

Neighborhood Development Grants Program
2011 Neighborhood Development Project Application
deadline: noon, 12/17/10, City Hall, CEDO offices, 149 Church Street
attn: Jenny Davis, 865-7172, jdavis@ci.burlington.vt.us

NG9

Ward: 5

Contact Person(s):

- 1) Devon Karn
- 2) Kitty Bartlett
- 3) Noah Pollock

Mailing Address:

Devon Karn
74 Conger Ave.
Burlington, VT 05401

Project Name: Lakeside Gateway Project

Project Location/Address: Lakeside Avenue Underpass

This Grant Request \$ 7,493

Neighborhood Planning Assembly Steering Committee Signature(s):

City Department Signature(s)

Department: _____ **Signature:** _____

Department _____ **Signature:** _____

1. What is your project? What do you hope to accomplish? Please be specific:

The only entryway into the historic Lakeside neighborhood is a narrow street that passes beneath a crumbling and graffiti-scrawled railroad underpass. This dilapidated eyesore gives the impression of being unsafe, unkempt, and uncared for. The forlorn state of this entrance directly impacts the residents' outlook on their neighborhood and the impression area businesses and visitors have of the area. We would like to change our community self image by presenting our neighborhood through a welcoming and well-maintained gateway. (Please see appendices B & C for site maps and photos.)

Our proposal is to convert this blighted area into a neighborhood gateway – built proudly with our own hands – by landscaping the weedy embankments and painting community murals on the concrete abutments of the underpass.

In Burlington's City of Neighborhoods plan, we find the following rationale that fits perfectly with the intent of this project: "Neighborhood boundaries are defined by where you live, and more importantly the people who live near you. It is this sense of place, and the quality of the built and natural environment, that form the foundation of Burlington's outstanding quality of life. The individuality of each residential area of the city must be respected in order to support and strengthen established neighborhood land use and design patterns, and most importantly the quality of life enjoyed by the residents."

2. What particular neighborhood need or problem will the project address? How was it identified? Is it part of or coordinated with a larger municipal plan? How will it benefit low-moderate income residents?

There is a need to rectify this overgrown and crumbling entryway; it's an issue that community members have identified as a problem for decades. It has also been identified by a State inspection report that notes it is in need of maintenance and repairs.

This project is in line with the Community Facilities and Services section of the 2006 Burlington Municipal Development Plan in that it "Ensures that existing public property, buildings, and capital facilities receive regular maintenance, and any upgrade, replacement, or expansion of these facilities be based on approved standards."

Work on the gateway will empower low-income residents to work alongside neighborhood business people who provide jobs, building bonds between both groups as they put their time and skills toward a shared community goal. Once finished, the gateway will be a point of pride for all residents and employees – a welcoming front door to be shared by everyone as it accurately conveys the warm heart of Lakeside.

3. How will the project improve the neighborhood? Please be specific:

As you enter the neighborhood, the first thing you will see is a well-maintained face of the community. It will help retain area businesses that find the current situation an embarrassment, and perhaps more importantly, it will improve the sense of community and self-image of the neighborhood and those who live here. We are told we “live on the wrong side of the tracks,” which is enforced every time we drive through this eyesore. We would like to present ourselves in a more positive way with a gateway that reflects and respects the working class heritage of our community.

4. Who will the project benefit? How will it specifically benefit people living in poverty?

The project will benefit the residents who live here, many of whom are descendents of the original French Canadian mill workers who established this tight-knit community in the 1890's, single parents, low-income renters, retirees, first-time home buyers, and people with disabilities. It will also benefit businesses embedded in the neighborhood that we are trying to retain, most of which employ neighborhood residents.

The Lakeside neighborhood is eligible for CDBG funding due to its recognized status of having over half of our residents living in households whose income is 80% or less of the area median income according to 2008 Consolidated Plan for the City of Burlington.

5. Is there clear community support for the project? How has it been demonstrated?

This is our third application for this project through CDBG. Each application attempt has been led by different groups of neighbors. Each time we are told we have a great project, but have not yet obtained funding. Our neighbors are supportive and determined to address this community priority by volunteering time, physically working on the project, and raising money. It has periodically been a topic of concern expressed on Front Porch Forum. Neighbors have also been made aware of this current application effort through Front Porch Forum and all responders have been enthusiastically supportive.

6. How will the project leverage matching dollars, volunteer commitments or other community resources? What, specifically, are those commitments?

Our plan involves raising matching funds from businesses in the neighborhood that have expressed interest in the project, including Coffee Enterprises and Blodgett Supply. In addition, residents and employees in the neighborhood are already committed to volunteering their time and skills on the project. Finally, we are planning on holding a pancake breakfast at the St. Johns Club to raise funds, which has been successful in the past.

7. Who will carry out the project? How will they be accountable to the neighborhood?

The project steering committee, which includes members from the City of Burlington, Coffee Enterprises, and Lakeside residents, will be responsible for the project. We are accountable because we live here and neighbors who see us everyday will hold us accountable. We will report project status and opportunities for involvement through Front Porch Forum and flyers around the neighborhood.

8. What is the timeline for completing the project (funding is available no earlier than 7/1/10 through 6/30/11)? What City departments will be involved in the project? Have those departments been consulted about the project?

Phase I:

We are anxious to get started and can complete the landscaping work by fall 2011.

Phase II:

Prior to painting the mural, the City of Burlington must do required maintenance on the concrete surface of the underpass. This work has been needed for years and the City is now committed to doing the work at their expense in coordination with this application. The City's work will be completed in the summer of 2012. Following the repairs, we will complete the mural portion of the project.

The City Arborist has also been consulted, and has volunteered to help our planning committee. Both the Department of Public Works and the Parks Department are in agreement with our proposed timeline.

9. Line Item Budget: Show how you plan to pay for this project.

- Detail all items and services you will need to implement this project. Show the estimated cost of each, and list at least two sources for each estimate (please use Burlington-based businesses where possible).
- Detail all in-kind donations you plan to utilize, including volunteer hours, showing the “cost” for that donation in parentheses (). Please note that the value of an hour of volunteer time is \$20.25.

Item / Service	Cost Estimate
<u>Site prep and soil enhancement</u>	\$ <u>3,242</u>
<u>Shrubs and hardy perennials</u>	\$ <u>4,375</u>
<u>Retaining wall materials</u>	\$ <u>1,282</u>
<u>Design and planning</u>	\$ <u>500</u>
<u>Paint and supplies</u>	\$ <u>921</u>
<u>Labor</u>	\$ <u>2,025</u>

In-Kind Services and Donations	Cost Estimate
<u>Volunteer hours</u>	\$ <u>(2,025)</u>
<u>Local business donation</u>	\$ <u>(1,000)</u>
<u>Landscape designer</u>	\$ <u>(500)</u>
<u>Donated materials</u>	\$ <u>(1,028)</u>

Total Budget for this Project (add all lines)	\$ <u>12,346</u>
Total value of all in-kind services and donations	\$ <u>(4,853)</u>
Total amount of Grant Request	\$ <u>7,493</u>

NOTE: Please see additional budget detail in Appendix A, attached

Appendix A: Project Budget Detail

Item/Service	Cost Estimate
Site prep and soil enhancement ¹	\$3,242
Shrubs and hardy perennials ²	\$4,375
Retaining Wall materials ³	\$1,282
Design and planning ⁴	\$500
Paint and painting supplies ⁵	\$921
Labor ⁶	\$2,025
<i>In-kind Services and Donations</i>	
Volunteer Hours ⁶	(\$2,025)
Local Business Donation ⁷	(\$1,000)
Fundraising Event ⁸	(\$300)
Landscape Designer	(\$500)
Donated materials ⁹	(\$1,028)
Total Budget	\$12,346
Total value of all in-kind services and donations	(\$4,853)
Total amount of Grant Request	\$7,493

Notes

1. Soil under overpass is fill unsuitable for plantings. We estimate a need for 55 cubic yards of top soil and 11 cubic yards of mulch. Total costs based on estimates provided by Intervale Compost and Gardners supply, for topsoil at \$44.50/yard and for mulch of \$35/yard, plus a \$431 delivery fee (based on 8-10 yards per truck and \$55/truck load)
2. We assume 146 plants: 875 square feet of plantings at a planting density of one plant every six square feet. Average cost/plant of \$30 from conversations with Gardner's Supply and Landshapes LLC.
3. 234 linear feet of retaining wall made up of 44 6x6 Pressure Treated timbers (attached two high), nailed with 12" spikes and fixed with rebar to ground. Costs from Lowes and Curtis Lumber of \$29/12' foot timber, .25/spike, \$5 per rebar.
4. Assumes 10 hours skilled labor valued at \$50/hour. Source: Intervale Landscaping Services.
5. Mural area is 1,940. Assumes use of California Paintings All-floor water-based, self-priming paint with a coverage of 400 square feet/gallon. Assume twelve colors: 9 gallons @ \$42/quart and 3 quarts at \$15/quart (Source: Able Glass and Pain, Curtis Lumber). Assumes two coats.
6. Based on 100 hours of volunteer time: Retaining wall construction (32 people hours), planning (20 people hours), soil prep (16 people hours), plantings (32 people hours), w/ value of 20.25/hour
7. \$1,000 donation committed from a local business.
8. Fundraiser planned at St. John's Club.
9. 15% discount committed from Able Glass, and 10% from Curtis Lumber, 10% from Gardner's Supply.