

2024 COMMUNITY BENEFITS CALL FOR PROGRAMMING PROPOSALS

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is a once-in-a-generation undertaking. Not only will the project deliver much-needed transportation improvements for international travellers, it is also providing jobs and opportunities for growth to the Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan region and includes features that make this project truly distinctive. A key project element is the inclusion of a Community Benefits Plan.

On the Gordie Howe International Bridge, community benefits are identified opportunities that can advance economic, social or environmental conditions for the local communities. In developing the Community Benefits Plan, it was key that the initiatives selected for implementation would provide positive outcomes for the Windsor-Detroit region and specifically focus on enhancing the Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit communities, which are the neighbourhoods closest to the project area.

CALL FOR PROGRAMMING PROPOSALS

The Community Benefits Plan includes the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy, a \$23 million (CDN) investment in the local communities of Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit. All \$23 million of this funding will be invested in the host communities before the end of the design-build period. Approximately \$5.5 million (\$3.3 million in Canada and \$2.2 million in the US) is currently available and the project team intends to assign a portion of this funding this year to support the expansion of existing projects and add new initiatives to the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy, including high-value programming initiatives identified through an open call for programming proposals process.

Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy investments must align with at least one of the **community investment areas** identified through consultation. These include:

- Aesthetics, landscaping and green initiatives
- Community partnerships
- Community safety and connections
- Economic benefits and business development
- Food security and wellness
- Local history and culture
- Tourism.

Through this call for programming proposals, the project team intends to invest up to \$1.4 million (CDN) in each community. The project team reserves the right:

- to offer funding in an amount that differs from the original funding request
- not to allocate available funding to proposals received through this process
- to consider proposals submitted through this call for alternative collaborative opportunities.

Priority consideration will be given to proposals received from existing Community Benefits partners requesting to extend annual programming funding into 2025. Previous partners will only be considered for a funding extension or new programming project if the organization has satisfied reporting requirements, has achieved deliverables set out in previous proposals and is demonstrating delivery of positive benefits for the host communities. Only one programming proposal or extension request per organization will be accepted.

ELIGIBILITY

The project team is inviting proposals from organizations serving Sandwich/west Windsor or Delray/Southwest Detroit for existing or new community-based programming that:

- will be delivered by a registered not-for-profit, public-sector or charitable organization(s); proof of status must be provided with the proposal, as applicable
 - projects delivered by individuals and for-profit organizations will not be accepted
 - faith-based organizations may be considered if the proposed program is secular in nature and will provide demonstrated benefits to the greater community
- is valued between **\$50,000 - \$250,000 (CDN)**
- will be delivered between **January 1, 2025**, and **December 31, 2025**; funding will not be provided retroactively or for activities that will occur after January 1, 2026
- aligns with at least one of the prioritized community investment areas determined for the applicable host community
- will provide lasting benefits to residents of the host communities
- supports community and/or organizational capacity building
- will have measurable impacts that can be monitored and reported on
- is delivered by an organization(s) with a demonstrated history of providing programming in a host community and a reputation for delivering upon commitments.

ELIGIBLE APPLICATION AREAS

Sandwich/west Windsor



Delray/Southwest Detroit



Proposals will not be considered eligible if funding will be directed towards:

- physical infrastructure improvements
- land or property acquisition
- costs that result in direct payments to for-profit entities
- costs incurred prior to the eligibility date
- fundraising or sponsorship activities
- scholarships
- deficit or debt reduction
- an organization's ongoing overhead or operational costs (including but not limited to rent, mortgage payments, utilities, maintenance costs, etc.)
- advocacy or political activities.

Eligible proposals that are determined to be in-scope and align with one or more prioritized community investment area(s) may be further refined through direct discussions with the project team following submission.

Eligible proposals will be shared with members of the project Local Community Group for comments and reviewed by senior representatives from Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), Bridging North America (BNA) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) who will approve the projects to receive funding through this process. Individuals reviewing proposals will be required to treat content as confidential and disclose any conflicts of interest.

Recipients of the funding are anticipated to be announced in early 2025.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROGRAMMING PROPOSAL

Organizations interested in submitting a programming proposal for a new project are strongly encouraged to attend an information session to learn more and discuss the programming proposal with a project team member. To register for the virtual information session visit GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com. Registration is not required for in-person sessions.

In-person Information sessions:

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Southwest Detroit Community Office

7744 W. Vernor Hwy, Detroit

The project team will present at 9:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 4, 2024

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Sandwich Community Office
3201 Sandwich Street, Windsor

The project team will present at 1:45 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Virtual Information session:

Thursday, July 11, 2024

9:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams
Pre-registration is required.

Interested organizations can download the **2024 Community Benefits Programming Proposal Form** at GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com. Completed proposals and supplementary documentation must be submitted electronically via email to info@wdbridge.com in Word or PDF format noting “[Organization Name] - 2024 Community Benefits Programming Proposal” in the subject line. Organizations will be sent an email confirming receipt of their proposal within three business days of their submission.

Deadline for proposal submission: Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. EST.

LEARN MORE

If you have questions about the Community Benefits Plan or the 2024 Community Benefits Call for Programming Proposals process or eligibility criteria, please contact the project team via email at info@wdbridge.com or via the toll-free number at 1-844-322-1773.



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Sandwich Community Office*
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*Check project website for hours of operation.