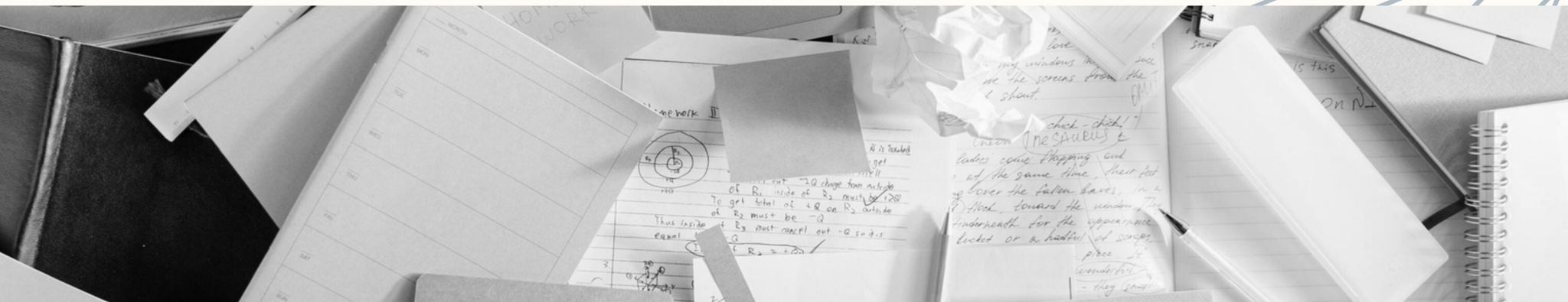


101 Neighborhood Workshops

WORKSHOPS & Speakers



Fundraising Preparation: Grants & Sponsorships

JULY 24, 2025
Dinner Provided

Join us for "Fundraising Fundamentals: Preparing for Success," part of the Neighborhood 101 Workshop series! Whether you're an experienced community leader or a newcomer to fundraising, this workshop is designed to equip you with the essential tools to take your grant-writing efforts to the next level.





Beth Boatright is the Director of Community Partnerships and Programs at Allen County Public Library. She's passionate about connecting people and organizations to each other and to resources that can help them thrive.

Learn more about Beth by visiting her LinkedIn page at www.linkedin.com/in/bethboatright/ or by scanning the QR Code below:



...with Beth Boatright



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



Born and raised in Fort Wayne, "Meg" has spent most of her adult life working in this community. Since 1993, she has worked locally with the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, first at St. Joseph Hospital and then at the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation. Her passion is to help the most vulnerable in our community experience a quality life and enjoy wellness.

She has served in leadership roles on many non-profit organizations in northeast Indiana. She currently serves on the Regional Board of Directors of Ivy Tech Community College Northeast Indiana, the Finance Council of the Diocese of Fort Wayne – South Bend, the Community Support Trust of the Our Lady of Victory Noll, and co-chairs the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance's Health Equity Workgroup. Meg was honored with the Citizen of the Year Award for Fort Wayne by the Journal Gazette Newspaper in 2010 for her work to serve the Burmese Refugee Community in Fort Wayne and, in 2015 a Foellinger Foundation Stewardship Award Nominee for the Fort Wayne Trails. Meg is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a degree in Economics and American Studies and continues to be an avid Notre Dame football fan.

Meg enjoys being a part of St. Gaspar del Bufalo Catholic Church. She has been happily married Bob Distler for 38 years and has two daughters and a son-in-law.

...with Meg Distler



Lauren is a current graduate student at Ball State University, set to earn her Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning in May 2025. Originally from Fort Wayne, Indiana, she completed her undergraduate studies at Purdue University Fort Wayne (formerly IPFW), where she majored in anthropology and sociology, with a minor in philosophy.

During her undergraduate years, Lauren engaged in a variety of enriching projects, including environmental activism in Hartford City, evaluation research at a homeless shelter in Fort Wayne, and presenting at a conference on ancient philosophy. She also spent a semester studying abroad in Le Mans, France, broadening her academic and cultural horizons. Her senior thesis in sociology delved into media, discourse, and truth within a postmodern political context.

Lauren's interest in urban planning was sparked while living in Chicago and working in public health research. Her academic and professional focus centers on topics such as multiculturalism, power dynamics, and inequality.

Outside of her studies, Lauren enjoys learning languages (primarily French and Spanish), writing poetry, practicing yoga, and attending live music events with friends. Her diverse interests and experiences shape her passion for creating equitable and inclusive communities.

...with Lauren Shank

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Workshop participants will delve into the key steps for successful grant preparation, including how to organize necessary documents, and conduct research to find potential funding opportunities. Learn the value of collaborating with fiscal agents and partners, as well as strategies to find and use data that can strengthen your proposals. This interactive 90-minute session will include opportunities to search for grants, draft a project calendar, and start building a strong foundation for your fundraising goals.

Together, let's empower our neighborhoods by turning great ideas into actionable plans.

*Dinner will be provided

Register to join us on...

5:00 – 7:30 PM – JULY 24, 2025

Main branch – Allen County Public Library: 900 Library Plz

at...

engage.cityoffortwayne.org/101-workshops

