



BGCF365 Green Spaces & Public Places Grant Opportunity

BGCF365, at Blue Grass Community Foundation, is accepting proposals from tax-exempt nonprofit organizations for projects focused on developing **vibrant, engaging, accessible, and equitable public places and/or green spaces in Fayette County**. Successful proposals will create programming and/or physical design for Lexington public spaces that share one or more of the following goals:

- Increase or improve access to green spaces and public places
- Increase opportunities to gather and connect within public places
- Create public spaces that are inviting and welcoming to all
- Increase residents' overall connectedness with the community of Lexington
- Create opportunities to increase Lexington residents' health and well-being as a result of access to/use of a public place and/or green space
- Improve the natural beauty and/or physical condition of the community
- Create fun, entertaining, and dynamic experiences that all can enjoy

Preference will be given to projects that promote diversity and demonstrate a commitment to serving people whose options have been historically limited, including low-income populations and people of color. Preference will also be given to local organizations, headquartered in Lexington.

While not an exhaustive list, below are types of potential projects that are aligned with the grant focus:

- Community Events
- Revitalization Projects
- Festivals/Fairs
- Performances
- Public Art
- Placemaking Projects
- Community Gardens
- Landscaping Projects
- Play Spaces
- Classes

For the purpose of this grant, public spaces are considered to be areas or places that are open and accessible to all, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, physical ability or socio-economic level. The Community Foundation's definition is intentionally broad. Whether the proposed project is in a public space that is city-owned, privately owned, or semi-privately owned, the grant applicant is responsible for obtaining proper permissions and approvals for any programming and/or physical designs.

Non-profit organizations, schools, and units of government are eligible to apply. Only one application per organization will be accepted. Proposals from schools must have a school-wide benefit (not just one class or grade).

This will be a competitive grantmaking process. Grant applications will be reviewed by the BGCF365 Steering Committee and narrowed to 5 finalists. Representatives from the top 5 finalists will be *required* to present a short (maximum 8 minute) presentation to the members of BGCF365 at their annual meeting in January 2020. Grants will be awarded based on membership votes. The first and second place winners will receive \$10,000 and \$7,500 respectively. Prizes of \$2,500 will be given for third, fourth and fifth place.

Eligibility:

- Organization is located in Fayette County

- Organization is classified as a nonprofit charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code; or publicly supported organizations such as a school district or municipality
- Organization has a complete and up-to-date GoodGiving.net portrait. GoodGiving.net is a free, searchable database that contains current, transparent information about Kentucky nonprofits. Schools and exempt government units are not eligible to have GoodGiving.net portraits, but are eligible to apply for grants. These organizations will be required to provide supporting documentation as requested within the grant application. Please contact Barbara Fischer if your organization would like to create a GoodGiving.net portrait or has questions regarding an existing portrait: bfischer@bgcf.org or at (859) 225-3343.
- If the organization has previously received funding by a grant program at Blue Grass Community Foundation, organization must have completed a grant report
- Organization must be willing and able to present to the BGCF365 membership at the annual meeting in January 2020

How to Apply:

Visit the Blue Grass Community Foundation’s website: <http://bgcf.org/learn/grantopportunities> and look for the online application link for the BGCF365 grant opportunity.

Deadline to apply: October 21, 2019, by 5:00 pm

Finalist Presentations: January 2020

Grant Period: January 2020 – September 30, 2020

Criteria for Review:

While the below list is not exhaustive, applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

The Organization (based on the organization’s GoodGiving.net Portrait):

- Clearly demonstrates an ability to accomplish the proposed activities
- Evidence of board involvement and financial support
- Evidence of impact on the community
- Sound overall fiscal condition

The Project (based on the organization’s online application):

- Clearly identifies and addresses the grant focus
- Demonstrates potential to create more vibrant, engaging, accessible, and equitable public places and/or green spaces in Fayette County
- Benefits diverse and historically underserved populations
- Has a clearly outlined project plan and accompanying activities
- Clearly states the number and population served by the program/organization
- Identifies achievable, measurable outcomes and includes a deliberate plan for evaluating them
- Has a project budget that is clearly expressed and is appropriate in relation to the size of the project