

Valparaiso Offers Neighborhood Grants for 2021

The City of Valparaiso is now accepting applications for its annual Neighborhood Improvement Grant program. Introduced in 2018, the grants give residents an opportunity to have direct input and influence into the improvement of their own neighborhoods. “Over the past three years, 38 Neighborhood Improvement Grants have helped neighbors come together for common goals like signage and sidewalks, playground equipment, bus stop benches and more – all inspiring neighbors to gather and invest in their spaces,” said Maggie Clifton, Valparaiso’s Community Engagement Director and creator of the program. The grant funds are provided by the Redevelopment Commission and administered by the Community Engagement Department.

The grants are available for qualified neighborhood-based projects, in increments up to \$15,000 per neighborhood. New this year, multiple neighborhoods may join together to submit one application for up to \$30,000. This year’s guidelines have also, expanded support for neighborhood maintenance projects and added a special block party mini-grant opportunity to support block party expenses up to \$500 per neighborhood. “These changes are really a result of positive feedback from neighborhood groups and our motivation to provide support where it’s needed,” said Clifton.

Projects considered for grant funding may include things like:

- Physical improvements, like fixing sidewalks or enhancing park equipment
- Public art displays that add unique character by representing the neighborhood
- Neighborhood signage/branding that instills unity and a sense of pride
- Other placemaking and community building projects conceived by the neighborhood

Applications are due July 31

An information Zoom webinar will be held Wednesday, March 31 at 6:00 pm, available at <https://zoom.us/j/95330040450>. Applications will be due on July 31. A grant review committee will then submit recommendations to the Redevelopment Commission at the August meeting. Maggie Clifton will be working with residents and the city’s leadership team to assist neighborhoods in polishing their ideas. For questions or guidance, Clifton is available at MClifton@valpo.us or at City Hall, 219-462-1161.

Photo caption: The City of Valparaiso is now accepting applications for Neighborhood Improvement Grant, 2021. The City has presented 38 Neighborhood Improvement Grants since 2018, helping neighbors come together for common goals, such as signage and sidewalks, playground equipment and play spaces, bus stop benches, Little Libraries, and more. Grant applications are due July 31. To learn more, visit the Community Engagement page at Valpo.us.