

Behind the scenes: Crafting Winning Grant Applications

Featured Speaker: Holly Muñoz

NOVEMBER 19 AT 5:30 PM

DOORS OPEN: 5:00 PM
FOOD PROVIDED!

Main Branch, Allen County Public Library / 900 Library Plaza
Room: Old Makers Space



Neighborhoods



Your neighborhood has a great idea. Now, how do you turn that idea into a proposal that inspires others to invest in it?

Whether you're seeking funding for a neighborhood project, community event, or resident initiative, understanding the grant process can help transform possibilities into action. Join us for an inside look at what makes grant applications stand out—and what common missteps can hold them back.

Together, we'll explore how to find opportunities, prepare stronger applications, and communicate your neighborhood's story in a way that builds confidence with funders. Participants will leave with practical tools, helpful resources, and a better understanding of how to position their neighborhood for funding success.

Speaker Bio:

We're excited to have Holly Munoz join us to lead this workshop!

Holly Muñoz is the Neighborhood Resource and Engagement Coordinator with the City of Fort Wayne's Department of Neighborhoods. A passionate advocate for neighborhood revitalization and resident engagement, Holly brings years of experience in grassroots organizing, volunteer leadership, and community development.

Since moving to Fort Wayne in 2016, she has helped restart- and eventually became president of- her neighborhood association. She also served on the boards of the Packard Area Planning Alliance and the Southwest Area Partnership, and worked alongside residents and City leaders to advance neighborhood improvements, historic preservation, and redevelopment efforts. Prior to joining the Department of Neighborhoods, Holly held leadership roles with the City of Fort Wayne's Emergency Rental Assistance Program, Inasmuch Ministry, and Just Neighbors.

Workshop Description:

"Funders aren't looking for perfect writers—they're looking for communities with clear ideas, strong relationships, and a thoughtful plan for impact."

Great projects need great ideas—but they also need the resources to bring those ideas to life. Grants can be a powerful tool for neighborhood associations looking to fund community improvements, strengthen programs, and create meaningful impact.

In this interactive workshop, participants will step behind the scenes of the grant process and learn what funders and grant reviewers look for when evaluating applications. We'll explore how grants work, how to prepare your association for funding opportunities, where to find potential resources, and how to build stronger proposals.

Drawing from the perspective of a grant reviewer, this session will highlight best practices, common mistakes, and practical strategies for telling your neighborhood's story in a way that demonstrates need, impact, and readiness. Through hands-on examples and discussion, participants will gain tools to approach grant applications with greater confidence and increase their chances of success.

**Dinner will be provided*

Register at: engage.cityoffortwayne.org/nhd-power-lab