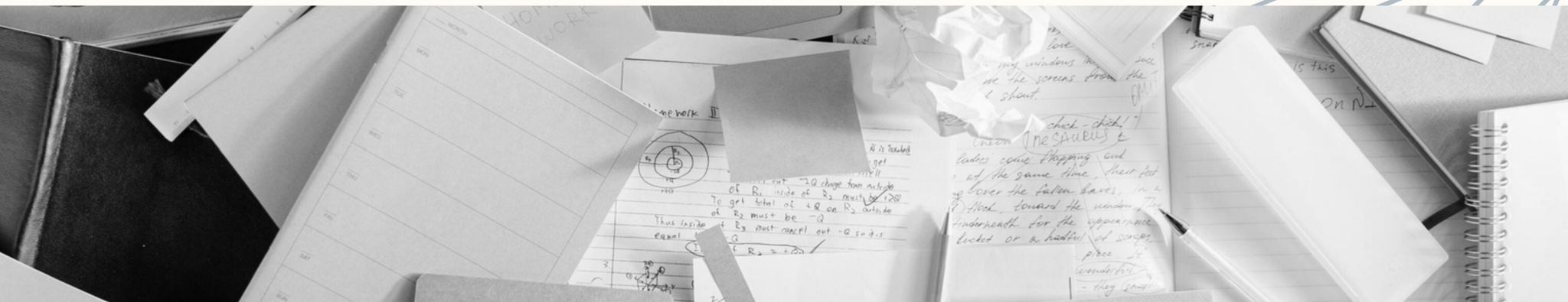


101 Neighborhood Workshops

WORKSHOPS & Speakers



Fundraising Basics: Grants & Sponsorships

AUG 28, 2025
Dinner Provided

Discover how to bring your neighborhood projects to life in "Fundraising Basics," a Neighborhood 101 Workshop designed to guide you through the essentials of securing financial support for your community.





Yusanda Blackmon is a devoted wife of 32 years, a proud mother of six, and a grandmother of two. With over 20 years of leadership in the nonprofit sector, her work spans fundraising, affordable housing, workforce and community development, higher education, faith-based initiatives, and the arts.

Yusanda currently serves as Director of United Front, an initiative of Fort Wayne UNITED, where she leads efforts to foster community transformation by equipping leaders to create cultures where their teams can thrive in our shared humanity.

She also contributes through board service, public speaking, and leading family, marriage, parenting, and fundraising workshops.

Yusanda is committed to breaking down stereotypes, affirming individual value, and building intentional relationships across differences. She holds a B.S. in Business Management and an A.S. in Hospitality Administration with a focus on Event Management and is Certified in Fund-Raising Management (CFRM).

...with Yusanda Blackmon



Réna Bradley is a Neighborhood Planner in the City of Fort Wayne's Department of Neighborhoods and is one of Fort Wayne's foremost experts in placemaking, asset-based development, and neighborhood revitalization. She believes that beauty is a call to justice, and, that a community's residents are its greatest asset.

Réna lives and works in Fort Wayne, where she has had various positions in the Community Development Sector and helped to raise over \$10,500,000 to help improve city neighborhoods by supporting the renovation over 20 houses, activation and maintenance of over 20 vacant lots, reduction of crime by over 60%, and mobilization of hundreds of volunteers and neighborhood residents.

Réna is Secretary of the Indiana Arts Commissioner, and board member of the Fort Wayne Allen County Airport Authority, the Fort Wayne Urban League, and Creative Women of the World. She is a proud alumna of Howard University's College of Engineering, Architecture, and Computer Science; the Detroit Revitalization Fellows; and Virginia Society AIA's Emerging Leaders in Architecture.

...with Réna Bradley

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

With a focus on writing grant and sponsorship applications, this workshop will equip you with practical strategies to fund your neighborhood association's initiatives. Learn how to craft compelling proposals, and present your vision effectively.

Note: This workshop is intended to help participants build on what they learned in July's session. In the July workshop, participants explored how to identify funding opportunities and the key differences between grants and sponsorships. Now, this follow-up session will sharpen your skills in writing effective proposals to secure financial support for your neighborhood association's projects.

**Dinner will be provided*

Register to join us on...

5:00 – 7:30 PM – AUG 28, 2025

Main branch – Allen County Public Library: 900 Library Plz

at...

engage.cityoffortwayne.org/101-workshops

