



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* projects in their communities.

Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper 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 \$2,500
- An Association can be approved for 1 grant per year

Type of Grant

- Local Realtor® Investment Project - \$500 to \$2,500
 - A Local Realtor® Association/ Realtor® Firm/ Individual Realtor® may apply for a grant of between \$500 to \$1,500. If a local Realtor® entity contributes additional money, the grant program will match up to an additional \$1,000. Please note that this is a reimbursement grant and sufficient documentation of expenses paid is required for reimbursement. Also, note that reimbursement must be requested within nine months of the project grant being awarded. If you are unsure about the implementation timeline, it is recommended that you wait until you have a firm timeline before submitting your grant application.

Grant Application Process

Applications Due: Accepted on a rolling basis 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.
- Include the W-9 information of the entity that will be receiving the grant reimbursement.
- 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 project completion, 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 a paid invoice, paid 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 review the documentation in support of the check request.
 - Checks can be payable to your Association or Board, or a qualified organization (we will need a W9 and phone number). Note well, that government agencies are not considered a qualified organization to receive reimbursement under this program.
- 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 the whole community (i.e. public housing project, private property, gated communities)