

Attachment "G"

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Draft Standing Rules on Neighborhood Purpose Grants September 17, 2024

The Neighborhood Council may give Neighborhood Purpose Grants (“NPGs”) to a public school or a 501(c)(3) entity to fund projects and activities that benefit the community.

The Treasurer shall be familiar with the process and procedures set forth by the City that apply to submission, consideration, approval and administration of Neighborhood Purpose Grants.

All Neighborhood Purpose Grants approved by the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council shall require that an NPG Completion Form be submitted on completion of the project. Failure to submit such a report will disqualify the entity receiving the grant from future application.

Funds for such grants may be included in the yearly budget, however it is most likely that such grants would be given during the second half of the fiscal year when the outlook on availability of funds is clearer. Further, it is possible that applicants may need to appear before the Neighborhood Council more than once if Board Members have questions about a proposed project that cannot be answered on the spot. The deadlines given below are designed with this in mind.

Submission and Consideration of Proposals

Guidelines and timeline for submission and consideration of proposals shall be as follows:

Announcement of Open Applications

The Outreach Committee shall publicize the process for submitting Neighborhood Purpose Grants (<https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-services/nc-funding/documents-forms/npg-documents>) at the start of each fiscal year. If there is an allocated budget for such grants, this information could be included in the announcement. The announcement shall include a manner of submission, a date submissions will be accepted for the fiscal year as well as a deadline for submission. The suggested deadline is January 31 and the suggested opening date is January 1.

Any board member receiving an unsolicited application shall forward the application to the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Review by the Budget and Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance Committee shall meet to review these applications within 31 days of submission. The Committee shall consider whether the project will benefit the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council stakeholders and whether the proposal is practicable. The Committee shall also be responsible for vetting the applicant. Further guidance on review of NPG proposals can be found at this link:

<https://clerk.lacity.gov/sites/g/files/wph1491/files/2021-02/NPG%20NC%20Information%20Packet%2002-2018.pdf>.

The Budget and Finance Committee may vote to approve or deny the proposal, or to request the applicant return to answer questions. When the item is referred to the Board, the Budget and Finance Committee will provide a written explanation of their determination to be distributed with the agenda packet.

In the event that the Budget and Finance Committee is unable to meet to review the proposal, the proposal may still be put on a Board Meeting agenda through the regular agenda-setting process.

Review by the Board

The Board will review Neighborhood Purpose Grant applications beginning in March and ending in May. Along with the application and notes from the Budget and Finance Committee, the City's guidance on review of applications shall be provided (<https://clerk.lacity.gov/sites/g/files/wph1491/files/2021-02/NPG%20NC%20Information%20Packet%2002-2018.pdf>) at the first meeting of the fiscal year at which Neighborhood Purpose Grants are considered.

Recusals

Board members shall recuse themselves from these discussions as appropriate. Board members representing a stakeholder organization or having significant involvement in that organization shall recuse themselves from discussion and voting on projects that involve the organization in any capacity.

Administration of the Grant

The Treasurer shall be responsible for filing the necessary paperwork for disbursement of any approved NPG and shall also be responsible for collecting and distributing NPG Completion Forms for any project funded by the Neighborhood Council.

Documents Related to Neighborhood Purpose Grants

These documents, attached below, were current as of September 2024.



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL FUNDING PROGRAM



NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANTS - APPLICANT INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) process provides Neighborhood Councils with greater opportunity to benefit their communities while supporting and building partnerships with local organizations such as yours. Eligible organizations include 501(c)(3) non-profits as well as public schools. (Please note that grants cannot be issued to religious organizations or to private schools.)

Is your Neighborhood Council in good standing with the Funding Program?

Only Neighborhood Councils in good standing with the Funding Program will be eligible to participate in the NPG process. Good standing is interpreted to mean the following:

- Neighborhood Council must have a current Fiscal Year budget on file with the Funding Program;
- Neighborhood Council cannot be delinquent with its Monthly Expenditure Reports submissions to the Funding Program (please refer to the Funding Program Policies and Procedures for more information); and
- Neighborhood Council must have an eligible Treasurer and 2nd Signer in the Board.

Does it Benefit the Community?

Any grant issued by a Neighborhood Council must be for a public purpose: in short, how will the grant help the community? Please refer to document entitled, "*What is a Public Benefit*" of the application for Neighborhood Purposes Grant for more information.

Conflict of Interest Laws Apply

The State and local conflict of interest laws that currently apply to the Neighborhood Council Funding Program also apply in the consideration of Neighborhood Purposes Grant requests.

At a minimum, board members must recuse themselves from a vote to approve a grant should there be a conflict due to an affiliation with an applicant organization. There should be full disclosure and transparency. Please refer to the document entitled, "*State and City Conflicts of Interest Laws for Neighborhood Councils*" of the application for Neighborhood Purposes Grant and/or the Neighborhood Council's Field Project Coordinator for more information.

Application Process

The following is required from all organizations/entities seeking a NPG from a Neighborhood Council:

- NPG Application**, completed and signed
- Project Budget** on a separate sheet if space provided in application form is not sufficient
- Non-Profits 501(c)(3)**
 - Submit: IRS Letter of Determination
- Public Schools**
 - Submit: Letter on official school letterhead, signed by school Principal

Applicants must submit the above-mentioned items to the respective Neighborhood Council for consideration. The Neighborhood Council will evaluate all grant applications in a Brown Act public meeting, deciding whether to approve the proposed grant. If the application is approved, it must then be forwarded to the Funding Program within 45 days of approval. Board-approved applications submitted to Funding Program after 45 days will not be accepted for processing and the Board would need to place the application on a Board meeting agenda again for reconsideration. Once approved, if all documents are in compliance, the Funding Program will process a check to the grant recipient.

Grants Up to \$5,000.00

Through the Neighborhood Purposes Grant, Neighborhood Councils have the legal authority to issue grants of public funds in amounts up to \$5,000.00 without a written contract.

Grants over \$5,000.00

Grants for amounts \$5,000.01 and over will require further review for City contract considerations in coordination with the Office of the City Clerk so as to meet City contracting standards. Neighborhood Councils *do not have the legal authority* to enter into unilateral contracts.

Project Completion Follow Up

Applicants are requested to provide a Project Completion Report (available online) at the conclusion of the proposed project funded by the grant.

Apply Now!

If you meet the criteria as explained above, fill out the NPG application and submit it to your local Neighborhood Council.

If you have any questions please contact the Office of the City Clerk, Neighborhood Council Funding Program at (213) 978-1058 or toll free at 3-1-1 or by email at clerk.ncfunding@lacity.org

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL FUNDING PROGRAM

NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANT - WHAT IS A PUBLIC BENEFIT?

A Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) must provide a demonstrable benefit to the community. An NPG activity should build community, enhance the neighborhood, and be open, accessible, and free to the general public. Projects may encompass a wide range and can include, but are not limited to:

- The Arts
- Beautification
- Community Support
- Education
- Community Improvements

The Office of the City Clerk, Neighborhood Council Funding Program has the final discretion to determine whether or not the proposed project can be funded per applicable City standards

A project may be submitted that is part of a larger project, but if so, consider carefully whether it can be completed independently of the larger project and regardless of whether other funding needs to be secured.

Considerations:

- The **budget** is realistic and supported with documentation
- The organization or individual is **capable** of completing the project
- The **work plan** is detailed, specific, and feasible
- The project is **supported** by the community
- The **number** of stakeholders that will benefit from this project
- The project implementation process will **build community**
- The complete project will **enhance the community**

- **Credibility.** Does your organization know what it wants to accomplish? What evidence proves that the organization is currently achieving its goals? What kind of reputation does the group enjoy within the community and beyond?

- **Capability.** What skills does the organization's staff and/or board bring to the project? Are they relevant to the project's aims? Has your organization succeeded in similar endeavors of equal size and scale to what you are now proposing?

- **Feasibility.** The Neighborhood Council must determine whether the proposal is advancing a worthwhile project built upon a good idea that can be successfully implemented. Is the budget allocated sufficiently to execute the various tasks and strategies described in the proposal?

- **Importance.** Should it be done? Is the project significant? Is there evidence that the proposal will trigger action or work that the community wants? Will it make a difference in the community it purports to aid or resolve the issue it addresses?

Factors to Consider

- Is this a capital improvement project?
 - It should be on public property within the Neighborhood Council's boundaries or provides a demonstrable benefit to its stakeholders, within the City boundaries.
 - There must be coordination with appropriate agencies to secure required additional documentation such as permits, authorizations, or agreements, if deemed necessary (i.e., Cultural Affairs, Dept. of Transportation, Street Services, Rec & Parks, public schools, etc.).
- Is this for program services (i.e. after school program, graffiti removal, etc.)?
 - The applicant must create a fair selection process to establish participants
- Is this for equipment and supplies?
 - Purchases for schools or 501(c)(3) organizations need to ultimately benefit the local community
- Is this for an event?
 - Events must be open, accessible, free of charge, and advertised to the general public
 - Discuss appropriate liability issues
- Are there issues of potential conflict of interest that need to be addressed?
 - If any issues may exist or are perceived, it is strongly advised that Board Members affected consult with the Office of the City Attorney before action is taken on the grant request.

SECTION III - PROJECT BUDGET OUTLINE

You may also provide the Budget Outline on a separate sheet if necessary or requested.

6a)

Personnel Related Expenses	Requested of NC	Total Projected Cost
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$

6b)

Non-Personnel Related Expenses	Requested of NC	Total Projected Cost
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$

7) Have you (applicant) applied to any other Neighborhood Councils requesting funds for this project?
 No Yes If Yes, please list names of NCs: _____

8) Is the implementation of this specific program or purpose described in Question 4 contingent on any other factors or sources or funding? (Including NPG applications to other NCs) No Yes If Yes, please describe:

Source of Funding	Amount	Total Projected Cost
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$

9) What is the TOTAL amount of the grant funding requested with this application: \$ _____

10a) Start date: ____/____/____ 10b) Date Funds Required: ____/____/____ 10c) Expected Completion Date: ____/____/____
 (After completion of the project, the applicant should submit a Project Completion Report to the Neighborhood Council)

SECTION IV - POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

11a) Do you (applicant) have a current or former relationship with a Board Member of the NC?
 No Yes If Yes, please describe below:

Name of NC Board Member	Relationship to Applicant

11b) If yes, did you request that the board member consult the Office of the City Attorney before filing this application?
 Yes No ***(Please note that if a Board Member of the NC has a conflict of interest and completes this form, or participates in the discussion and voting of this NPG, the NC Funding Program will deny the payment of this grant in its entirety.)**

SECTION V - DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE

I hereby affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided herein and communicated otherwise is truly and accurately stated. I further affirm that I have read the documents "What is a Public Benefit," and "Conflicts of Interest" of this application and affirm that the proposed project(s) and/or program(s) fall within the criteria of a public benefit project/program and that no conflict of interest exist that would prevent the awarding of the Neighborhood Purposes Grant. I affirm that I am not a current Board Member of the Neighborhood Council to whom I am submitting this application. I further affirm that if the grant received is not used in accordance with the terms of the application stated here, said funds shall be returned immediately to the Neighborhood Council.

12a) Executive Director of Non-Profit Corporation or School Principal - REQUIRED*

PRINT Name Title Signature Date

12b) Secretary of Non-profit Corporation or Assistant School Principal - REQUIRED*

PRINT Name Title Signature Date

* If a current Board Member holds the position of Executive Director or Secretary, please contact the NC Funding Program at (213) 978-1058 or clerk.ncfunding@lacity.org for instructions on completing this form



Project Completion Report Form

Awarding Neighborhood Council: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Grant Amount: \$ _____ Date Granted: _____

Please answer the following questions regarding the grant funding referred to above. Attach additional pages if necessary.

1. Please provide a summary of the overall project for which funding was granted.
2. Please provide a summary of how the project built community, enhanced the neighborhood, and served a public benefit.
3. In an effort to improve our grant-making, we welcome any additional comments you wish to make regarding our grant application process and post-grant reporting process.
4. Please provide pictures of the project, including any before and after images if applicable.

Submitted by _____ *Date* _____ *E-mail* _____ *Phone* _____



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL FUNDING PROGRAM



NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANTS

Dear Neighborhood Council:

The Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) process provides your Council with greater opportunity to benefit your community by supporting and building partnerships with local organizations whose missions are also to benefit the community. Eligible organizations include 501(c)(3) non-profits as well as public schools. (Please note that grants cannot be issued to religious organizations or to private schools.)

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At a minimum, board members must recuse themselves (not participate in discussion and leave the meeting room) from a vote to approve a grant should there be a conflict due to an affiliation with an applicant organization. There should be full disclosure and transparency. Please refer to the document entitled, *“State and City Conflicts of Interest Laws for Neighborhood Councils”* of the Application for Neighborhood Purposes Grant and/or your Neighborhood Council’s Field Project Coordinator for more information and seek consult with the Office of the City Attorney if necessary.

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Grant Project Completion Follow Up

Your Neighborhood Council is strongly encouraged to require the grantee to provide a Project Completion Report to provide accountability for the proposed project goals and use of the funds awarded and to demonstrate evidence of successful efforts benefiting your community. The Project Completion Report form is available online.

If you have any questions please contact the Office of the City Clerk, Neighborhood Council Funding Program at (213) 978-1058 or toll free at 3-1-1 or by email at clerk.ncfunding@lacity.org



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL FUNDING PROGRAM



Project Completion Follow Up

Neighborhood Councils providing a grant to 501(c)(3) organizations or to public schools are strongly encouraged to require the grantee to be accountable for the progress and/or completion of the proposed project, demonstrating successful efforts benefitting the community.

After the project comes to a close, the NC Treasurer should obtain a Project Completion Report from the grantee for the Board to then review.

Some points to keep in mind:

- Neighborhood Councils must maintain accountability
- Maintain organized records and keep them available for review
- Review progress of the project funded
- Review Project Completion Report from grantee to NC
 - (See *Project Completion Report form*)
- Acquire photos after the project's completion.

Should issues arise, the Neighborhood Council Funding Program reserves the right to request all supporting documentation and to review the grant approval process as well as the project's progress and completion.