



**BACKGROUND:** UpCycle Creative Reuse Center, founded in 2011, is an Alexandria-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to connect creativity and conservation to promote artistic expression and environmentally sustainable behaviors. Upcycle envisions a community where everyone has the opportunity to experience the fun and benefits of art exploration and works collectively to reduce waste and repurpose unwanted materials. UpCycle rethinks the notion of waste, collecting cast-offs from the community to serve as creative materials. UpCycle gives people of all ages the opportunity to experiment, create and play with a variety of media for artistic use and expression.

UpCycle Creative Reuse Center has been based at the Durant Center since 2015 and the current agreement expires on October 31, 2021.

**DISCUSSION:** UpCycle Creative Reuse Center uses their leased space at the Durant Center for their administrative offices, their community reuse store, and storage. The store inventory is affordable and changes constantly, providing inspiration and outlets for creativity.

UpCycle offers a variety of free and fee-based programs for children and adults in the community. The shop is currently open to the public three days per week. Donations of recycled items are received on Wednesdays and Saturdays. UpCycle has a PARKnership agreement with the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and has expanded their programming to include more free community programs and additional programs at other recreation centers. UpCycle continued to provide access to the reuse store and additional community activities throughout the pandemic and provided their 2020 Annual Report for more information on their programs (Attachment 2).

The terms of the lease are similar to those in previous agreements.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** UpCycle will continue to pay the monthly amount of \$588, based on the current annual lease rate of \$7,056.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Proposed UpCycle Lease Agreement
2. UpCylce 2020 Annual Report

**STAFF:**

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