

**GRANT ANALYSIS FORM
OPERATING & CAPITAL GRANT PROJECTS/PROGRAMS**

Department/Division: City Development

Contact Person & Phone No: William J. Malone, x5894

Category of Request

- New Grant
- Grant Continuation
- Change in Previously Approved Grant

Previous Council File No.

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Project/Program Title: 2014 Cities of Service Impact Volunteering Fund Grant

Grantor Agency: Cities of Service

Grant Application Date: 09/13/13

Anticipated Award Date: 12/09/13

Please provide the following information:

1. Description of Grant Project/Program (Include Target Locations and Populations):

The Artistic Board-Up Expansion Initiative will expand a successful pilot project that utilizes community volunteers to assist in the creation and design of decorative panels at vacant City-owned properties in the Amani neighborhood to improve neighborhood appearance and pride, build community cohesion and reduce vandalism and crime.

This project will allow community residents to continue addressing one pressing municipal concern, neighborhood revitalization in areas impacted by vacant foreclosed properties, while providing an opportunity to address another deeply felt community need—youth development. The project will coordinate volunteer efforts to engage youth from the Amani neighborhood in artistic board-ups of vacant City-owned properties to beautify blighted areas, increase community pride, provide positive activities for youth, increase employability and work-readiness skills and stimulate reinvestment in a neighborhood that has experienced significant foreclosure-related disinvestment.

The project will identify vacant City-owned properties, engage youth volunteers to create artistic panels to cover windows and doors, provide employability and work-readiness activities to engaged youth, engage youth to plan and conduct neighborhood clean-up projects in conjunction with the installation of the painted panels, and engage other youth, parents and community residents in neighborhood revitalization activities.

2. Relationship to Citywide Strategic Goals and Departmental Objectives:

This project will support the Citywide goal of reducing the negative impact of vacant City-owned properties on neighborhood appearance, safety and property values. The project also will facilitate the sale of City-owned properties back into private ownership, which will increase City property tax revenue. The Departments of City Development and Neighborhood Services will be prominent partners in this collaborative initiative.

3. Need for Grant Funds and Impact on Other Departmental Operations (Applies only to Programs):

Currently, there are 1,060 vacant City-owned foreclosed properties in Milwaukee, concentrated in several central-city areas, which were hardest-hit by the foreclosure crisis. The presence of these vacant and boarded-up properties contributes to reduced property values locally and Citywide, create public health risks and serve as a magnet for crime and vandalism. In 2012, the City spent \$1.8 million to maintain these properties and has spent more than \$5 million in recent years to demolish blighted properties.

Despite the City's efforts to sell properties to qualified owners or to quickly demolish blighted structures, boarded-up homes continue to proliferate in neighborhoods like Amani that were most impacted by the foreclosure crisis. The City of Milwaukee owns 54 homes, or 4.9 percent, of all residential properties in the Amani neighborhood. These concentrations of boarded-up properties pose significant challenges in attracting homeowners or other private investment into the neighborhood. The project attempts to address these challenges by mitigating the negative visual and psychological impacts associated with boarded-up homes.

In the primary census tract where Amani is located, the poverty rate is 50.7 percent and there is a 22 percent vacancy rate for residential properties.

4. Results Measurement/Progress Report (Applies only to Programs):

Metrics/Goals:

1. Number of City-owned vacant foreclosed properties receiving artistic board-ups	40
2. Number of decorative door and window panels produced and installed	480
3. Number of property/block clean-up events held	18
4. Number of youth demonstrating increased employability and work-readiness skills	40
5. Reduced incidents of reboarding after initial installation of decorative boards	75
6. Number of youth engaged in production of decorative board-up panels	50
7. Number of youth and adult volunteers engaged in property/block clean-up events	300

5. Grant Period, Timetable and Program Phase-out Plan:

1/1/2014 to 12/31/2014

6. Provide a List of Subgrantees:

1. ArtWorks for Milwaukee
2. Dominican Center for Women
3. The Volunteer Center of Milwaukee

7. If Possible, Complete Grant Budget Form and Attach to Back.