



MI GREAT PLACES, INC.

## **Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper**

*Shaping Neighborhoods and Cities Through Placemaking*

A Division of Michigan Realtors®

The Michigan Realtors® Placemaking Grant is available for Local Realtor® Associations, Realtor® firms and individual Realtors® to help fund *Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper* Placemaking projects in their communities.

*Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper* Placemaking projects are small, inexpensive, and incremental community projects. They do not need to cost a lot of money to get off the ground, nor do they need to take too much time to plan and complete. Despite their size, these smaller types of Placemaking activities can often help to improve a neighborhood and make it a better place to live, work and play.

*Lighter Quicker Cheaper* projects help to:

- Create community gathering places
- Attract residents and visitors
- Bring life to downtowns
- Support walkable communities
- Preserve open and green spaces
- Bring awareness to a space

### **Grant Criteria & Requirements**

- Project Focus: Creates, renews or revitalizes a public, outdoor space as a destination and gathering place.
- Project Requirements
  - Part of a strategic, community or project plan.
  - Involves the participation of the Association and/or Realtors® including funding, volunteering and project planning.
  - Includes project budget and, if applicable, a design concept/plan.
  - Involves community partners.
  - Is accessible to the whole community and all residents.
  - Incorporates the “Power of Ten”: place offers at least 10 things to do or 10 reasons to be there — place to sit, art to enjoy, music to hear, area to read/check email, food to eat, history to experience, flowers to smell, people to meet, area to play, people to watch, things to learn, paths to walk, etc.
- Grants will be awarded in amounts between \$500 and \$3,500
- An Association can be approved for 1 grant per year

## **Types of Grants**

- Local Realtor® Project - \$500 to \$2,000
  - Michigan Realtors® will provide reimbursement for a Local Realtor® Association's/ Realtor® firm's/individual Realtor's® Placemaking project. Projects that leverage additional investments from other funding sources could be awarded more money on a case by case basis.
- Local Realtor® Investment Project - \$3,500
  - A Local Realtor® Association/ Realtor® firm/ individual Realtor® investment of \$1,000 (or more) will be utilized to reimburse a community Placemaking initiative. Michigan Realtors® will contribute the additional \$2,500 toward the community Placemaking reimbursement. Projects that leverage additional investments from other funding sources could be awarded more money on a case by case basis.

## **Grant Application Process**

Applications Due: Accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year through October of each year.

- Take a photo(s) of the current site to be used as a “before” photo.
- If applicable, obtain a copy of the project’s planning concept or plan.
- Submit the online application. You can attach the photo(s) and plan via the online application.
- Staff will schedule a brief phone call to discuss project and application within 10 days of submission of application. You may need to provide additional information.
- Staff will review application, and make a decision after all information is received.

## **Project Completion**

- Project must be completed within 9 months after grant application was approved.
- Monthly updates must be provided to Michigan Realtors® regarding the project’s progress.
- Within 45 days after the project was completed, the following needs to be sent to Michigan Realtors®:
  - Before and after photos of the project.
  - Brief report of what happened (i.e. use/visits by the community; media coverage; other community projects, outcomes, etc.).
- Celebrate your success! We encourage you to consider having a “ribbon cutting” ceremony or similar event and inviting the community, stakeholders and media and include that in your report.

## **Disbursement of Funds**

- Funds will be distributed as follows:
  - Submit proof of how funds were spent.
  - Acceptable forms of proof include an invoice, signed contract, receipts, and cancelled checks.
  - The request for reimbursement must be made within 45 days of the completion of the project.
  - Once all documentation is received, Michigan Realtors® will process the check request.
    - Checks can be payable to your Association or Board, or an organization (we will need a W9 and phone number) but not to a government agency.
- Associations will not be able to submit another application for one year if funds were not used as described in application.

## **Types of Projects Funded**

Parklets  
Community Gardens  
Downtown Streetscaping  
Pocket Parks  
Bike Racks  
Pedestrian Plazas  
Trails & Paths & Rails to Trails  
Playgrounds & Play Areas  
Dog Parks  
Memorial Site Amenities  
Alley Activations & Pedestrian Walkways  
Amenities For Existing Public Space  
Farmer Markets  
Night Markets  
Movie Nights  
Murals and Public Art  
Seating  
Kiosks & Wayfinding Signage  
Little Free Libraries

## **Types of Projects Not Funded**

Places not available to whole community (i.e. public housing project, private property, gated communities)