



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Gigi Saladna  
Senior Media Manager  
412.304.4042  
[gsaladna@ura.org](mailto:gsaladna@ura.org)

**URA ANNOUNCES NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVES FUND PROJECTS READY TO MOVE FORWARD**

PITTSBURGH, PA (February 4, 2020) – The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) announced today the [Neighborhood Initiatives Fund](#) (NIF) projects are ready to move forward. The NIF Program is a pilot program that makes it easier for City of Pittsburgh communities to access funding for neighborhood-scale projects. A total of 18 NIF awards were granted across 30 neighborhoods throughout the City for a total investment of \$850,000.

The grant recipients, funding awarded, and projects are:

- |  |           |   |
|--|-----------|---|
| • Pittsburgh Musical Theater                         | \$94,360  | Pittsburgh Musical Theater's historic building                        |
| • Brookline Together                                 | \$19,995  | Brookline community apiary and garden infrastructure                  |
| • Bloomfield Development Corporation                 | \$20,000  | Bloomfield streetscape improvements                                   |
| • Grow Pittsburgh                                    | \$18,000  | East Commons Community Garden at Allegheny Commons Park               |
| • The Union Project                                  | \$78,000  | Union Project front plaza and stairs                                  |
| • Manchester Citizens Corporation                    | \$50,000  | Juniata Street Green Project  |
| • ACH Clear Pathways                                 | \$80,000  | ACH Clear Pathways Arts Center  |
| • Western Pennsylvania Conservancy                   | \$15,694  | Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Community Gardens update             |
| • Northside Leadership Conference                    | \$5,000   | We Like Bikes! Bicycle rack expansion                                 |
| • Hazelwood Initiative, Inc.                         | \$100,000 | A Gateway to Hazelwood's Future                                       |
| • Northside Partnership Project                      | \$100,000 | McNaugher School heating upgrade                                      |
| • Mount Washington Community Development Corporation | \$20,000  | Wyoming/Virginia/Southern Intersection Redevelopment Planning Project |
| • Elizabeth Seton Center, Inc.                       | \$83,333  | Elizabeth Seton Center roof replacement                               |
| • Project Love Coalition                             | \$15,800  | Agri-Green Space and Learning Garden                                  |
| • Point Breeze North Development Corporation         | \$20,000  | Westinghouse Park planning  |
| • Bible Center Church - Oasis Community Kitchen      | \$100,000 | Oasis Community Kitchen Improvements                                  |

- |                                       |          |   |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---|
| • Landforce                           | \$19,818 | South Side Park Accessible Trail Loop           |
| • Nine Mile Run Watershed Association | \$10,000 | Rosedale/Hill Neighborhood Gateway Improvements |

“The NIF Program is a great example of how the URA supports nonprofit and community-based organizations by increasing project visibility and access to funding,” Diamonte Walker, URA deputy executive director said. “Leveraging local dollars to invest in these neighborhood-scale initiatives is intended to improve residents' quality of life and underscore the amazing work happening within our communities across the City of Pittsburgh.”

The program, administered by the URA’s Economic Development Department, is designed to help unlock the economic and placemaking potential within neighborhoods citywide. It grants up to \$100,000 to nonprofits and community-based organizations for eligible non-housing, neighborhood projects including, but not limited to:

- Vacant property reclamation and stewardship
- Historic preservation
- Brownfield development
- Construction of public space and neighborhood infrastructure improvements, such as streetscape improvements, transit and transportation-related improvements, parks and open space improvements, green infrastructure, and public art

There are two levels of funding available: Tier 1 includes grants under \$20,000 with no matching requirements; and Tier 2 includes grants between \$20,000 to \$100,000 with matching funds required from non-URA and non-City sources.

“We here at the Manchester Citizens Corp (MCC) are thrilled to be a recipient of the NIF program funding,” MCC CEO LaShawn Burton-Faulk said. “We are in a season where placemaking that is equitable and transforming matters. In a majority minority community that has an adopted community comprehensive plan, it is wonderful to know that partners like the URA have prioritized economic development activity and are providing resources for those types of activity to truly be executed!”

The URA Board of Directors approved the NIF Program guidelines in July 2019. Since then, information sessions were held in August; applications were due October 1, followed by an extensive review process; awards were announced in mid-November; and a series of webinars outlining next steps were held in December and January.

Currently, URA project managers are holding scope discussions with grantees. Work is anticipated to begin in the spring.

The program guidelines, applications and funding schedule can be found [here](#). For additional information, please contact the URA’s Economic Development Department at 412.255.6560.

**About the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA)**

*The [URA](#) is the City of Pittsburgh's economic development agency, supporting the City's economic development goals, which are designed to create a city of inclusive opportunity for residents, stakeholders, and communities. The URA is committed to creating more housing that is affordable to the average Pittsburgher; encouraging more entrepreneurship and small business development; promoting inclusive*

*growth and quality job creation; expanding neighborhood and main streets revitalization efforts; and developing a talented workforce that is equipped with the skills of the future.*

*Through its [Neighborhood Initiatives Fund \(NIF\)](#) program, the URA supports nonprofit and community-based organizations with competitive grants for neighborhood-scale projects that improve residents' quality of life and build an equitable Pittsburgh. The NIF program is designed to help unlock the economic and placemaking potential within neighborhoods citywide. Projects funded through the NIF program will support vision-to-action community investment strategies and encourage neighborhood investment through land reclamation, historic preservation, vacant property activation, and public infrastructure improvements.*

###