

**GRANT AGREEMENT
BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM
DIAMOND SQUARE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

THIS GRANT AGREEMENT is made this _____ day of _____ **2021** by and between the **City of Cocoa, Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Agency**, a Florida Community Redevelopment Agency formed pursuant to Section 163.330 et seq., Florida Statutes, whose principal address is 65 Stone Street, Cocoa, Florida 32922 ("CRA") and BERNICE COX whose principal address is 701 Aurora Street, Cocoa, FL 32922 ("Grantee").

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the CRA has implemented the Beautification Program (BP), the primary purpose of which is to improve the aesthetics and economic order of the residential community, thereby promoting the public interest, by making sweat equity grants to property owners of residential property within the Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Area;

WHEREAS, a BP grant application was received by the CRA, submitted by Grantee, regarding the property owned by Grantee and located at street address 701 Aurora Street, Cocoa ("Property");

WHEREAS, a further objective of the BP is to upgrade and preserve the aesthetic appearance of residential buildings in the Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Area in order to reduce blight and make the area more conducive to home investment by providing funding to undertake property improvements to home exteriors in the Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Area;

WHEREAS, the CRA believes the BP will thereby stimulate increased residential opportunities within the Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Area, improve property values and increase tax revenues.

WHEREAS, Grantee has submitted an application under the BP which the CRA believes meets the criteria and purposes as outlined by the program.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration, the mutual covenants and provisions hereof, and other good, diverse, and valuable considerations, the receipt and sufficiency all of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties desiring to be legally bound do hereby agree as follows:

1. **Recitals.** Each and all of the foregoing recitals are hereby incorporated herein and declared to be true and correct.
2. **Property Subject to Grant Agreement.** The real property to be benefited by this grant and that is subject to this Grant Agreement is described on **Exhibit A**, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.
3. **Grant Awarded.**
 - (a) The Grantee is hereby awarded a grant pursuant to the Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Agency BP. All regulations of the BP shall be adhered to by the CRA and the Grantee. The maximum amount of the grant is described in the attached **Exhibit B**. Under no circumstances shall the amount of money granted for qualifying landscaping improvements under the BP to the Grantee exceed the amount set forth in **Exhibit B** as the Maximum of Amount of Grant as approved or otherwise aggregately exceed the sum of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** in the event that a previous grant has been provided to Grantee for the same commercial parcel of property located in the Diamond Square CRA district. Grant funds shall only be paid by the Diamond Square CRA for qualified approved home landscaping program described on **Exhibit B**.
 - (b) The Grant is awarded and paid to a pre-approved landscaping store identified by the City of Cocoa CRA staff. Completion of all landscaping shall require final inspection, certificate of completion, or similar instrument, issued by the City of Cocoa's CRA staff for the residential landscaping work subject to this grant.
 - (c) The Grantee acknowledges and agrees that landscaping labor costs and any costs for additional landscaping or supplies beyond those given in accordance with the grant application shall be at the sole expense of the Grantee.
 - (d) All work subject to this Grant Agreement must begin within 15 days of receiving landscaping supplies and be completed within 60 days of the receipt of landscaping supplies.

4. **Warranty of Grantee: Maintenance.**

(a) Grantee agrees and warrants to the CRA that the landscaping supplies provided pursuant to this grant shall only be used for purposes as approved in **Exhibit B**.

(b) Grantee covenants and warrants that all landscaping improvements approved under this Grant Agreement shall be maintained and preserved for a minimum of one (1) year. If the Diamond Square CRA determines that said improvements are not being properly maintained during said one (1) year period, the Grantee agrees that it is liable to and shall immediately reimburse the CRA for the entire amount of this BP Grant, plus interest. Grantee shall be required to refund the amount to the CRA within thirty (30) days of receiving the demand.

(c) The Grantee covenants and warrants that it shall have current and valid Homeowner's Insurance. All such insurance shall be carried with such company or companies as may be reasonably acceptable to the CRA and the original policy or policies and renewals thereof (or, at the option of the CRA, duplicate originals or certified copies thereof) together with receipts evidencing payment of the premium therefore shall be deposited with, held by and are hereby assigned to the CRA as additional security for the indebtedness secured hereby.

5. **Grantee is an Independent Contractor.** It is specifically understood and agreed to by and between the parties hereto that in utilizing the funds hereunder, that this grant award, and relationship between the CRA and the Grantee is one in which the Grantee is an independent contractor of the CRA and not an agent, employee, joint venture, or other partner of the CRA or the City of Cocoa. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to be inconsistent with this relationship or status. Nothing in this Grant Agreement shall be interpreted or construed to constitute the Grantee, or any of its agents, volunteers, or employees to be the agent, employee, partner, or representative of the CRA or the City of Cocoa.
6. **Grantee's Signatory.** The undersigned person executing this Grant Agreement as Grantee hereby represents and warrants that he/she has the full authority to sign said Grant Agreement as the Grantee and is binding the Grantee to the terms and conditions set forth in this Grant Agreement.
7. **Record retention: Public records: Accounting: Inspection.**
 - (a) Financial records, supporting documentation, statistical and all other records pertinent to this Grant Agreement shall be retained for a period of at least one (1) (365 days = 1 year) after final payment by the CRA of any grant funds, except that in all cases such records shall be retained until final resolution of matters resulting from any litigation, claim, or audit initiated prior to the expiration of the five year retention period and shall continue to be subject to retention until the same is resolved to the satisfaction of the CRA.
 - (b) Pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, the Grantee agrees that any records, documents, transactions, writings, papers, letters, computerized information and programs, maps, books, audio or video tapes, films, photographs, data processing software, writings or other material(s), regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, of the Grantee related, directly or indirectly, to this Grant Agreement and made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by the CRA, may be deemed to be a public record and subject to the provisions of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, whether in the possession or control of CRA or the Grantee, and may not be destroyed without the specific written approval of the CRA's designated custodial of public records.

The Grantee shall provide the CRA, upon request from the CRA, copies of requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided by law. The Grantee agrees to comply with public records laws. Should the CRA not possess public records relating to this Grant Agreement which are requested to be inspected or copied by the CRA or any other person, the CRA shall immediately notify the Grantee of the request and the Grantee shall then provide such records to the CRA or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time. All public records in connection with this Grant Agreement shall, at any and all reasonable times during the normal business hours of the Grantee, be open and freely exhibited to the CRA for the purpose of examination, audit, or otherwise. If the Grantee fails to comply with this Section, and the CRA must enforce this Section, or the CRA suffers a third-party award of attorney's fees and/or damages for violating Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, due to Grantee's failure to comply with this Section, the CRA shall collect from Grantee prevailing party attorney's fees and costs, and any damages incurred by the CRA, for enforcing this Section against Grantee. And, if applicable, the CRA shall also be entitled to reimbursement of all attorneys' fees and damages which the CRA had to pay a third party because of the Grantee's failure to comply with this Section. The terms and conditions set forth in this Section shall survive the termination of this Grant Agreement.

(c) The CRA staff is authorized to conduct an inspection of the property to ensure improvements are maintained in accordance with this Grant Agreement. The CRA agrees that any inspection shall be coordinated with the property owner. In the event, the inspection deems the Grantee is in default of the Grant Agreement, the CRA will notify Grantee within 15 days.

8. **Indemnification and Hold Harmless.** The Grantee agrees to the fullest extent permitted by law, to indemnify and hold harmless the CRA, its employees, officers, and attorneys from and against all claims, losses, damages, personal injuries (including but not limited to death), or liability (including reasonable attorney's fees), directly or indirectly arising from the acts, inactions, errors, omissions, intentional or otherwise, arising out of or resulting from:
- (i) any act or omission on the part of the Grantee, its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, or invitees in the construction, reconstruction, or building of any improvement for which CRA funds might be reimbursed pursuant to this Grant Agreement;
 - (ii) by reason of any breach, violation or nonperformance of any condition or covenant in this Grant Agreement on the part of the Grantee;
 - (iii) injury and negligence based on a failure to train or supervise workers, employees, contractors, volunteers, or agents of the Grantee in performing services or supplying material for work that is to be reimbursed pursuant to this Grant Agreement;
 - (iv) failure of the Grantee, or its employees, agents, or volunteers, to employ safety measures in the performance of work that is to be reimbursed pursuant to this Grant Agreement;
 - (v) injury or negligence of any person arising from the work or material supplied that is subject to reimbursement pursuant to this Grant Agreement; or
 - (vi) failure to follow or correctly follow directions of the State or any other governmental entity.

The indemnification provided above shall obligate the Grantee to defend at its own expense or to provide for such defense, at the option of the CRA, as the case may be, of any and all claims of liability and all suits and actions of every name and description that may be brought against the CRA or its employees, acts or omissions stated above under this Grant Agreement whether performed by the Grantee, anyone directly or indirectly employed by the Grantee, or anyone otherwise authorized to act, in any manner, on their behalf. In all events, the CRA shall be permitted to choose legal counsel of its sole choice, the fees for which shall be reasonable and subject to and included with this indemnification provided herein. This indemnification provision shall survive termination of the Grant Agreement.

9. **Applicable Law/Notice.**

(a) This grant award and the attachments hereto shall be governed by the law of the State of Florida. Venue shall only be properly placed in Brevard County, Florida for state court actions and Orlando, Florida for federal actions.

(b) All notices, demands, requests, instructions, approvals, and claims shall be in writing. All notice of any type hereunder shall be given by U.S. mail or by hand delivery to an individual authorized to receive mail for the below listed individuals, all to the following individuals at the following locations:

TO THE DIAMOND

SQUARE CRA:

Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Agency
c/o The City of Cocoa Office of Economic
Development 65 Stone Street
Cocoa, Florida 329

TO THE GRANTEE:

Bernice Cox
701 Aurora Street
Cocoa, FL 32922

Notice shall be deemed to have been given and received on the date the notice is physically received if given by hand delivery or first-class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, as addressed above. Notice shall be deemed to have been given and received on the date the notice is mailed, if given by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, as addressed above. Any party hereto by giving notice in the manner set forth herein may unilaterally change the name of the person to whom notice is to be given or the address at which notice is to be received.

10. **Interpretation.** Both the CRA and the Grantee have participated in the drafting of all parts of this Grant Agreement. As a result, it is the intent of the parties that no portion of this Grant Agreement shall be interpreted more harshly against either of the parties as the drafter.
11. **Amendment of Grant Agreement.** Modifications or changes in this Grant Agreement must be in writing and executed by the parties bound to this Grant Agreement.

12. **Severability.** Invalidation of any one word, clause, sentence, or paragraph, or the application thereof in specific circumstances, by judgment, court order, or administrative hearing or order shall not affect any other words, clauses, sentences, or paragraphs, all of which shall remain in full force and effect, and this Grant Agreement shall be read as if said invalidated word, clause, sentence, or paragraph did not exist.

13. **Attorney's Fees.** In the event any litigation or controversy arises out of or in connection with the parties hereto, each party shall bear their own costs and attorney's fees. Notwithstanding the foregoing, should the CRA determine that the Grantee must reimburse the DS CRA in the amount of the Grant for failure to maintain the improvements in accordance with this Grant Agreement, the Grantee shall be responsible for all related costs and attorney's fees incurred by the CRA as to any related litigation or controversy.

14. **Entire Grant Agreement.** This Grant Agreement represents the entire and integrated Agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, or Agreements, either oral or written, and all such matters shall be deemed merged into this Grant Agreement.

15. **Sovereign Immunity.** The CRA intends to avail itself of the benefits of Section 768.28, Florida Statutes and any other statutes and common law governing sovereign immunity to the fullest extent possible. Neither this provision nor any other provision of this Grant Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of the CRA's right to sovereign immunity under section 768.28, Florida Statutes, or other limitations imposed on the CRA's potential liability under state or federal law. As such, the CRA shall not be liable under this Grant Agreement for punitive damages or interest for the period before judgment. Further, the CRA shall not be liable for any claim or judgment, or portion thereof, to any one person for more than two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00), or any claim or judgment, or portion thereof, which, when totaled with all other claims or judgments paid by the State or its agencies and subdivisions arising out of the same incident or occurrence, exceeds the sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00). Nothing in this Grant Agreement is intended to inure to the benefit of any third party for the purpose of allowing any claim which would otherwise be barred under the doctrine of sovereign immunity or by operation of law. This paragraph shall survive termination of this Grant Agreement.

16. **Headings.** The headings used in this Grant Agreement are for reference only and shall not be relied upon nor used in the interpretations of this Grant Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Diamond Square CRA and Grantee have set forth their signatures on the day and year written below.

Witnesses: _____ Print Name: _____ _____ Print Name: _____	GRANTOR: Diamond Square Florida Community Redevelopment Agency pursuant to Section 163.330 et seq., Florida Statutes. By: Stockton Whitten, City Manager _____ Signature
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STATE OF Florida
COUNTY OF Brevard

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this ____ day of _____ 2021 by **Stockton Whitten**, City Manager, City of Cocoa and the Diamond Square Community Redevelopment Agency, a Florida Community Redevelopment Agency formed pursuant to Section 163.330 et seq., Florida Statutes, who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged before me that he executed the same for the uses and purposes therein expressed and who is personally known to me and who did not take an oath.

(NOTARY SEAL)

Notary Public Signature

Typed or Printed Notary Name

[This area left intentionally blank, signatures on next page]

Witnesses: <hr/> Print Name: _____ <hr/> Print Name: _____	GRANTEE: <hr/> Print Name: _____ Title: _____
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STATE OF Florida
COUNTY OF Brevard

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this ____ day of _____, 2021, by: _____

the foregoing instrument and acknowledged before me that he/she executed the same for the uses and purposes therein expressed and who is personally known to me or who has produced as identification and who did not take an oath.

(NOTARY SEAL)

Notary Public Signature

Typed or Printed Notary Name

[This area left intentionally blank]

EXHIBIT A

DESCRIPTION OF REAL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO GRANT AGREEMENT

Street Address:

701 Aurora Street, Cocoa, FL 32922

Owner Name: Bernice Cox

EXHIBIT B

GRANT DESCRIPTION

Maximum Amount of Grant as Approved: \$ 500

Cost of Items Included will be
no greater than \$500, as per
grant requirement

Items Included in this Grant:

"Florida Friendly" Shrubs / bushes - List:

Hibiscus

_____	Cost: \$ _____

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

* Florida Friendly" is defined as- quality landscapes that conserve water, protect the environment, are adaptable to local conditions, and are drought tolerant.

Total: _____

