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By: Phillip Ramati

Latest group of Knight projects awarded grants

The Knight Foundation and The Community Foundation of Central Georgia announced Tuesday it will spend \$203,900 to fund 19 projects designed to enhance life in the College Hill Corridor area.

The grants came as part of the Knight Neighborhood Challenge, launched in June 2009 with \$3 million in funding from the Knight Foundation. The money was given to the Community Foundation, which administers the grant.

“We do have a diverse group of projects this time around,” said Kathryn Dennis, executive director of the Community Foundation. “We focused on the ‘Basics’ (part of the College Hill Corridor Master plan), which focuses on clean, safe and branded. Nine of the 19 projects are in the area of Basics. We placed an early emphasis on that.”

Tuesday’s grant announcements are the second time the Community Foundation has awarded money as part of the Knight Neighborhood Challenge. The foundation awarded \$452,500 to 24 projects last November.

The current grants range from \$450 to clean up graffiti to more than \$94,000 awarded to the College Hill Alliance to create a design plan for Tattnall Square Park.

“The park is the centerpiece of College Hill and a big piece of the master plan,” Dennis said. “This allows the alliance to seek funding for the project by creating a plan for the park.”

The College Hill Corridor comprises the neighborhoods between Mercer University and downtown Macon, and its commission is a partnership between the city and the university. Officials from the

Community Foundation said they received 60 applications by the end of April for this round of projects, at a projected cost of \$1.6 million.

Among the projects awarded grants announced Tuesday at the Cox Capitol Theatre:

- n \$25,000 awarded to Rebuilding Macon Inc. to restore the houses of elderly and disabled homeowners in the corridor.

- n \$21,950 to Historic Macon Foundation for improvements to Tyler's Place Dog Park. Historic Macon also received a \$2,500 grant to reuse cigarette vending machines to sell locally made art and seed packets.

- n \$18,500 for the College Hill Alliance to continue the Second Sunday Brunch concerts held each month.

- n \$10,000 to Macon Outreach to establish a community garden and compost area in an empty lot. Food harvested from the garden will be donated to feed the hungry in Middle Georgia.

- n \$6,500 to ELucas Consulting Inc. for the Cotton Avenue Revival Festival.

- n \$6,190 to Centenary United Methodist Church to install historically appropriate fencing, raised beds and signs in Beall's Hill Garden.

- n \$5,000 to Nathan Dees to fund a down payment program for law enforcement officers who choose to live in the corridor. Dees also received the \$450 grant for weekend graffiti cleanup projects.

- n \$3,716 to the Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission to buy recycling bins for events held within the corridor.

- n \$3,200 to Mercer to conduct an energy audit of Tattnell Square Presbyterian Church. Mercer received an additional \$890 grant to offer energy audits of corridor-area homes.

- n \$2,150 to Heather B. Cutway to give residents energy-efficient, fluorescent lights for the outsides of their homes. Cutway also received a \$700 grant to provide guided, one-hour walks with an expert in the corridor.

- n Grants of \$1,000 and less include awards to James Waldron to design a composting facility for the Mercer Village area; Pam Thomasson, to provide a better sign leading to the Ocmulgee National Monument; Lee A. Johnson, to paint over gang graffiti on buildings, streets and traffic signs; and Aaron Zaritzky, to

install a “No Trash Dumping” sign in the Beall’s Hill neighborhood.

The deadline for the next round of projects is Oct. 15. Application forms and guidelines can be found at www.cfcga.org/knc.

“We hope people put on their thinking caps now to come up with the next big idea,” Dennis said. “This is the essence of what the College Hill movement is all about.”