CITY OF LA CROSSE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Please note that previous funding amounts are not a guarantee for continued support and any funding amount may be based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, performance, available City funds, and collaborating efforts by your organization with similar organizations.

Contact Information

Organization
Riverside International Friendship Gardens

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PO Box 3473 La Crosse, WI 54602-3473

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608-518-7523

E-mail
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Name of contact person
Chuck Hanson

Proposal Summary

Project Name
Ho-Chunk Garden

Total amount of City funds your agency is requesting
$25,000.00

Will any new jobs be created as a result of the project?
○ Yes ◉ No

If so, how many?

What benefit has your organization provided to the La Crosse community, and specifically to the City, in 2024?
The City Parks Department estimates that approximately 200,000+ people access Riverside Park annually. Riverside International Friendship Gardens, within Riverside Park, is a destination for tourists and residents alike, providing a place of beauty where visitors enjoy walking, catching up with friends, sitting in quiet reflection, or even just eating lunch. The Riverside International Friendship Gardens are a destination in and of themselves, one of the first things that riverboat guests see when disembarking, and a popular place for wedding, prom, and graduation photos. More than that, though, the gardens reflect our appreciation for the diverse cultures that share the earth and celebrate La Crosse's sister-city relationships with communities in China, Germany, France, Russia, Norway, Ireland, and Cameroon.

What does your organization have planned for the remainder of 2024 (that is of benefit to La Crosse, and specifically the City)?
In collaboration with representatives of the Ho-Chunk Nation, Riverside International Friendship Gardens is creating a new Ho-Chunk Garden to be included in the Riverside International Friendship Gardens at Riverside Park. The garden will be west of the existing Cameroon Garden and will have unrestricted views of the La Crosse, Black, and Mississippi Rivers. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2025, with a dedication ceremony planned for Indigenous People's Day on Monday, Oct 13, 2025.

What does your organization plan to accomplish with the help of City funding in 2025?
$291,898.64 of the $350,000 project budget has been fundraised to date. City funding will help us close the gap and complete the project.

Organization Details

Legal status of organization
Private, Non-Profit

Federal Tax Identification Number
20-1738498

What was your organization's total operating budget for the past year?
$154,802.00

Has your organization received City funds in the past?
◉ Yes ○ No

If yes, how much has your organization received and how many years has your organization participated in the program?
We receive $5,000 from the Parks Dept each year for plants/labor.

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Organization Structure

Attach the following documents (check off as you upload each file below)

- ☑ Concise organization chart showing your agency's major administrative structure
- ☑ Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
- ☑ List of Board of Directors
- ☑ Current agency budget
- ☑ Current project activity budget if currently funded
- ☑ Other financial forms: Form 990, Income Statement, Balance Sheet, et al.

File Upload

2025 Bank Reconciliations.xlsx	177.52KB
2025 Donations - 990.xlsx	15.93KB
2025 Statement of Income and Expenses.xlsx	88.78KB
Board of Directors.pdf	40.14KB
Corporate Information for RIFG.pdf	1,003.58KB
Riverside International Friendship Gardens Organizational Chart.pdf	48.09KB

What is your agency's primary funding source(s)?
Donations

What percent of your anticipated total project budget does this City request represent?
7.14%

What other source(s) of funds could your organization pursue? Does your organization receive similar funding from other municipalities?
We are currently seeking donations from businesses, foundations, and private individuals. We do not receive similar funding from other municipalities.

Proposal Details

Provide an overview of the program (this pertains only to the activity for which you are seeking funds).
To reflect their culture, Ho-Chunk representatives have indicated they would like the garden to include native plants, including healing plants.

They have also recommended that a sculpture depicting Betsy Thunder be included. Betsy Thunder was a native healer who in the 1860's used her healing skills to help both native peoples and the newly arriving settlers. The Ho-Chunk representatives have expressed their desire to symbolize through this sculpture a sense of community, friendship, and healing.

The garden will also feature statues of native trail marker trees. The Ho-Chunk, as well as other native peoples, would shape young trees in a particular way to indicate a direction or other information and when the trees matured, the "map" could be used for many years.

Quaking aspens, cedar, and dogwood trees will be planted to create a beautiful living screen between the gardens.

The garden will include flagstone benches made from local stone.

The large pathways will be barrier-free accessible and constructed of the same materials throughout the Garden, reflecting that we are all part of the same good earth and we all have a responsibility to protect and preserve it for future generations. Smaller pathways will be made from ground limestone.

There will also be educational signage to help the public learn more about Ho-Chunk culture.

Specifically state how the requested funds will be used.
The funds will be applied toward landscape installation and general construction work.

State the specific local needs and problems that your proposal intends to address.

The City Parks Department estimates that approximately 200,000+ people access Riverside Park annually. This new garden will have an incredible impact on those visitors, conveying our community's respect for the Ho-Chunk Nation and providing education about their culture while providing another place of beauty to further enhance the downtown area.

Identify the project target population your proposed program or activity will serve. Include unique characteristics such as: ethnicity/race, age, disability, income level.

Visitors and community members of all ages, ethnicities, abilities, and income levels.

Describe methods used to measure success in achieving objectives and specifically meeting needs of the target population.

We will look for positive feedback from the Ho-Chunk Nation representatives, community members at large, and visitors to measure the success of the project.

If more than one agency within the La Crosse area deals with similar problems or clients that you have identified, describe how your agency coordinates tasks and responsibility with these other agencies and how duplication of services will be avoided.

We have a MOU with the City Parks Department and members of the City Park department regularly attend our monthly board meetings. We are in regular communication with the City Parks Department to coordinate efforts.