



Request for Proposals
Uncommon Spaces Grant Program
Spring 2018

The Mason County Growth Alliance (MCGA) is currently accepting proposals from municipalities, businesses, and organizations within Mason County interested in receiving funding for placemaking projects. In 2018, the MCGA *Uncommon Spaces* Grant Program will award up to \$10,000 (\$5,000 Spring/ \$5,000 Fall) for community-driven placemaking projects which capitalize on Mason County's assets, inspiration, and potential, contributing to a "sense of place" for residents, businesses, and visitors. PROPOSED PROJECTS MUST TAKE PLACE IN MASON COUNTY. The *Uncommon Spaces* Grant Program aims to keep creativity ever-present in the public realm and aims to meet strategies as outlined in the MCGA Action Plan. The *Uncommon Spaces* Program is a biannual grant program aligning with the Mason County Growth Alliance and its economic development goals. Participation from year to year is not guaranteed, nor is there a commitment to fund this program, or participating organizations, at current levels if fund appropriations do not allow.

Goals

The goals of the *Uncommon Spaces* Grant Program are to support innovative placemaking projects that:

1. Engage those who live, work, and play in Mason County in planning, design, and programming;
2. Highlight and promote Mason County's physical attributes, values, and/or relevant social issues;
3. Focus on creating destinations, building and connecting clusters of cultural attractions and creative activity;
4. Incorporate key placemaking concepts such as triangulation and investigation of history;
5. Are free, open, and accessible to the public, including people with disabilities;
6. Contribute to short- and long-term economic impact in the community.

Examples of appropriate proposals might include:

Gateways/entryways, public spaces, public art (sculptures, murals, etc.); festivals; projects themed around the environment, education, technology, transportation, or art-as-healing; historical celebrations; arts incubators; repurposing/revitalization of buildings; etc.

Eligibility

- The request for proposals is open to any municipality, business, or organization located in Mason County.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate appropriate approvals, permits, and/or permissions from the governing municipal authority (as necessary).
- The proposed project must be able to be completed within a year of the grant award.
- The applicant shall not be delinquent on any debt owed to any municipal entity including individual and/or business income tax, individual and/or property tax, assessments or fees and utility obligations.

Deadline

The deadline for submission is 5:00 PM on Friday, April 6, 2018. Please email applications to: Spence Riggs, Executive Director, spencer@ludington.org

Submission

Please fill out the attached application – complete with any relevant supporting documentation – and submit to the MCGA as directed above.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of artistic & community professionals, who recommend awards based on review of applications. The funding may be awarded in full, or in part, to one or more organizations. Decisions of the panel may not be appealed.

Selection Criteria

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Does the project increase the sense of place for residents and visitors?
- Does the project impact potential business investment and talent in the area?
- Is the placement of the project in a high visibility location, or another significant location?
- Is the project feasible (budget, timeline, organizational capacity, etc.)?
- Does the project/applicant meet all eligibility requirements?

Award

The Mason County Growth Alliance will notify applicants of the outcome by the end of April 2018. Unless otherwise specified, grantees will receive 50% of the grant dollars at the time of contract with MCGA and 50% upon completion of the final report when the project has been completed.

Questions

Please direct any questions to Spence Riggs at the Mason County Growth Alliance by calling 231-845-6646 or emailing spencer@ludington.org

UNCOMMON SPACES

Application Form

NAME (Municipality/Business/Organization): _____

PROJECT NAME: _____

AMOUNT REQUESTED: _____ TOTAL PROJECT COST: _____

PROPOSED START DATE: _____ PROPOSED END DATE: _____

GRANT CONTACT NAME & TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION *Please provide a brief description of the proposed project.*

HOW DOES THE PROPOSED PROJECT ALIGN WITH THE PLACEMAKING GOALS OF THE *UNCOMMON SPACES* PROGRAM?

PROGRAM TIMELINE *Provide a brief explanation of the timeline for completing the proposed project.*

BUDGET NARRATIVE *Provide a description of the project budget. If necessary, please provide attachments.*

SUSTAINABILITY *Describe how this project will be supported/maintained once completed.*

Please submit the completed application forms and any accompanying information to Spence Riggs with the
Mason County Growth Alliance at spencer@ludington.org