Environmental Beautification

Request For Proposals
Pre-Application Workshop

July 12, 2022
Welcome
Housekeeping Items

- Please rename yourself to include organization in name
- Submit questions through the Zoom chat throughout the presentation
- There will be a Q&A session at the conclusion of the presentation
- Any outstanding questions will receive responses via email
- Meeting is being recorded and will be posted on GCF’s website
Purpose:
To gain greater clarity regarding the content and process of the Environmental Beautification RFP.
Overview of GCF Grantmaking

• Deep concentrated investments:
  • Housing Stability
  • Economic Mobility
  • Racial Justice
  • Capacity Building

• Targeted Requests for Proposals in key sectors

• Private Foundations

Central entry point for questions or feedback: Inquiry Form
Request for Proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Release</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety Net*</td>
<td>July 6, 2022</td>
<td>Biennial – Even Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Beautification</td>
<td>July 6, 2022</td>
<td>Biennial – Even Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summertime Kids &amp; Learning Links</td>
<td>January 2023</td>
<td>Annual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Success*</td>
<td>January 2023</td>
<td>Biennial – Odd Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vibrant Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>July 2023</td>
<td>Biennial – Odd Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inclusive Communities Cohort</td>
<td>January 2024</td>
<td>Biennial – Even Years</td>
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*Multi-year Funding Opportunity: Applicants awarded through this process will be eligible to renew their grant award for an additional year. Consideration for renewal will occur at the time of the first year follow up report.
Environmental Beautification

Request for Proposals

Generous Donors ~ Designated Funds ~ Expect to make ~15 grants
Funding Focus

Purposes:

• To support the environmental beautification of this region by enhancing the accessibility and quality of greenspaces and/or connecting historically marginalized groups to the benefits of nature.

A few things to note:

• Grants up to $25,000.

• Funding will not be awarded for fundraising campaigns

• Review funding focus, criteria and preferences carefully.
# Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Steps</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFP Workshop (optional)</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 12, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter of Intent Deadline</td>
<td>Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Invitation Communicated</td>
<td>Week of August 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal Deadline</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 5:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision Communicated</td>
<td>Late October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Received</td>
<td>Early November</td>
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Updated Process: LOI

Evaluation of Letters of Intent

- Alignment to the Request for Proposal Purpose
- Racial Equity Approach
- Community Engagement
- Request Goals
Digging into the funding focus:

To support the environmental beautification of this region by enhancing the **accessibility and quality** of greenspaces and/or connecting **historically marginalized groups** to the benefits of nature.

What does it mean to enhance accessibility and quality?

Who is included in “historically marginalized groups”?

What outcomes would align with this funding focus?
Applying a Racial Equity Lens

A racial equity lens is an approach that involves many components including:

- Disaggregating and analyzing data and information by race and ethnicity,
- Understanding disparities and learning why they exist,
- Looking at problems and their root causes from a structural standpoint,
- Naming race explicitly when talking about problems and solutions

Include how your organization is thinking about racial equity, and, if relevant, how that thinking influences your work in general, or this proposal specifically.
Community Voice & Engagement

How does your organization involve the communities you serve?

• Does your organization involve community members in the organization’s decision making or programming?
• Do you have community members with lived experience on your staff or board?
• Does your organization collect feedback from those that are served?
Thinking about evaluation

Goals
• What are you trying to achieve with this grant?
• Inspirational
• Both shorter and longer term goals

Measures
• How do you know how you’re doing?
• Concrete & measurable (include a target number/rate)
• Include outcomes (not just outputs)
• Align with past results

Methods
• How are you collecting the information you need for your measures?
• Clear
• Includes description of data collection process

Consistency is key!
Outputs vs. Outcomes

• The difference between an output and outcome is impact.

Example 1:

• Program: Prairie Restoration Program
• Output: number of acres of prairie restored
• Outcome: Increased sense of open space and relaxation for visitors
Output or Outcome?

Example 2:

- Program: Nature Education Program
- Output or outcome?
  Students improve academic performance
Output or Outcome?

Example 3:

• Program: Community Garden Project
• Output or outcome?
  Number of garden beds planted
Output or Outcome?

Example 4:

- Program: Nature Education Program
- Output or outcome?

  Number of students participating
Output or Outcome?

Example 5:

- Program: Community Garden Project
- Output or outcome?
  Gardeners feel more competent in growing fresh food options
10 Minute - Breakout Groups

- Introduce yourself, your role and organization
- What is your favorite outdoor activity?
- Tell your group about the last time or your favorite time doing this activity.
Submitting LOI & Applying

Access applications through Foundant

• New to Foundant? Visit our website: www.gcfdn.org/grants
• Fill out “GCF Responsive Application” for the Environmental Beautification RFP

• If invited to submit full proposal, attach required Attachments:
  • Most recent audit or 990
  • Project budget
  • Income statement and balance sheet (2 years)
  • Organizational demographics & board list (using GCF template)
Follow-Up Reporting

• Learnings (any changes/pivots?)
• Basic numbers
  • Numbers served
  • Dollars leveraged
• Project Specific Measures
  • Project specific measures should be specific outcomes of the effort that impacted students’ educational or career attainment and/or social emotional health, as hypothesized in the proposal.
• Storytelling

If funded:
• brief check in @ 6 months
• Final follow up report due 12 months post award.
Tips & Tricks

• RFP and FAQs are your primary guide.

• Your LOI & proposal is the primary means of expressing your work to the review committee.

• Make sure to attach all required materials.

• After submission, changes to the LOI or proposal are challenging to make.

• GCF staff welcome invitations to regularly scheduled learning events throughout the year, such as open houses and community stakeholder meetings.

• GCF staff will do our best to respond in a timely manner throughout the process. Last minute calls are hard to address.
Group Q & A

Thank you for your important work. We look forward to learning from you.

Contacts

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