



Valparaiso Offers Neighborhood Grants for 2023

The City of Valparaiso is inviting neighborhoods to submit applications for the annual Neighborhood Improvement Grant program, announced Maggie Clifton, Valparaiso's Community Engagement Director. **Applications for the upcoming grant cycle will be due on March 1, 2023**, with grant recipients announced by March 10, 2023.

"The Neighborhood Improvement Grant program has succeeded in funding 79 projects since we introduced the program in 2018," said Clifton. "The City is delighted to lead this program which unites neighborhoods and inspires positive projects. With matching funds, these grants have resulted in more than \$1 million in neighborhood improvements over the past five years," she said.

Neighborhood Improvement Grants help neighbors come together for common goals. Previous projects awarded Neighborhood Improvement Grants have included:

- Community spaces, like bus stop benches and pavilions for gathering
- Neighborhood signage/branding that instills unity and a sense of pride
- Public art displays that add unique character by representing the neighborhood
- Physical improvements, like fixing sidewalks or enhancing park equipment

Neighborhoods may submit applications for up to \$15,000 in qualified funding through the Neighborhood Improvement Grant. The program is funded by the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission and administered by the Community Engagement Department. A grant review committee assists in the selection process.

Neighborhood Workshop to Detail the Grant Application Process

The City of Valparaiso will host a free Neighborhood Workshop on Tuesday, October 18 at 5:00 pm at City Hall, 166 Lincolnway. Topics will include an overview of the grant program, highlights of successful projects and how to apply. To learn more and reserve your spot at the Workshop, visit <http://www.ci.valparaiso.in.us/DocumentCenter/View/8892/Neighborhood-Workshop-10-18-22>.

Photo caption: Neighborhood Improvement grants were awarded to Keystone Commons to enhance their common area with new benches and to College Hill to add park amenities, including a neighborhood message board.