City of Minneapolis Great Streets

NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT PROGRAM Business District Support Program (BDS) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the overall program budget, and how many grants do you expect to give? (Or what has been

typical in the past?) We expect to award several hundreds of thousands of dollars for these grants. The specific dollar amounts and numbers will be a function in part of the number and quality of responses we receive. You can review the past years' total award amounts on the <u>Great Streets BDS webpage</u>.

Is there a limit to how many proposals will be accepted?

We don't limit the number of proposals that are accepted, but funding is not guaranteed for all proposals.

Is it all-or-nothing, or do you typically award less than what applicants propose?

Some proposals don't receive any funding, but in most cases, it isn't an all or nothing approach. In past years, some proposals received full funding for some aspects of the proposal and zero for other aspects that didn't seem to fit the program objectives.

If multiple projects are submitted in a proposal, is there a possibility for one to be approved and funded while another is excluded?

Yes, a proposal can receive funding for some projects while others are not funded. The projects are not viewed as all or nothing in terms of receiving funding. On rare occasions, a project can be recommended for less than the amount requested.

Is this the first year that Cultural Districts are a criterion for the Great Streets grant program? Yes, the City Council designated the boundaries for the Cultural Districts in August 2020 in a <u>Cultural Districts ordinance</u>.

For proposals that fall into more than one of the strategies (e.g. Business/Economic, and Culture and Arts), should applicants focus on one, or talk about all the areas of impact that we plan to have? Most activities fall into many strategies. It is a good idea to focus on all areas with the greatest direct impact, indirect impact is good, but focus mostly on direct impact and impact that is measurable.

What is a typical range for a Culture and Arts grant request?

You can review the past years' one-page grant summaries on the Great Streets BDS webpage. 2019 is linked <u>here</u>.

Knowing how unpredictable things can be with COVID, I just want to confirm whether there will be a measure of flexibility/understanding in needing to adapt the approach to meet the same goals? Yes, there will be flexibility. However, when applying, you should take into consideration the COVID safety precautions that are in place right now and, if possible, include ideas as to how you would shift your approach to meeting your goals if the COVID guidelines changed over the coming months.

Is an "affordable co-working space" considered a potential business development idea for proposal? This type of proposal would fall under the "Ineligible Activities", in the RFP document, excerpt below:

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• Financing commercial real estate development projects, physical improvements to a single property, or loans to businesses are not eligible activities, as the City offers such assistance through other programs.

We are wondering if you/the board will accept an arts organization applying with a fiscal sponsorship?

Yes, you can apply with a different nonprofit acting as your fiscal sponsor, but you could also apply alone if your organization is a non-profit.

Can an individual apply for a grant that would help support the community and the commercial district or do they have to be partners with other organizations?

Proposals for the Business District Support Program must be submitted by not-for-profit organizations. This would include:

- business associations,
- community development corporations,
- cultural organizations,
- arts organizations,
- neighborhood organizations, and
- other organizations that have the demonstrated capacity to perform the proposed work or subcontract with an entity that does.