



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Housing & Neighborhood Services

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 3, 2025

Re: Authorizing the City Manager to enter into mini-grant agreements for the Love Your Block program

## Executive Summary

The City of Columbia was one of 16 cities selected for the 2024-2026 cohort of the Love Your Block program in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University and funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies. The Love Your Block grant includes up to \$20,000 in funds to support neighborhood activities and minor home repair, including mini-grants, for Fiscal Year 2025. This resolution authorizes the City Manager to enter into mini-grant agreements with local organizations and individuals.

## Discussion

Columbia's initial application for the Love Your Block program included three priorities focused in the central city, specifically Census tracts 9 and 21:

- Neighborhood cleanups and dumpsters for resident use.
- Home maintenance on owner occupied structures.
- Transformation of City-owned lots on West Sexton Road.

Since our selection in the program, City staff have worked with staff with the Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation (BCPI) at Johns Hopkins University to refine our Public Problem Statement: *With support from Mayor Buffaloe, the City of Columbia, Missouri's Love Your Block project will revitalize central neighborhoods, zip codes 65201, 65202 and 65203, by enhancing safety, cleanliness, green spaces, tree canopy, and the arts. The project aims to boost neighborhood pride, improve appearance, and create safer, beautiful communities by 2026.*

Conducting a mini-grant program to support this work is a requirement of the Love Your Block program. BCPI is asking participating cities to open their mini-grant program on or near February 14, announce the recipients on or near April 22 with work to be completed by August 31, 2025. A second year of funding is available to conduct a similar process in 2026.

Staff are proposing a mini-grant program that would provide up to \$2,500 for projects in central and northeast Columbia. Eligible applicants are individuals (including individuals on behalf of neighborhood groups), non-profit organizations, faith organizations and schools.

Informational meetings will be held in February and March to assist potential applicants. Mini-grant applications will be reviewed by a committee using a scoring process based on the priorities of Love Your Block. Post-project reporting and photos will be requested from each recipient.

This resolution will authorize the city manager to enter into the mini-grant agreements; these agreements shall be substantially in the form of Exhibit A. A document that includes the mini-



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grant general guidelines, instructions, application, report form and application scoring form is also attached.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: none

Long-Term Impact: none

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community,

Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### [Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Not applicable,

Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
September 3, 2024	B208-24 – Approval of an Ordinance Authorizing a subaward agreement with Johns Hopkins University associated with the design and implementation of the Love Your Block program so support activities in central neighborhoods; amending the FY2024 Annual Budget by appropriating funds.

## Suggested Council Action

Approval of this resolution.