to students in DeKalb County.

**Information Contact:** Commissioner Edward C. "Ted" Terry

**Phone Number:** 404-371-4909

### PURPOSE:

To appropriate \$12,000 from the District 6 Youth Allocation Fund to the Jane Goodall Institute in support of their Roots and Shoots program providing hands-on environmental education workshops to students in DeKalb County. These funds will go towards workshops held at two DeKalb County Libraries and creating a new Roots and Shoots group at the Fernbank Museum. The budget is provided in the attachment.

### NEED/IMPACT:

There is a growing demand for a holistic educational approach that equips students with hands-on experiences and cultivate environmental stewardship, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. The Jane Goodall Institute is a nationwide effort with a proved record of "empowering young people to affect positive change in their communities," The library workshops mirrors signature Institute initiatives that include an overview of the R&S methodology including community mapping, a R&S tool that will enable participants to identify problems and opportunities in their own community while empowering them to take action to address these issues. The Fernbank Museum program will consist of a middle school student group of up to 30 students. Youth will be involved in a community mapping workshop and then identify a service project they want to work on. These programs will teach students valuable skills in identifying issues in their own community and how to problem solve. Students will leave empowered to be change makers and environmental advocates.

### FISCAL IMPACT: D6 Reserve for Appropriations General Fund-Youth Initiatives

Increase appropriations for the following account by the amount indicated below:

Non-Departmental - General Fund - Other Miscellaneous Payments (09110.573099.100.0000.0000) - \$12,00.00

Decrease appropriations for the following account by the amount indicated below:

Non-Departmental - General Fund - Reserve for Appropriation (09110.579002.100.0000.0000) - \$12,000

### RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the requested D6 Youth Programs Reserve for appropriation to the Jane Goodall Foundation for the R&S youth programs and authorize the Chief Executive Officer or his designee to execute all necessary documents.



## ROOTS & SHOOTS ATLANTA BASECAMP REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

### PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) proposes to partner with Dekalb County Commissioner Ted Terry to deliver hands-on environmental education workshops to students in Dekalb County. Last year, JGI's Roots & Shoots (R&S) program launched a Basecamp in Atlanta, along with several cities across the country. These Basecamps are grassroots centers of activity that are grown and nurtured by local staff and volunteers for changemakers to collaborate, gain inspiration, and support community service projects that have a positive impact in their community.

JGI proposes to 1) hold workshops at two Dekalb County libraries – Clarkston and Chamblee and 2) create a new R&S group at Fernbank Museum.

The library workshops will be conducted by the R&S Atlanta Basecamp Coordinator, Angelle Cooper. These workshops will include an overview of the R&S methodology including community mapping, a Roots & Shoots tool that will enable participants to identify problems and opportunities in their own community and empower them to take action to address these issues. Through these workshops, we will encourage community members to create their own R&S groups among youth, adults, and seniors.

While most R&S groups are initiated by the groups themselves, JGI will partner with Fernbank Museum to create a group for up to 30 middle school students. The group will be led by Fernbank Museum staff with support from program interns. In keeping with the R&S mission, the service project for this group will be determined by the youth involved after a community mapping workshop. The initial meeting of the group will be scheduled for May 2024 with monthly meetings to continue during the summer and fall.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Out-of-School (OST) programs benefit young people, their families, and communities. Not only do these activities support academic outcomes, but they also provide youth with opportunities for career exploration and exposure to different interests. The Roots & Shoots program at the Fernbank Museum will engage and empower middle school youth while encouraging them to make a difference in their community and the world at large.

Both the library workshops and the Fernbank Science Museum program will be evaluated using surveys and focus groups. The success of the programs will also be based on the number of new R&S groups formed in the county and number of participants recruited for the Fernbank Science Museum program.

## BUDGET

R&S Library Workshops (recruitment, evaluation)	\$4,000
Fernbank Science Museum (staff, program materials, evaluation)	\$6,000
Fruitful Community Foundation (intern stipends)	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>

## JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE’S ROOTS & SHOOTS OVERVIEW

R&S is JGI’s global humanitarian youth program founded on the principle that if young people engage with the issues that help their own communities, it will forever change their consciousness of their role as citizens. Established in 1991 by Dr. Jane Goodall and a group of 12 Tanzanian students, R&S has empowered more than one million youth in 66 counties—including all 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

Today, Jane’s inspirational message is as important as ever. Solving the challenges facing our planet will require a global movement—and that means activating our young people to make a difference for people, animals, and the environment we share. When young people are empowered to create a better world for all beings, they influence the adults in their lives to care as well, thereby creating the conditions for lasting behavior change across countries.

Through R&S, young people learn skills and traits to become change-makers. They do this by planning and implementing service projects that serve people, animals, and the environment. Under the guidance of an educator or group leader, youth work to identify, strategize, and implement service projects through a 4-step process wherein they (1) map their communities, (2) identify local issues, (3) select and implement a service project to address the issue of their choosing, and (4) celebrate their successes. Whether it’s by joining an existing R&S group, creating a new group, or participating as an individual, young people develop confidence and compassion while bringing about positive change in their communities and in their own lives.

At its core, R&S is inclusive and supports all age groups, cultures, and learning environments. R&S reaches young



people by engaging formal and informal educators in schools, colleges, and universities; home school instructors; and program staff in youth-serving programs (e.g., afterschool programs, zoos, and community centers) and via an active social media presence.

*Roots & Shoots members conduct invasive species removal in Rock Creek Park (Washington, DC).*

Guidance, tools, and support are available for free at [rootsandshoots.org](http://rootsandshoots.org), including a community platform that connects youth across the USA. Individuals who join R&S can access curriculum, networking opportunities, and a way to celebrate projects online. R&S provides afterschool educators with necessary training, toolkits, and materials needed to make it as easy as possible to launch a program in their school.

From: Sarah Arnold <[Sarah.Arnold@fernbankmuseum.org](mailto:Sarah.Arnold@fernbankmuseum.org)>

Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 10:08 AM

To: Angelle Cooper <[ACooper@janegoodall.org](mailto:ACooper@janegoodall.org)>

Subject: Letter of Support from Fernbank Museum

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to announce that Fernbank Museum intends to partner on a pilot Roots and Shoots program in Atlanta. Together, we hope to bring together approximately thirty middle school students to identify and implement a service project aligned with the values of Roots and Shoots and Fernbank Museum. We intend this to be an ongoing partnership, pending the outcome of the pilot program. Thank you for considering this partnership and program for funding.

Sincerely,

Sarah Arnold, Director of Education

Fernbank Museum

767 Clifton Rd NE

Atlanta, GA 30307

[sarah.arnold@fernbankmuseum.org](mailto:sarah.arnold@fernbankmuseum.org)

404-929-6395