



# **SOUTH MILWAUKEE**

## **BUCYRUS CIVIC GRANT PROGRAM**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Bucyrus Steam Shovel & Dredge Co called South Milwaukee home for 118 years until 2011 when the company was acquired by Caterpillar Global mining. In September 2021 the Bucyrus Foundation (established in the 1970s) announced a \$10 million contribution to institutions and infrastructure for the City of South Milwaukee (City), stretched over a 10-year period. These funds are allocated between the City and South Milwaukee School District and a portion of these funds are designated for local nonprofits.

### **CIVIC GRANT PROGRAM PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Bucyrus Civic Grant Program is to benefit the community, allocating funds to South Milwaukee's nonprofit organizations. This grant program was initiated in January, 2023.

Projects must demonstrate how they benefit the community. Grants may address a community need, improving community support, solving a problem, or enriching the people of South Milwaukee educational, health, or cultural experience. Grants may be for programs that address the workforce skills gap, support economic empowerment initiatives, foster effective public private partnerships, or boost neighborhood revitalization programs.

### **Funding priorities**

1. Civic development
2. Arts and Culture
3. Health and Human Services
4. Education
5. Public benefit/community improvement
6. Environment

### **GRANT FUNDING**

The Bucyrus Foundation will fund eligible projects that are not less than \$1,000 and up to \$25,000. All grant awards are subject to annual funding.

Each grant awarded will be evaluated and a post-grant report is required for each grant received.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

In order to be eligible, an applicant organization must be classified as a 501(c)(3) (operating one or more years) by the Internal Revenue Service or be a local government agency. Applicant organizations must operate within or directly serve the City of South Milwaukee and funds must be used for the benefit of the community.

## **Eligible Grant Items**

- a) Existing program improvements or program expansion to reach a unique audience.
- b) New innovative programs that address an unmet community need.
- c) New fixed assets to improve organizations capacity to serve the community with consideration given to other system improvements.
- d) Capacity building efforts that benefit existing nonprofit organizations.
- e) Vibrant art and cultural amenities and other activities that offer experiences for residents and visitors.
- f) Programs that encourage collaborative partnerships that employ comprehensive strategies to strengthen community systems.
- g) Programs that empower individuals or groups of people with the skills they need to effect change.
- h) Organization's planning needs related directly to how they might achieve their mission through strategic planning, merger conversations, and similar efforts.
- i) Community initiatives that advance solutions to community's greatest challenges using innovative strategies and a collaborative spirit
- j) New projects that sustain a healthy local community and provide opportunities for outdoor entertainment and recreation.

## **Ineligible Grant Items**

Grants will not be considered for:

- a) Organizations which discriminate on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin, religious affiliation, or presence of a disability.
- b) Organizations whose primary purpose is to influence legislation or to participate in a political campaign.
- c) Faith-based organizations that do not serve persons outside of their membership, include proselytizing in programs, or condition receipt of services on belief in a particular faith.
- d) Sport organizations or booster clubs' that are part of the School District
- e) South Milwaukee School District (Has dedicated annual Bucyrus Foundation funding)
- f) Direct support of individuals
- g) General fund drives
- h) Building or capital campaigns
- i) General operating expenses
- j) Preschools, day care centers, nursing homes, etc.
- k) Tickets, raffles, golf outings or sponsorships
- l) Conduit organizations
- m) Organizations with an "active" grant.
- n) Projects that have been completed

## **GRANT PROCESS**

- 1) Step 1 Preliminary Letter of Interest.** Submit a letter of interest and request eligibility to apply for a project. The letter should be a brief, typed, one page summary which outlines the

project, identifies who will benefit, and provides a preliminary budget. The City will notify those organizations that they preliminarily qualify as candidates for a grant and will be invited to complete and submit a formal application to the City Grants Committee on behalf of the Bucyrus Foundation. Applications are not made available until March each year.

Submit letters of interest to: [elang@smwi.org](mailto:elang@smwi.org)

If further information is needed, the nonprofit will be given 14 days to revise and resubmit.

## **2) Step 2 Application Checklist:**

Grant applications may be found at [www.smwi.org](http://www.smwi.org).

- a) Every application must provide the following information:
  - Organization name
  - Organization president
  - Brief summary of the project (separate from detailed narrative 2b)
  - Amount of grant request
  - Project lead person
  - Address
  - Phone number
  - Email
- b) Provide a narrative, no more than three pages, answering:
  - Detailed description of the project
  - What is the need for and significance of this project?
  - What will be the key methods and activities to operate this project?
  - What will be the key one or two outcomes and how they will be evaluated?
  - A budget that identifies the costs of the project and income sources
- c) Attachments:
  - A copy of the IRS letter of tax exemption (501c3)
  - Most recent audit or Federal 990
  - One-page statement of the organizations mission, main programs and history

## **Review Criteria**

1. Degree to which the proposed activity is appropriate for funding: scale Low to High
2. Impact the activity will have on the community
3. How many people will be served
4. Stability of the program
5. Quality of the services offered

It is intended that the applications that best meet the established grant criteria will be given preference for funding. However, the Grants Committee will judge the merits of each application and the amount of funding, if any, based on not only the selection criteria, but also available annual allocated funds, past experience and history, and other tangible and intangible criteria. The Grants Committee is reserved as the sole decision-maker regarding grant awards.

## **SCHEDULE & SUBMISSIONS**

Letters of interest and applications may be submitted digitally via email (Microsoft Word or PDF), dropped off at the City Administration building, or mailed. Letters of Interest and Application narratives (2b) must be typed. Each submission is due by 4:00 p.m. on the deadline date. Application review is approximately 30 days.

Annual Letter of Interest due	March 1 <sup>st</sup>
Annual Application Deadline due:	April 30 <sup>th</sup>

Applicants should submit their completed proposal to:

Mail or Drop Off:

City of South Milwaukee  
Economic Development Department  
2424 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
City of South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Email: [elang@smwi.org](mailto:elang@smwi.org), including application and required attachments.

For more information about the grant, call 414-762-2222 ext 135

## **AWARDED GRANTS & REPORTING**

The grant recipients will be required to sign a grant agreement and a post-grant report is required for each grant received. A post-grant report includes a financial statement, itemizing expenditures in order for the organization to remain in good standing and be eligible for future grant awards. Report due dates are based on the project timeline, established prior to grant disbursement.

Projects must be completed within 12 months of approval and may not start until after the grant is awarded. Recipients may request an extension. Any unspent grant dollars require payback or may be eligible to use in the following grant cycle should the organization apply and be approved.

Organizations receiving grants must allow the City of South Milwaukee and the Bucyrus Foundation to use the name of the recipient organization in our publicity. Recipients are encouraged to recognize the City of South Milwaukee and Bucyrus Foundation in their media outlets.