

## The Community Project 2025 Grant Application

Please answer the questions below and upload this document when submitting the online form.

**Q: What is your primary motivation for applying for The Community Project?**

A: Bellevue has significant needs for enhanced community spaces to create a sense of belonging, cohesiveness, and pride. The Community Project is an opportunity to start the flywheel of improving the community's self-image and to tangibly improve the lives of our residents.

**Q: What needs do you see in your community that align with the purpose of The Community Project? Please provide specific examples if applicable.**

A: Bellevue has needs for physical gathering space, as well as a need for a project to rally behind.

**Q: What specific community members, groups or populations would you want to see participate in the grant process?**

A: Based on figures from the United States Census Bureau, Bellevue's population is younger<sup>1</sup> and has larger households<sup>2</sup> than Blaine County generally. As a family-oriented community, it is important to make sure that our outdoor spaces are exciting and useful to children. Outreach to youth and families is going to be a critical component of doing so.

Additionally, Bellevue has a large Hispanic community<sup>3</sup> that has traditionally been difficult to meaningfully engage with. We are excited for the opportunity to utilize outside technical expertise as part of the Community Project to ensure we are reaching all segments of our population.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2019-2023). *Median Age by Sex American Community Survey 5-year estimates*. Retrieved from <https://censusreporter.org>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2019-2023). *Average Household Size of Occupied Housing Units by Tenure American Community Survey 5-year estimates*. Retrieved from <https://censusreporter.org>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE." *Decennial Census, DEC Demographic and Housing Characteristics, Table P9, 2020*, [https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDHC2020.P9?q=Hispanic or Latino&g=050XX00US16013\\_160XX00US1606220](https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDHC2020.P9?q=Hispanic or Latino&g=050XX00US16013_160XX00US1606220). Accessed on February 5, 2025.

**Q: How do you currently engage with residents and community groups? Please give examples. If you don't actively engage, how do you hope to engage with them in The Community Project?**

A: The City recently launched a series of initiatives to increase transparency and community engagement. We currently have a weekly newsletter, quarterly "town hall" meetings, are improving our website, have invested in improved budgeting and project management tools with significant public interface, have hired part-time events/communications staff, and have held open houses for community development projects. The Community Project provides an opportunity to turbocharge these efforts by providing an opportunity for engagement to yield physical improvements.

**Q: What do you hope to see happen in your city if you are selected for The Community Project?**

A: The goal is to create a unique and loved space. Along the way, we should aim to increase trust between the community and local government, engage neighbors, and provide some joy to the citizens.

**Q: The Community Project requires a grant leader from the city. Who would lead your city's efforts if selected? Please include their name, job title/role and if they have been involved in the application process.**

A: Brian Parker, Community Development Director has been serving as the lead on the development of this application and will serve as the grant leader.

**Q: Does your city own or control an outdoor space that could be used for the project? Briefly describe any potential outdoor spaces that may be considered for development.**

A: Yes. Bellevue's Memorial Park is located in the center of the city and has been the heart of the community for generations. Memorial Park hosts vendors, live music, and thousands of visitors during the annual Labor Day Celebration. While the park is well loved, there is an established need for renovations and modernization.

**Q: Would the city have the budget/personnel to maintain the outdoor space after the project is completed?**

A: Yes, ongoing maintenance would be considered in the project's design, funding, and operations plan.

**Q: Does your community have a strong sense of identity? If so, how would you describe it?**

A: Bellevue has a strong identity as the place that makes the Wood River Valley function. The city has a strong do-it-yourself culture that is apparent in many of the public facilities and amenities in the community.

**Q: What is something the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health should know about your city and community?**

A: There is a frequent description of Bellevue's City Hall as a place where "everything is second hand, including the building," which is generally true. The building was the original house of the EE-DA-HO Ranch, was donated to the City, moved to the current site, and filled with various pieces of donated furniture. City Hall is reflective of the community's scrappy and creative spirit. This is a place that can take a little bit of funding and make something unique and great.