

Community Relations Commission

Meeting Agenda



Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025, 4 p.m.

Council Chambers, Goshen Police & Courts, 111 E. Jefferson St.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction of CRC Members and Guests

- a. **MEMBERS:** E-man Monge, Lori Copsey, Angie Wentz, Tim Swartzentruber and John Dolezal.
- b. **GUESTS/SUPPORT:** Gina Leichty (Mayor), Phil Lederach (City Council Liaison), Michael Wanbaugh (Director of Administrative Affairs), Theresa Cummings (CDGB administrator) and Daniela Panetta (Lacasa)

2. Approve the Agenda

3. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Nov. 4, 2025

4. Community Partnership/Sponsorship presentations (5 minutes)

- a. FIRST IN Crisis Response Team – Greg Lanzen
- b. Downtown Goshen Inc.
 - Administration – Veronica Berkey
 - First Fridays – Amanda Rose
 - Façade Program – Michelle Horning
- c. St. Joseph River Basin Commission – Matt Meersman
- d. South Bend – Elkhart Regional Partnership – Bethany Hartley
- e. Goshen Chamber of Commerce – Nick Keiffer
- f. River Bend Film Festival – Amy Worsham
- g. Lacasa Inc. – Ashley Bowen
- h. Michiana Pottery Tour – Trevor Daugherty
- i. Economic Development Corp. of Elkhart County – Chris Stager
- j. Arts on the Millrace – Adrienne Nesbitt

5. CRC Financial Report

6. Privilege of the floor

7. Adjournment



**Community Relations Commission
CITY OF GOSHEN**

202 South Fifth Street, Suite I • Goshen, IN 46528-3714
Phone (574) 537-3839 • communityrelations@goshencity.com
www.goshenindiana.org/crc

GOSHEN COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – Nov. 4, 2025

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025 | 4 p.m.

Location: Goshen Police & Courts Council Chambers, 111 E. Jefferson St.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at **4:00 p.m.**

Commission Members Present:

E-man Monge (Chair), Lori Copsey, Angie Wentz, John Dolezal

Absent:

Tim Swartzendruber

Also Present:

Mayor Gina Leichty, City Council Liaison Phil Lederach, Director of Administrative Affairs Michael Wanbaugh, CDBG Administrator Theresa Cummings, and LaCasa Director of Community Building and Engagement Daniela Panetta.

2. Approval of Minutes (Oct. 7, 2025)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Oct. 7 minutes as written.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Update

Presenter: **Theresa Cummings**

Cummings provided a detailed review of outcomes from the 2024 program year and highlighted funding impacts across Goshen, noting:

- Approximately **\$342,000** funded 11 approved activities.
- More than **1,000 low- and moderate-income residents** benefited.
- Supported programs included First Light Mission meal services, Maple City Healthcare Center support, LaCasa Help-a-House rehabilitation initiatives, Boys & Girls Club meal service, homeownership support for seven households, Council on Aging transportation assistance, and preschool scholarships.

Cummings emphasized the long-term community impact of the funding, noting that Maple City



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Healthcare Center first received CDBG-enabling dollars more than three decades ago and now serves nearly 10,000 residents annually.

She reported that funding for the 2025 cycle totals **\$343,000** and includes two new eligible project categories:

- Solar improvements on a LaCasa affordable housing site intended to reduce energy and operational costs
- Reimbursement for HUD-approved homeownership counseling

No action was required.

5. LaCasa Community Leadership Institute Report

Presenter: **Daniela Panetta**

Panetta shared a summary of Goshen's participation in the NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute in Minneapolis. A cohort of Goshen neighborhood residents participated in workshops and planning sessions focused on community empowerment and leadership development.

As part of the institute, Goshen will receive a project grant. Participants are developing a concept focused on community connection in the Chamberlain neighborhood. Initial discussion points include:

- A shared neighborhood meal
- A potential mural or youth-driven creative element
- Integration with the Chamberlain community garden reopening

The project period will extend up to one year and is expected to support long-term neighborhood leadership development.

6. 2026 Community Partnership & Sponsorship Cycle

Wanbaugh shared updates on the upcoming grant cycle and reported that the online application system is being finalized. The updated schedule includes:

- **Application deadline:** November 14, 2025
- **Public presentations:** December 2 and December 3 at 4 p.m., Council Chambers
- **Executive session deliberation:** December 9, 2025

He also clarified the distinction between federally regulated CDBG funds and locally controlled municipal partnership dollars. No vote was required.



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7. Financial Report

Wanbaugh reported that several reimbursements remain outstanding from Indigenous Peoples Day and neighborhood mini-grants. Remaining funds may support outreach materials including shirts, pens, table signage, or other items for First Friday engagement.

No motion required.

8. Upcoming Events

- **November Light Parade:** Commissioners are invited to walk with the Mayor's entry and participate in community engagement.
- **Community Conversation on SEA-1:** Commissioners were encouraged to attend the public budget impact discussion on November 12 at Goshen Theater.

9. Privilege of the Floor

Commissioner **E-man Monge** shared an update from the Shanklin–Millrace Neighborhood Association. Earlier in October, four neighbors organized a pop-up street gathering with shared food and informal activities. Approximately 35 residents attended, including several children who used the temporarily closed street for chalk art and outdoor play. Commissioners noted the gathering as a positive example of organic neighborhood-building and engagement.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

From: [Greggory Lanzen](#)
To: [CommunityRelations](#)
Subject: New submission from Community Partnership Application
Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 11:41:23 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date
11/04/2025
Organization
First In Chaplain Crisis Response Team
Address
17625 Shannon Avenue Goshen, Indiana 46526-8963 United States Map It
Contact Person
Greggory Lanzen
Email
gregglanzen@gmail.com
Project Title
Chaplain Crisis Response Team
Amount Requested
\$10,000
Additional Organizational Information
We are 6 volunteer chaplains led by Lead/Senior Chaplain Dr. Gregg Lanzen. All of our chaplains are nationally certified to provide emergency emotional, psychological, spiritual, and limited physical assistance to the victims of fire and/or the sudden death of family member, relative, or close friend. We are also trained, certified and equipped to provide physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual rehabilitation, adaptation, and support to Goshen's Firefighters, Paramedics and Police Officers, and their families who experience the trauma of the crisis incidents they respond to daily.
Additional Organizational Information Continued
The First In ~ Chaplain Crisis Response Team, is a group of dedicated volunteer chaplains whose mission is to minister to the emotional, psychological, spiritual and physical needs of the Goshen (IN) Police and Fire Departments, and the citizens they serve.
Years in operation
19
Number of full-time paid staff
0
Number of volunteers

List of Board Members

Dr. Gregg Lanzen – founder, president, & 1st commander
 Mr. Leon Geigley – vice president, treasurer & 2nd commander
 Mr. Joe Smith – vice president & 3rd commander
 Mr. Michael Pennington – member
 Mr. Jason Miller – member
 Mrs. Jennifer Lanzen – member

Describe how the funds were utilized

- Rehabilitation supplies including: food, water & hydrating drinks, energy bars, etc.
- Short term emergency lodging (24 hours) at a local hotel for victims of fire.
- Crisis Response Trailer supplies including: generator fuel & cords, batteries, tent supplies, cooling fan, etc.
- First Responder & families training including: food, printed material, promotion and other related expenses.
- Continuing education expenses including: conference & seminar registration fees, materials, and other related expenses.
- Uniform needs including: Class A (dress) & duty uniform purchase, replacement, dry-cleaning, hardware, etc.
- Annual First Responder Cookout supplies including: food, pop, condiments, tableware, gifts for children, etc. for about 100 first responders and families.

How was the City recognized as a Partner?

The city is recognized in our print material, public presentations, in our social media, and verbally (when the opportunity arises).

Proposed Project Description

To continue to serve the Goshen Fire and Police Departments, their families, and the citizens of Goshen who face crisis incidents where our services can be of value and assistance.

Community needs or problems to be addressed

- Victims of fire, and/or the death of a loved one who need the comfort, guidance and short-term assistance provided by our chaplain team.
- Firefighters, medics and police officers and their families who face the stress of emergency services.

Population or area to be served

All of the area, citizens and guests of Goshen and the area around Goshen served by the Goshen Fire and Police Departments, especially those who experience a crisis incident and the related stresses of a crisis incident.

Person(s) responsible to complete the work

The six chaplains on our team. See "List of Board Members" above.

Start Date

01/01/2026

End Date

12/31/2026

Goals:

We will consider our service to be successful when:

- When the chief officers of the Goshen Fire and Police Departments are satisfied.
- When those in need find a level of relief due to our efforts.

What date do you anticipate need these funds?

03/01/2026

Describe how grant funds will be utilized

To fulfill the various needs of the chaplain crisis response team including, but not limited to:

- Purchase of rehabilitation supplies.
- Purchase and upkeep of equipment.
- Training and certification expenses.
- Certifying organization dues.
- Insurance and corporate premiums.
- Purchase and upkeep of uniforms.

How will the project meet one of more objectives

"For the Good of Goshen" has been the city motto for several years. An important part of that good happens when Goshen's First In Chaplains arrive on the scene of a crisis incident to help mitigate the critical incident stress being experienced by the victims and first responders through the chaplain's resources, training, and heart for those in need. Although the focus of the chaplain's service may be somewhat limited in scope, the benefits for the victims and first responders involved is often immeasurable. Goshen's First In Chaplains all serve "For the Good of Goshen" in ways most other organizations are not equipped nor trained to serve.

Please confirm that you can provide this information by checking this box.

- Yes. We have Liability Insurance and can provide a Certificate of Liability naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured on our policy.

Upload previous year financial statement for your organization (PDF)

- [2025-Budget.pdf](#)

Upload list of previous years sponsors (PDF)

- [25-Donors-List.pdf](#)

Upload 2-4 previous year photos (.jpg preferred)

- [20250804_174510.jpg](#)
- [7907127934532570313.jpg](#)
- [content.jpg](#)

Upload current fiscal year budget for your organization

- [2025-Budget1.pdf](#)

Upload Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured

- [FI-Liability-Ins.pdf](#)

Applicant Signature

Signature Image



Date

11/04/2025

From: [Veronica Berkey](#)
To: [CommunityRelations](#)
Subject: New submission from Community Partnership Application
Date: Friday, November 14, 2025 11:27:04 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date
11/14/2025
Organization
Downtown Goshen, Inc.
Address
c/o Fables Books 215 S. Main Street Goshen, Indiana 46526 United States Map It
Contact Person
Veronica Berkey
Email
veronica@fablesbooks.com
Project Title
Downtown Goshen, Inc. Administrative Expenses
Amount Requested
5000.00
Website
https://downtowngoshen.org/
Additional Organizational Information
The DGI Board is an engaged volunteer group of persons who live or work in Goshen and are passionate about the continued development of the downtown Goshen corridor. Our newly adopted vision, mission and core values are listed below.
Additional Organizational Information Continued
Vision: A thriving, inclusive downtown that is a world class destination for residents and visitors, fostering economic vitality and preserving our historic charm.
Mission: We strengthen Goshen through strategic partnerships, preservation, and fostering vibrant experiences for the community in historic downtown Goshen.
Core Values: Collaboration, Integrity, Community, Invested
Years in operation
33

Number of full-time paid staff

0

Number of volunteers

18

List of Board Members

Veronica Berkey, Justin Bell, Amy Sorg, Tara Sparks, Jon Hunsberger, Jesse Sensenig, Kate Steury, Rosie Singh, Amy Worsham, Amanda Schutz, with Key Partners Nick Kieffer and Phil Lederach.

Describe how the funds were utilized

Prior year funds were used to pay administrative expenses - accounting fees and insurance primarily.

How was the City recognized as a Partner?

The City is included as a sponsor on the DGI website, as well as the subcommittee organizations, First Friday and Facade. Note that these funds are the only funds that the board currently uses/has available to it, so the City of Goshen is the only sponsor of the board itself, so no additional list is included below. All First Friday funds are used for First Friday only, those funds do not support the administrative expenses of the board.

Proposed Project Description

Administrative Expenses for the DGI Board of Directors

Community needs or problems to be addressed

Continued oversight of the two subcommittees, as well as strategic planning for the future of the DGI organization. Organization of the board into working subcommittees that support the mission and vision of DGI, which supports and strengthens Goshen.

Population or area to be served

Our demographic for customers to downtown businesses/users of the downtown commercial core/attenders of First Friday are a much broader category than that of the downtown businesses themselves, or the stakeholders to the Facade grants. In all of these cases, we are prioritizing a connection to the local Latinx community as members of all these demographics.

Person(s) responsible to complete the work

The board is volunteer, but also responsible for the planning and implementation of the board goals.

Start Date

01/01/2026

End Date

12/31/2026

Goals:

After a period of considerable upheaval, the board has re-oriented itself to the strategic planning initiatives outlined in our mission statement. Subgroups of the board have begun to identify those goals, and the measurement thereof.

What date do you anticipate need these funds?

04/01/2026

Describe how grant funds will be utilized

Payment of accounting services, subscription software, and insurance.

How will the project meet one of more objectives

Section E-3 of the Comprehensive Plan specifically identifies "Position(ing) Downtown Goshen as a hub for small business and entrepreneurship", and section E-8 identifies downtown Goshen as an area to "protect, develop and promote" from an architectural, cultural and entertainment amenity. We also believe that a vibrant downtown Goshen is a central part of local quality of life. These align with the mission and goals of DGI.

Please confirm that you can provide this information by checking this box.

- Yes. We have Liability Insurance and can provide a Certificate of Liability naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured on our policy.

Upload previous year financial statement for your organization (PDF)

- [2024-DGI-Financials.pdf](#)

Upload list of previous years sponsors (PDF)

- [DGI-2024-members-and-sponsors-list.pdf](#)

Upload 2-4 previous year photos (.jpg preferred)

- [53838137622_219a2b2dea_c.jpg](#)
- [53777644977_3dc091ac9b_o.jpg](#)

Upload current fiscal year budget for your organization

- [DGI-2025-Budget.pdf](#)

Applicant Signature

Signature Image



Date

11/14/2025

From: [Amanda Rose](#)
To: [CommunityRelations](#)
Subject: New submission from Community Partnership Application
Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 10:58:52 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date

11/12/2025

Organization

Downtown Goshen Inc.

Address

324 S 5th Street
Goshen, Indiana 46528
United States
[Map It](#)

Contact Person

Amanda Rose

Email

amanda@eyedart.com

Project Title

First Fridays

Amount Requested

50,000

Website

<https://www.downtowngoshen.org>

Additional Organizational Information

Since its establishment in 2006, Downtown Goshen, Incorporated (DGI) has played a vital role in revitalizing and activating the downtown business district, transforming it into a vibrant destination for residents and visitors alike. Through regular community programming, collaborative marketing initiatives with local businesses, strategic economic development efforts, and visual enhancements such as façade improvement projects, DGI has strengthened the economic and cultural vitality of downtown Goshen.

One of DGI's most successful programs is First Fridays, a free monthly community event designed to increase foot traffic, tourism, and community engagement in Downtown Goshen. Each themed event highlights local artisans, live music, business promotions, car shows, parades, and other family-friendly activities. First Fridays also provide a platform for local businesses and nonprofit organizations to connect directly with the public, offering educational opportunities and a direct way to highlight their goods and services. These events foster a strong sense of community pride while supporting small businesses and the local creative economy.

Additional Organizational Information Continued

Vision Statement: Downtown Goshen will be a thriving, inclusive downtown that is a world-class

destination for residents and visitors, fostering economic vitality and preserving our historic charm.

Mission Statement: Downtown Goshen Inc. strengthens Goshen through strategic partnerships, preservation, and fostering vibrant experiences for the community in historic downtown Goshen.

Years in operation

19

Number of full-time paid staff

1

Number of volunteers

50+

List of Board Members

Jesse Sensenig
Justin Bell – Vice President
Rosie Singh
Jon Hunsberger
Anne Thiel
Amy Phelps – Treasurer
Veronica Berkey – President
Kate Steury
Amy Worsham
Tara Sparks – Secretary
Amanda Schutz

Describe how the funds were utilized

Grant funds were utilized to support a wide range of programmatic and operational needs, including but not limited to live entertainment, contracted event services, event equipment and supplies, marketing and promotional efforts, volunteer support, family-oriented activities, and essential administrative expenses.

How was the City recognized as a Partner?

Preferred stage recognition (when the stage was present)
Preferred Emcee recognition events (when present)
Website Listing: Logo on every page of the DGI website
Individual tagged thank you posts for all events on social media
Preferred booth space offered (Available for all events and to all City departments and adjacent organizations)
Dedicated spotlight on social media outside of the event thank you
Free parade entrant participation in the Goshen Light Parade
Invitation to annual supporter reception
Collaboration opportunities for all events

Proposed Project Description

First Fridays is a free, monthly community event designed to increase foot traffic, activate local commerce, and attract visitors to Downtown Goshen. Held on the first Friday of each month, these events feature a unique theme that celebrates local artisans, live music, business promotions, car shows, parades, and other engaging activities. Beyond entertainment, First Fridays offers valuable opportunities for local businesses and nonprofit organizations to connect with the communities that they serve. This event provides educational activities for families, gives a platform to organizations to showcase their services, and supports local vendors who sell handcrafted goods, all while highlighting the vibrant and

bustling Downtown Goshen.

Community needs or problems to be addressed

Downtown Goshen Inc. and First Fridays seeks to bring visibility to our many businesses and amenities in Downtown Goshen. First Fridays promotes foot traffic and draws attention to our local organizations, businesses, stores, resources, people, non-profits, neighborhoods, and talented creatives.

First Fridays also instill a sense of community pride in Goshen residents. Each year, thousands of visitors and Goshenites enjoy the benefits of free downtown activities (often in times when free activities are much needed). An increase in community pride brings a renewed sense of belonging and camaraderie. It encourages residents and non-residents to continue visiting our thriving downtown throughout the year. Car shows, contests of skill, live dance, local music, local food trucks, and non-profits showcasing services all remind us of the value of our community and improve the quality of life for residents. These events provide areas of clear common ground. They also attract those from out of town to consider Goshen as a place that welcomes them to live, work, and play with open arms.

Population or area to be served

Our target audience is multi-tiered and diverse across all demographics, but with a specific focus on families. This audience includes those living in Goshen and the surrounding area, as well as those traveling from southern Michigan and the counties surrounding Elkhart County.

Person(s) responsible to complete the work

Amanda Rose – Fundraising and Stewardship, Project Management
Demarée Noneman – Event Lead & Coordination, Entertainment Coordination
Niomi Lara – Vendor Coordinator, Event Coordination
Rose Goyette – Vendor Coordinator, Event Coordination
Neil King – Marketing and Promotion, Strategy and Development
Ivonne Ortiz – Content Creator, Photographer
James King – Photographer, Graphic Design, Strategy and Development
Ben Stutzman – Web Design, Strategy and Development
Kyle Taft – Videographer, Content Creator
Jake Sandock – Copywriting and Public Relations

Start Date

01/02/2026

End Date

12/04/2026

Goals:

Merchant Success and Visibility

Downtown Goshen businesses are surveyed following each First Fridays event to assess foot traffic, sales performance, and overall satisfaction. Success will be measured by a high rate of positive feedback from participating merchants, reflecting increased visibility, customer engagement, and business activity during and after the events.

Event Attendance

First Fridays partners with external organizations to accurately track attendance and gather attendee feedback. Success will be evaluated through data indicating a diverse audience in terms of age, race, and background, as well as high overall attendee satisfaction with the event experience.

Stewardship

First Fridays is committed to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all vendors, volunteers, sponsors, partners, and staff. Success in this area will be measured through face-to-face

interactions, consistent communication, and surveys conducted throughout the season, reflecting positive relationships and strong community collaboration.

Digital Engagement

Downtown Goshen, Inc. aims to expand its digital presence and engagement across all social media platforms, email marketing campaigns, and web traffic channels. Success will be measured through growth in followers, engagement rates, and visibility metrics reported by each platform, demonstrating increased community reach and awareness of Downtown Goshen's offerings.

What date do you anticipate need these funds?

01/01/2026

Describe how grant funds will be utilized

Grant funds will be utilized to support a wide range of programmatic and operational needs, including but not limited to live entertainment, contracted event services, event equipment and supplies, marketing and promotional efforts, volunteer support, family-oriented activities, safety initiatives, trainings, participant and partner stewardship, and essential administrative expenses.

How will the project meet one of more objectives

First Fridays advances the grant's goals by strengthening Goshen's sense of place (N-3) and celebrating neighborhood diversity (N-4). Each monthly event brings together residents and visitors of all ages and backgrounds through art, live music, parades, and family activities, fostering a sense of community connection and pride.

The program supports economic vitality by diversifying the local economy (E-1) and promoting small, locally-owned businesses (E-3). Merchants and artisans gain visibility, increased foot traffic, and opportunities to sell goods, while nonprofits connect with the community to educate and engage residents. First Fridays also attracts regional visitors, supporting tourism in Goshen (E-8) and highlighting the city's unique cultural offerings.

Through arts and cultural engagement (C-4) and intentional programming, the initiative helps maintain a vibrant, attractive downtown (L-6). By integrating economic, cultural, and community objectives, First Fridays strengthens Goshen's downtown as a hub for commerce, creativity, and inclusivity, demonstrating measurable impact across multiple community and economic priorities.

Please confirm that you can provide this information by checking this box.

- Yes. We have Liability Insurance and can provide a Certificate of Liability naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured on our policy.

Upload previous year financial statement for your organization (PDF)

- [ProfitandLoss-1.pdf](#)

Upload list of previous years sponsors (PDF)

- [DGI25_Sponsors-2025-Sponsor-Master.pdf](#)

Upload 2-4 previous year photos (.jpg preferred)

- [DGI25_Nov-FF_Light-Parade-125.jpg](#)
- [DGI25_May-FF-43.jpg](#)
- [DGI25_Jan-FF_FireIce-126.jpg](#)
- [DGI25_June-FF_Wheels-Deals-093.jpg](#)

Upload current fiscal year budget for your organization

- [DGI26_FFBudget-2026-Budget-Workshopped-1.pdf](#)

Applicant Signature

Signature Image



Date

11/12/2025

From: [Michelle Horning](#)
To: [CommunityRelations](#)
Subject: New submission from Community Partnership Application
Date: Friday, November 14, 2025 4:12:30 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date
11/14/2025
Organization
Downtown Goshen, Inc. - Facade Committee
Address
Goshen, Indiana United States Map It
Contact Person
Michelle Horning
Email
michhorning@gmail.com
Project Title
Facade Grant Program
Amount Requested
\$20,000
Website
https://downtowngosheh.org/facade-grant-program/
Additional Organizational Information
We are a committee (Facade Committee) of Downtown Goshen, Inc. The Facade Committee is responsible for administering the Facade Grant Program. This program promotes the maintenance and rehabilitation of central business district properties by providing matching grants to business and building owners. Grants are awarded for front of building and back of building facade repair and restoration, awnings, and signs. Facade grants are matching grants, reimbursing building owners and/or business owners for 75% of the cost of approved projects up to a maximum of \$1,000-\$2,500 depending on the project category.
Additional Organizational Information Continued
Provided by Downtown Goshen, Inc.
Years in operation
The Facade Grant Program began in 2005.
Number of full-time paid staff
0

Number of volunteers

4

List of Board Members

Facade Committee Members
Michelle Horning, Chair
Jason Oswald, Project Coordinator
Michael Phend
Rossa Deegan
Jesse Sensenig

Describe how the funds were utilized

To date, \$13,000 of the \$20,000 funding for 2025 has been awarded. We have new applications to review each month and expect to award the entire \$20,000 by the end of the calendar year. In 2025, grants have been awarded for window repair and replacement, new awnings and signs for new businesses downtown (Topsy Biscuit, The Fold, and Hollywood Fade), and various facade painting projects.

How was the City recognized as a Partner?

The City of Goshen is recognized on the Facade Grant Program webpage.

Proposed Project Description

The Facade Committee is requesting funds to continue awarding facade grants to business and building owners in the central business district, buildings which lie between Pike Street on the north, Madison Street on the south, on the west side of 5th Street and the east side of 3rd Street.

Community needs or problems to be addressed

The distinct architectural elements of the central business district attract residents, visitors, and potential new businesses. The grant program incentivizes and supports business and building owners to maintain and improve their buildings. The external appearance of the central business district matters for the local economy, providing small businesses with a vibrant location and destination that benefits them, their employees, and the entire Goshen community.

Population or area to be served

The central business district includes buildings which lie between Pike Street on the north, Madison Street on the south, on the west side of 5th Street and the east side of 3rd Street. All business owners and buildings owners in the central business district are eligible to apply for funding. The central business district includes a diverse mix of businesses (retail, restaurants, social service organizations, financial services and tax preparation) owned and operated by a diverse group of individuals representing a variety of socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic populations.

Person(s) responsible to complete the work

Jason Oswald, the Project Coordinator for the Facade Committee, works with applicants to ensure their project is in compliance with the Facade Grant program, but the applicants are responsible for completing the work. Funding is distributed only when the completed project is approved by Jason.

Start Date

01/01/2026

End Date

12/31/2026

Goals:

We are successful when we distribute 100% of our funding.

What date do you anticipate need these funds?

03/01/2026

Describe how grant funds will be utilized

Applications are accepted year-round, but the majority of projects are completed between March and November. Funds will be utilized to provide matching grants to business and building owners with qualifying facade applications.

How will the project meet one of more objectives

The Comprehensive Plan outlines economic development vision, goals, and objectives. Items E-3, support the development of small, locally-owned businesses and E-8, promote travel and tourism in Goshen are directly connected to the work of the Facade Committee. A vibrant and visually attractive central business district is critical to achieving both of the comprehensive plan goals for economic development.

Please confirm that you can provide this information by checking this box.

- Yes. We have Liability Insurance and can provide a Certificate of Liability naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured on our policy.

Upload previous year financial statement for your organization (PDF)

- [Facade-Grant-Program-Profit-and-Loss-2025.pdf](#)

Upload 2-4 previous year photos (.jpg preferred)

- [Topsy-Biscuit.jpg](#)
- [The-Fold-after.jpg](#)
- [The-Fold-before.jpg](#)

Applicant Signature

Signature Image



Date

11/14/2025

From: [Bethany Hartley](#)
To: [CommunityRelations](#)
Subject: New submission from Community Partnership Application
Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 11:18:27 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date

10/27/2025

Organization

South Bend - Elkhart Regional Partnership

Address

635 S Lafayette Blvd, Ste 123, South Bend, IN 46601
South Bend, Indiana 46601
United States
[Map It](#)

Contact Person

Bethany Hartley

Email

bhartley@southbendelkhart.org

Project Title

Regional Economic Development Strategy Implementation

Amount Requested

2750

Website

<https://southbendelkhart.org/regional-economic-development-strategy/>

Additional Organizational Information

We believe the three biggest challenges our region faces still relate to the underlying root causes of previous economic declines:

1. First is Population Stagnation. Our rate of population growth continues to lag the state and nation. This is further exacerbated by the levels of out-migration, most often of the region's most talented individuals.
2. The second challenge relates to Educational Attainment. The region's Educational attainment levels are also lower than the state and nation, which limits the talent available to drive existing industry, as well as expansion into emerging areas of opportunity.
3. The third challenge is a Lack of economic diversification. Our region remains highly reliant upon key industry clusters that are extremely vulnerable to business cycles.

This grant supports execution of the collaborative Regional Economic Development Plan focused on five crucial strategies:

- Educating a world-class WORKFORCE. Raise the post-secondary attainment levels among the region's residents from 30 to 50 percent.
- Recruiting and retaining great TALENT. Stop the net out-migration of population and transform to a neutral or positive in-migration.
- Attracting and growing new economy companies in complement to our remarkably strong

manufacturing INDUSTRIES. Grow jobs in higher pay traded industry clusters by 20 percent.

- Helping ENTREPRENEURS thrive. Establish 200 high-potential startups.
- Promoting INCLUSION and sparking opportunities for minorities. Improve to the top 20 percent of metro areas for minority income equality.

Additional Organizational Information Continued

The South Bend - Elkhart Regional Partnership is a collaboration of the economic development partners from 47 smart connected communities in Northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan. The Regional Partnership focuses on a long-term systemic approach to advance the region's economy by aligning the efforts of various stakeholders around five key areas: Educating a world-class WORKFORCE, Recruiting and retaining great TALENT, Attracting and growing new economy companies in complement to our remarkably strong manufacturing INDUSTRIES, Promoting INCLUSION and sparking opportunities for minorities, and Helping ENTREPRENEURS thrive. The Regional Partnership seeks to unify and collaborate so that together, the communities across the region work together to achieve what cannot be done individually.

Years in operation

13

Number of full-time paid staff

10

Number of volunteers

Volunteers assist with various events, but we have no volunteer staff

List of Board Members

Carl Baxmeyer St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners
Shannon Cullinan University of Notre Dame
Mike Daigle South Bend International Airport
Susan Ford Graham Allen Partners
Larry Garatoni HQ Investments
Greg Hildebrand Marshall County EDC
Jon Hunsberger Elkhart County CVB
Levon Johnson Elkhart County Chamber
Susan King Beacon Health System Foundation
Stan Klotz Marshall County Board of Commissioners
Pete McCown Community Foundation of Elkhart County
Rose Meissner Community Foundation of St. Joseph County
Gary Neidig ITAMCO
Kevin Overmyer Marshall County Board of Commissioners
Jeff Rea South Bend Regional Chamber
Amish Shah Kem Krest
Andrea Short 1st Source Bank
Chris Stager EDC of Elkhart County
James Turnwald MACOG
Natalie Tucker Marian University's Ancilla College
Suzie Weirick Elkhart County Board of Commissioners
Matthew Wesaw Pokagon Band of Potawatomi
Andrew Wiand enFocus
Linda Yoder Marshall County Community Foundation

Describe how the funds were utilized

Funds were used toward initiatives involved in the implementation of our Regional Economic Development Strategy. Our Industry Growth initiatives work to DIVERSIFY THE LOCAL ECONOMY by creating a supportive environment for entrepreneurship which will increase new businesses and

resiliency. Our work with the LIFT Network is focused on providing innovation facilities, expertise, and training for our region's legacy manufacturers. The SBE Region has a strong advanced mfg. sector on which to build, but the region's firms, are under tremendous competitive pressure. Maintaining and expanding the economic performance of advanced manufacturing in the SBE region will depend on these firms' ability to innovate and move new processes and products into the market rapidly. The LIFT Network's development of apprenticeship and internship programs are TRAINING THE SKILLED WORKFORCE needed to support these industries as they adopt new technologies. Execution of the WE +YOU brand and work to improve quality of life aid in the RECRUITMENT OF TALENT. Our entrepreneurship programming such as the Elevate Origins seed and pre-seed accelerator and the HustleSBE bootcamp SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL LOCALLY-OWNED BUSINESSES.

How was the City recognized as a Partner?

The City is listed as an investor in our REDS plan on our website and several various publications distributed throughout the year.

Proposed Project Description

Through our REDS plan outlined above, we anticipate the following:

- Increase in Per Capita Personal Income from 85.7% to 100% of the national average by 2025.
- Raise the post-secondary attainment levels among the region's residents from 34 to 50 percent by 2030.
- Stop the net out-migration of population and transform to a neutral or positive in-migration by 2030.
- Grow jobs in higher pay traded industry clusters by 20 percent by 2030.
- Establish 200 high-potential startups by 2030.
- Improve to the top 20 percent of metro areas for minority income equality by 2030

Community needs or problems to be addressed

We believe the three biggest challenges our region faces still relate to the underlying root causes of previous economic declines:

1. First is Population Stagnation. Our rate of population growth continues to lag the state and nation. This is further exacerbated by the levels of out-migration, most often of the region's most talented individuals.
2. The second challenge relates to Educational Attainment. The region's Educational attainment levels are also lower than the state and nation, which limits the talent available to drive existing industry, as well as expansion into emerging areas of opportunity.
3. The third challenge is a Lack of economic diversification. Our region remains highly reliant upon key industry clusters that are extremely vulnerable to business cycles.

This grant supports execution of the collaborative Regional Economic Development Plan focused on five crucial strategies:

- Educating a world-class WORKFORCE. Raise the post-secondary attainment levels among the region's residents from 30 to 50 percent.
- Recruiting and retaining great TALENT. Stop the net out-migration of population and transform to a neutral or positive in-migration.
- Attracting and growing new economy companies in complement to our remarkably strong manufacturing INDUSTRIES. Grow jobs in higher pay traded industry clusters by 20 percent.
- Helping ENTREPRENEURS thrive. Establish 200 high-potential startups.
- Promoting INCLUSION and sparking opportunities for minorities. Improve to the top 20 percent of metro areas for minority income equality.

Population or area to be served

All citizens of the region, regardless of demographics, will benefit from our initiatives to grow per-capita income.

Person(s) responsible to complete the work

Board and Staff of South Bend - Elkhart Regional Partnerships and partners.

Start Date

01/01/2025

End Date

01/01/2030

Goals:

- Increase in Per Capita Personal Income from 85.7% to 100% of the national average by 2025.
- Raise the post-secondary attainment levels among the region's residents from 34 to 50 percent by 2030.
- Stop the net out-migration of population and transform to a neutral or positive in-migration by 2030.
- Grow jobs in higher pay traded industry clusters by 20 percent by 2030.
- Establish 200 high-potential startups by 2030.
- Improve to the top 20 percent of metro areas for minority income equality by 2030

What date do you anticipate need these funds?

10/01/2025

Describe how grant funds will be utilized

We believe the three biggest challenges our region faces still relate to the underlying root causes of previous economic declines:

1. First is Population Stagnation. Our rate of population growth continues to lag the state and nation. This is further exacerbated by the levels of out-migration, most often of the region's most talented individuals.
2. The second challenge relates to Educational Attainment. The region's Educational attainment levels are also lower than the state and nation, which limits the talent available to drive existing industry, as well as expansion into emerging areas of opportunity.
3. The third challenge is a Lack of economic diversification. Our region remains highly reliant upon key industry clusters that are extremely vulnerable to business cycles.

This grant supports execution of the collaborative Regional Economic Development Plan focused on five crucial strategies:

- Educating a world-class WORKFORCE. Raise the post-secondary attainment levels among the region's residents from 30 to 50 percent.
- Recruiting and retaining great TALENT. Stop the net out-migration of population and transform to a neutral or positive in-migration.
- Attracting and growing new economy companies in complement to our remarkably strong manufacturing INDUSTRIES. Grow jobs in higher pay traded industry clusters by 20 percent.
- Helping ENTREPRENEURS thrive. Establish 200 high-potential startups.
- Promoting INCLUSION and sparking opportunities for minorities. Improve to the top 20 percent of metro areas for minority income equality.

How will the project meet one of more objectives

The project aligns with the City of Goshen's ten-year Comprehensive Plan & Community Vision, particularly related to economic development. Our Industry Growth initiatives work to DIVERSIFY THE LOCAL ECONOMY by creating a supportive environment for entrepreneurship which will increase new businesses and resiliency. Our work with the LIFT Network is focused on providing innovation facilities, expertise, and training for our region's legacy manufacturers. The SBE Region has a strong advanced mfg. sector on which to build, but the region's firms, are under tremendous competitive pressure. Maintaining and expanding the economic performance of advanced manufacturing in the SBE region will depend on these firms' ability to innovate and move new processes and products into the market rapidly. The LIFT Network's development of apprenticeship and internship programs are TRAINING THE SKILLED WORKFORCE needed to support these industries as they adopt new technologies. Execution of the WE +YOU brand and work to improve quality of life aid in the RECRUITMENT OF TALENT. Our entrepreneurship programming such as the Elevate Origins seed and pre-seed accelerator and the HustleSBE bootcamp SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL LOCALLY-OWNED BUSINESSES.

Please confirm that you can provide this information by checking this box.

- Yes. We have Liability Insurance and can provide a Certificate of Liability naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured on our policy.

Upload previous year financial statement for your organization (PDF)

- [Financial.pdf](#)

Upload list of previous years sponsors (PDF)

- [Sponsors.pdf](#)

Upload 2-4 previous year photos (.jpg preferred)

- [DSC07517.jpg](#)
- [Idea-Week-25-Thur-013.jpg](#)

Upload current fiscal year budget for your organization

- [II.b.iii_-2025-Budget.pdf](#)

Applicant Signature

Signature Image



Date

10/27/2025

From: [Nick Kieffer](#)
To: [CommunityRelations](#)
Subject: New submission from Community Partnership Application
Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 1:00:01 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date

11/12/2025

Organization

Goshen Chamber of Commerce

Address

232 S. Main St
Goshen, Indiana 46526
United States
[Map It](#)

Contact Person

Nick Kieffer

Email

nkieffer@goshen.org

Project Title

Tourism & Economic Development Partnership

Amount Requested

\$50,000.00

Website

<https://www.goshen.org>

Additional Organizational Information

The Goshen Chamber is a nonprofit business association made up of businesses and organizations in and service the Goshen Area. We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, made up of the membership. The Chamber of Commerce is led by a president and CEO, which reports directly to the Board of Directors. The Goshen Chamber has staff and volunteers to help carry out the functions and duties needed to fulfill our mission.

Additional Organizational Information Continued

Mission Statement
"To Champion Our Community's Business Future"

Vision Statement
The Goshen Chamber will be a strong organization by adding value to all businesses through a strong partnership with Education and Government Leaders. Creating a business environment that will result in an inclusive community where businesses thrive, and people want to live.

Values Statement

The Goshen Chamber of Commerce believes that stronger communities are built through diverse and thriving businesses. This is accomplished through supporting all businesses by advocating, connecting, developing, and keeping businesses informed. Our work is guided by the following core values:

Integrity
Respect
Collaboration
Valuing All Businesses
Results Driven

Years in operation

Established in 1954

Number of full-time paid staff

1.5

Number of volunteers

75+

List of Board Members

2026 Chamber Board of Directors

2026 Executive Committee

Rafael Barahona LIGHTBOX Immediate Past Chair

Michel Alvarez Centier Bank Board Chair

Andy Nesbitt Nuway Construction Treasurer

Michelle Adams Kruggel Lawton CPAs Secretary

Nick Kieffer Goshen Chamber of Commerce President & CEO

2026 Board of Directors

Dan Nafzinger, Goshen Health

Rocio Diaz, Goshen College

Ken Hochstetler, Everence Financial

Donny Klotz, Lippert

Steven J. Olsen, Yoder Ainlay Ulmer & Buckingham, LLP

Cristian Robles Gomez, Revolutionary Soccer Training

Jesse Sensenig, Goshen Brewing Company

Kate Steury, Shirley's Gourmet Popcorn Company

Jeremy Stutsman, Lacasa, Inc.

Zac Parr, Lassus Brothers Oil, Inc.

Describe how the funds were utilized

We produce Visitor Guides, Tourism Guides, Community Guides that are distributed not only throughout Goshen, but throughout the State of Indiana through several delivery means. We contract with the Indiana Small Business Development Center for business counseling for anyone in Goshen looking to start or grow their business. We work with partners to put on and promote downtown shopping and patronage. And we allocate funds for the marketing of Goshen through many media channels. We work with Developers on projects and act as a resource for those projects to help alleviate time City staff might have to spend on projects.

How was the City recognized as a Partner?

With the partnership with the City of Goshen, the Chamber recognizes the City not only as an active member of the Goshen Chamber, but also as a Diamond Sustaining Member of the Chamber. As a Diamond Member, the City's logo is prominently displayed on our letterhead, publications, mailings, website, and more.

Proposed Project Description

The City of Goshen and the Goshen Chamber of Commerce have had a long-standing relationship regarding efforts in Economic Development and Tourism for the City of Goshen. The Goshen Chamber devotes resources to the dissemination of information concerning the industrial, commercial, governmental, educational, and recreational advantages of Goshen to prospective businesses and developers and to the recruitment and expansion of the commerce and industry in Goshen. We work together with the City of Goshen to develop and promote a balanced economy and pursuing economic growth downtown and throughout Goshen, consistent with the City of Goshen and the comprehensive plan. The Goshen Chamber continues to provide support to the downtown business community, consistent with past reports and plans, devoting staff time in many areas for downtown vitality. The Goshen Chamber works on these issues on an ongoing daily basis and responds to the needs of the business community at a rapid pace. Promoting and attracting tourism is another part of the economic development puzzle. The Goshen Chamber provides resources and staff time devoted to promoting Goshen to residents throughout Indiana and beyond. The dollars requested are matched by the Goshen Chamber of Commerce, which is funded by the Goshen business community, to continue the growth and prosperity of not only Goshen, but the business community as well.

Community needs or problems to be addressed

Economic Development, Tourism, Housing needs, Industrial and Commercial Development, Serving Business needs,

Population or area to be served

The City of Goshen. All residents in some form are touched by the partnership work we do

Person(s) responsible to complete the work

Nick Kieffer, President & CEO
Goshen Chamber Staff
Goshen Chamber Board of Directors
Goshen Chamber Ambassadors
Goshen Chamber Volunteers

Start Date

01/01/2026

End Date

12/31/2026

Goals:

The work on these areas are worked on daily by the Goshen Chamber throughout the year. Materials are produced and distributed, meetings are organized and executed, programs are developed and implemented, all at various times throughout the year. Economic Development can be allusive at times to pinpoint exact measurements, but the continued success of the downtown, industrial land and growth, expansion of our commercial space availability, and growth in our housing needs. Other areas are increased awareness from a Tourism standpoint, so working with our hoteliers in increasing occupancy rates within Goshen.

What date do you anticipate need these funds?

05/29/2026

Describe how grant funds will be utilized

The grant funds from the City of Goshen go towards and expands the funds the Goshen Chamber allocates towards Tourism, Economic Development, Advertising/Marketing and more. The Goshen Chamber's budget is made up from area businesses and organizations investing dollars to further the

Goshen Chamber's mission, which is to "Champion our Community's Business Future." As stated in years past, the promotion of our business community, the promotion of our tourism amenities, the promotion of the many great programs we have in Goshen not only the residents of Goshen, but to reach far beyond the City limits are where these funds are directed too.

How will the project meet one of more objectives

The City of Goshen and the Goshen Chamber of Commerce have long worked together on the City's Comprehensive Plan. There are many overlapping areas in which the City of Goshen and the Chamber of Commerce work to meet goals and objectives laid out in the plan. Several of the Initiatives in the plan state "working with the Chamber", and the Goshen Chamber sincerely appreciates the City's willingness to work with the business community on these topics. Some of the objective related to the plan are: Housing Development, Beautify Goshen Week, Economic Development, Travel and Tourism, and Downtown Development. The parts of the plan that this grant directly addresses is E1-1, E1-3, E3-1, E3-2, E3-3, E3-4, E3-5, E3-6, E3-7, E6-3, E8-2, E8-3. The Goshen Chamber is proud of the many years of collaboration with the City of Goshen in these areas and which to continue to partner with the City to make Goshen at truly Uncommonly Great place to be.

Please confirm that you can provide this information by checking this box.

- Yes. We have Liability Insurance and can provide a Certificate of Liability naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured on our policy.

Upload list of previous years sponsors (PDF)

- [Chamber-Member-Report.pdf](#)

Upload 2-4 previous year photos (.jpg preferred)

- [Goshen-H.S.-Leadership-Class-at-Third-House.jpg](#)
- [20250307_081433.jpg](#)
- [Board-and-Mayor.jpg](#)

Upload current fiscal year budget for your organization

- [Copy-of-Chamber-Budget-Form.xlsx](#)

Applicant Signature

Signature Image



Date

11/12/2025

From: [Amy Worsham](#)
To: [CommunityRelations](#)
Subject: New submission from Community Partnership Application
Date: Friday, November 21, 2025 11:02:30 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date

11/21/2025

Organization

Goshen Arts and Events

Address

115 East Washington Street
Goshen, Indiana 46526
United States
[Map It](#)

Contact Person

Amy Worsham

Email

amybworsham@gmail.com

Project Title

River Bend Film Festival 2026

Amount Requested

7500

Website

<https://riverbendfilmfest.com/>

Additional Organizational Information

The River Bend Film Festival is an annual celebration of independent cinema and music from around the world, held in Goshen, Indiana. Established in 2002, the festival showcases a diverse selection of films, including narrative features, documentaries, experimental works, animations, and music videos. It also offers workshops, filmmaker panels, and networking events, providing opportunities for attendees to engage with industry professionals. The festival emphasizes the importance of community involvement, with many events facilitated by local residents and business owners. In 2025, the festival featured over 70 films from more than 100 filmmakers across 14 countries.

Additional Organizational Information Continued

Goshen Arts and Events (Goshen A&E) is a not-for-profit organization established to support the growth and expansion of the Arts in Goshen, Indiana.

The organization seeks to educate the community about the value and economic significance of the arts, culture, and quality of place.

The River Bend Film Festival is a celebration of independent filmmaking that brings creators and

audiences together through the power of storytelling. Held annually in downtown Goshen, Indiana, the festival features screenings, workshops, filmmaker panels, guest appearances, and special events all designed to foster connection, creativity, and community.

Years in operation

23

Number of full-time paid staff

0

Number of volunteers

29

List of Board Members

Eric Kanagy
Stacy Dechnik
Megan Hessler

Describe how the funds were utilized

The funding provided by the City of Goshen played a vital role to keep the 2025 River Bend Film Festival walkable, accessible and centered in the heart of downtown. This support enabled us to host the entire three day festival at the historic and beautifully restored Goshen Theater, which covered a significant portion of the venue rental cost. This contribution ensured that festival attendees: filmmakers from across the globe, partners, and local community members could enjoy a centralized festival experience that contributed to the vitality of our greater downtown.

How was the City recognized as a Partner?

Sponsor and partner visibility played a central role in the 2025 River Bend Film Festival experience. Major sponsors received 6 All-Access passes, a half-page ad in the festival program, and a medium logo placement on the official festival poster.

Sponsor recognition was woven throughout the weekend, including on-screen commercials provided by the City of Goshen shown between film blocks, verbal acknowledgments from emcees, and mentions in media interviews on television and radio. Sponsors were also featured prominently across printed materials, digital promotions, and venue signage throughout downtown Goshen.

Proposed Project Description

Our planning team convenes in January to shape the coming year's vision, programming, and community engagement pieces. We anticipate an exciting season that blends returning traditions with new partners designed to broaden our reach and enhance the festival experience for filmmakers and audiences alike. The 2026 festival will showcase independent films from a broad range of voices (local, national, and international) that offers audiences meaningful encounters with diversity of perspectives in storytelling. Workshops and panel discussions (coffee talks, and talk backs) will once again provide filmmakers with professional opportunities to network and collaborate, but also a chance for community members to join the conversation.

Community needs or problems to be addressed

As an annual cultural event, the festival strengthens the local creative economy by providing a platform for artist to showcase their work, engage directly with large audiences, and opportunities to collaborate with industry peers. Goshen benefits from increased activity during the festival weekend, which boosts foot traffic for local restaurants, small shops, and local venues which ultimately supports the economic health at our city's core. Additionally, the festival enriches the cultural life of our community by introducing audiences to a broad range of stories, perspectives and lived experiences through independent film. Access to a wide range of stories and perspectives helps cultivate empathy and civic pride-two qualities

that hold particular value in smaller communities where opportunities for cultural exchange may not be as frequent as they are in larger cities.

Population or area to be served

The River Bend Film Festival serves a wide and diverse population across our region as well as a global community of filmmakers and film enthusiasts. Core audiences include regional filmmakers, students and faculty from Goshen College, and older adults from Greencroft Communities, all of whom engage with the festival's screenings, panels, and special events. The festival also attracts a broad range of filmmakers—from emerging creators to seasoned professionals—who benefit from networking opportunities, professional development, and meaningful peer exchange. Downtown businesses experience increased foot traffic and activity throughout the festival weekend, creating a positive economic ripple across the community. By intentionally bridging engagement from college students to retirees, the River Bend Film Festival cultivates an intergenerational shared cultural space that reflects our inclusive values and strengthens the cultural identity of the broader community.

Person(s) responsible to complete the work

Tim Richardson
Joni Earl
Jordon Hodges
Todd Yoder
Francisco Ramirez
Kyle Hufford
Amy Worsham

Start Date

09/03/2026

End Date

09/05/2026

Goals:

For the 2026 River Bend Film Festival, our measurable goals focus on expanding attendance, strengthening programming, deepening community engagement, and improving long-term sustainability. We aim to increase overall attendance by 20% and engage at least 250 Goshen College students and faculty, while also strengthening participation from Greencroft Communities by bringing a portion of the festival directly to their campus.

Our programming goals include screening 60–80 independent films, hosting 3–5 community-centered events, securing 1–2 notable guest artists or industry voices, and presenting a global range of films to ensure diverse storytelling.

In the coming year, we also plan to begin formally measuring our economic impact; although evidence has been anecdotal in the past, we are committed to developing baseline data that captures increased downtown activity, visitor spending, and business engagement during the festival.

On the marketing and sales front, we intend to increase early ticket purchases through more strategic and consistent communication efforts.

Finally, our sponsor and partner objectives center on stewardship and long-term relationship building, with a goal of achieving a 95% sponsor retention rate while securing new sustained partnerships. We recognize that our sponsors invest in the festival because they are investing in their community, and we are committed to honoring that trust through transparency, reliability, and meaningful collaboration.

What date do you anticipate need these funds?

06/30/2026

Describe how grant funds will be utilized

We plan on using these funds to secure our downtown venue so the festival can remain anchored at the Goshen Theater, supporting accessibility for residents, encouraging downtown activity, and strengthening our connection to the local community.

How will the project meet one of more objectives

The River Bend Film Festival advances several objectives outlined in the Goshen Comprehensive Plan and the CDBG Consolidated Plan by strengthening Goshen's cultural identity, supporting economic vitality, and expanding access to arts and community engagement. The festival directly contributes to downtown activation: a priority of the Comprehensive Plan, by drawing visitors into Goshen's central business district, increasing foot traffic for local restaurants, shops, and cultural venues, and reinforcing downtown as a lively, walkable destination. By securing the historic Goshen Theater as its primary venue, the festival aligns with community goals of preserving and activating significant cultural assets.

The project also addresses CDBG priorities by expanding access to arts and cultural programming for low and moderate income residents. Free and low-cost events, including individual screenings, filmmaker panels, and community discussions, ensure that barriers to participation are minimized. Outreach to Goshen College and Greencroft Communities creates intergenerational engagement, fostering social cohesion and strengthening the community fabric. Additionally, the festival supports the local creative economy by providing platforms for filmmakers, musicians, and artists to showcase work, develop professional skills, and engage with new audiences.

By presenting films from diverse cultures and perspectives, the festival enriches community understanding and promotes inclusive storytelling: an essential component of a thriving, connected city. Together, these outcomes meet key goals related to economic development, cultural enrichment, accessibility, and community-building, helping advance Goshen's long-term vision for a vibrant and inclusive future.

Please confirm that you can provide this information by checking this box.

- Yes. We have Liability Insurance and can provide a Certificate of Liability naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured on our policy.

Upload previous year financial statement for your organization (PDF)

- [2024-Statement-of-Financial-Position.pdf](#)

Upload list of previous years sponsors (PDF)

- [2025-Volunteers-Statement.pdf](#)

Upload 2-4 previous year photos (.jpg preferred)

- [Screen-Shot-2025-11-21-at-7.36.31-AM.png](#)
- [Screen-Shot-2025-11-21-at-7.36.57-AM.png](#)
- [Screen-Shot-2025-11-21-at-7.37.35-AM.png](#)
- [Screen-Shot-2025-11-21-at-7.36.14-AM.png](#)

Upload current fiscal year budget for your organization

- [2026-RBFF-Budget-Projections.pdf](#)

Applicant Signature

Signature Image



Date

11/21/2025

From: [Ashley Bowen](#)
To: [CommunityRelations](#)
Subject: New submission from Community Partnership Application
Date: Monday, November 10, 2025 3:34:57 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date

11/10/2025

Organization

LaCasa of Goshen, Inc.

Address

202 N. Cottage Ave.
Goshen, Indiana 46528
United States
[Map It](#)

Contact Person

Ashley Bowen

Email

ashley.bowen@lacasainc.net

Project Title

Empowering Residents for a Thriving Goshen

Amount Requested

25000

Website

<https://lacasainc.net/>

Additional Organizational Information

LaCasa of Goshen, Inc. is a community development corporation founded in 1970 to enhance quality of life in Elkhart County through financial empowerment, housing stability, and neighborhood revitalization. Our mission is to create sustainable economic mobility and well-being for all residents. Lacasa operates the following core programs:

Financial Empowerment: Education and counseling that build long-term financial health. (500+ graduates each year)

Affordable Housing & Asset Management: Oversight of 378 rental units, including 226 in Goshen (with an additional 41 units in 2025/2026). This initiative is experiencing targeted growth in Goshen as Lacasa completes Phase I of Lakeview Drive Apartments located on the Oaklawn campus.

Community Engagement: Annual outreach to 500+ residents fostering connection and civic participation.

Real Estate Development: Creation and rehabilitation of homes that strengthen neighborhoods.

Lacasa is guided by a diverse, community-representative Board of Directors and a six-member leadership team led by President/CEO Jeremy Stutsman. Lacasa employs 32 staff members dedicated to advancing equitable community growth.

Additional Organizational Information Continued

Lacasa works with individuals and community partners to create opportunity for personal empowerment, family stability, and neighborhood vitality.

Years in operation

55

Number of full-time paid staff

32

Number of volunteers

250

List of Board Members

Deb Jones, Alison Romero, Amber Wolfer, Linda Schlabach Miller, Eric Ivory, Caleb Morris, Angela McKenna, Cyneatha Millsaps, Brett Weddell.

Describe how the funds were utilized

Over the past year, Lacasa has deepened collaborations with Goshen partners including Oaklawn, Bashor Children's Home, Surf Internet, City of Goshen, and First Light Mission. Through these partnerships, we have been able to help stabilize more households and support more people in securing stable housing.

Lacasa provided one-on-one financial empowerment services for at least 50 residents of Goshen. These services helped residents reduce unsecured debt, increase credit scores, build savings, and purchase homes. By learning about their unique financial situation, we were able to help find targeted solutions. Our partnership with First Light Mission supported families transitioning from homelessness into stable housing, while coordination with Oaklawn and Bashor strengthened referral systems for clients facing behavioral health or youth-related challenges.

In housing and neighborhood revitalization, Lacasa maintained and improved 226 (soon to be 267) affordable rental units within Goshen, investing in property upgrades and tenant resources that enhanced resident stability and satisfaction. Real Estate Development efforts continue construction of the Lake View Drive development on the campus of Oaklawn. Beyond direct services, these initiatives fostered stronger community connections and reduced barriers to financial and housing security for low- and moderate-income residents. By aligning efforts across agencies, Lacasa and its partners created a more coordinated local network of support one that continues to promote economic mobility, housing stability, and inclusive growth for Goshen families.

How was the City recognized as a Partner?

Lacasa proudly recognized the City of Goshen as a key community partner throughout the year. The City's logo and acknowledgment appeared on program materials related to our Goshen initiatives, including social media posts, newsletters, and event signage. During homeownership counseling interactions and neighborhood meetings, we highlighted the City's collaboration in supporting financial empowerment and housing stability for local families.

We also publicly thanked the City in our annual report, press releases, and digital communications. At neighborhood events and volunteer gatherings, the City was specifically recognized and thanked, reinforcing the visibility of this collaboration.

Through these efforts, residents and partner organizations clearly recognized the City of Goshen's vital role in advancing equitable community development alongside Lacasa.

Proposed Project Description

For 55 years, Lacasa has been honored to partner with the City of Goshen in building a stronger, more inclusive community. In 2026, our Community Building and Engagement efforts will focus primarily on a Goshen neighborhood located near Goshen High School. Student interns from Goshen College will be engaged throughout the process working on strengthening neighborhood connections, fostering collaboration among residents. This work aligns closely with the City to sustain outreach during its

structural transition and reduced staffing capacity.

Lacasa will advance housing stability and economic mobility through new development, revitalization, and financial empowerment services. Over the coming year, we will open 27 new affordable rental units and continue construction on an additional 14 units, expanding access to safe, high-quality housing for Goshen families. Alongside these housing initiatives, Lacasa will continue to provide financial education and homebuyer preparation programs, equipping residents to manage finances, build credit, and achieve sustainable homeownership.

As the City adjusts its internal operations, Lacasa is prepared to step in as a trusted partner, helping ensure that community engagement, resident support, and access to resources remain strong. Support through this grant will also allow Lacasa to leverage additional matching dollars and attract interest from other grant makers, multiplying the impact of the City's investment and expanding our collective reach. Through our targeted outreach and ongoing projects, Lacasa will help sustain the City's momentum toward growth, housing stability, and neighborhood vitality. Together, we will continue creating a thriving, resilient Goshen where every resident has the opportunity to succeed.

Community needs or problems to be addressed

Elkhart County continues to face significant economic and housing disparities, particularly among historically underserved populations. Black and Hispanic residents experience persistent barriers to building wealth, a gap that contributes to long-term financial instability for many Goshen families. More than half of Lacasa's clients identify as non-Caucasian women, underscoring the diverse communities most affected by these challenges.

The MIT Living Wage Calculator estimates that a single parent household living in Elkhart County would need to earn a gross income of \$97,800 to meet the basic needs of their family. With the area median income for the same size family at \$80,562, this means that this household falls 18% short of meeting their basic needs. Goshen maintains a relatively low unemployment rate, yet wages have not kept pace with rising housing costs, leaving many working families without affordable options.

Lacasa addresses these issues through a comprehensive approach that combines affordable housing development, financial empowerment, and homeownership preparation. We currently manage 226 affordable rental units in Goshen adding another 41 in 2026, providing stable, quality housing for low- and moderate-income residents. Our HUD-certified housing counselors help aspiring homeowners overcome financial barriers, build credit, and achieve long-term stability, strengthening both families and neighborhoods.

As housing demand continues to rise and affordability declines, the need for coordinated, community-based solutions has never been greater. By expanding access to safe, affordable housing and providing pathways to financial mobility, Lacasa directly confronts the root causes of housing insecurity and economic inequity in Goshen, working alongside the City and local partners to ensure that every resident has the opportunity for stability.

Population or area to be served

Lacasa's programs primarily serve low- to moderate-income households in the City of Goshen, with a strong focus on families striving for financial stability and housing security. We make a dedicated effort to hire bilingual staff fluent in Spanish and English so we can better serve Goshen's large Spanish-speaking community. Historically, about 90% of Lacasa clients fall within low- to moderate-income levels. Within our Financial Empowerment programs, the majority of participants are non-Caucasian women, many of whom are single mothers working to achieve greater economic independence.

Our rental housing residents predominantly have household incomes between 30% and 60% of the area median income (AMI), and many engage with additional community partners for supportive services as they move toward self-sufficiency. By focusing our resources in Goshen, Lacasa's initiatives directly benefit diverse residents who are most impacted by the region's rising housing costs and limited access to affordable, stable housing.

Person(s) responsible to complete the work

Lacasa staff at both programmatic and leadership levels have responsibilities and accountability.

Start Date

04/01/2026

End Date

03/31/2027

Goals:

Lacasa will define success by the number of Goshen residents who achieve tangible progress toward financial stability and housing security. The project's measurable goals and outcomes include:

- **Expand Financial Empowerment and Homeownership Opportunities:**

At least five first-time homebuyers will complete homeownership counseling, education, and down payment assistance, resulting in sustainable, long-term homeownership for each participant. Six live financial literacy classes will equip approximately 60 residents with practical tools to build credit, reduce debt, and strengthen savings. Success will be measured by pre- and post-class assessments, participant credit improvement, and the number of residents who meet homeownership or savings milestones within one year.

- **Expand Affordable Housing:**

Lacasa will bring 41 new affordable rental units to completion and occupancy, creating stable housing for more than 100 low- and moderate-income residents. Progress will be tracked through project milestones including site acquisition, construction completion, and lease-up rates.

- **Foster Community Engagement:**

At least three community-building events will be held to increase neighborhood participation in revitalization efforts and foster a stronger sense of belonging. Success will be measured by resident attendance, volunteer involvement, and survey feedback reflecting improved neighborhood connectedness.

By tracking these indicators, Lacasa will demonstrate measurable progress toward expanding affordable housing access, promoting homeownership, and improving financial stability for Goshen residents.

What date do you anticipate need these funds?

04/01/2026

Describe how grant funds will be utilized

Grant funds will be used to advance Lacasa's mission of expanding access to affordable housing, promoting homeownership, and strengthening financial stability for Goshen residents, particularly those from underserved populations. In addition to directly supporting program delivery, these funds will help Lacasa pursue matching dollars and additional grant opportunities that expand the overall impact of this investment.

- **Expand Financial Empowerment and Homeownership Opportunities:**

Funds will cover staffing, educational materials, and program costs to provide individualized financial counseling, homebuyer education, and six live financial literacy classes in Goshen. These classes and counseling sessions help residents improve credit, manage debt, and prepare for homeownership.

- **Expand Affordable Housing:**

A portion of the grant will go toward the pre-development, construction, and renovation of new affordable rental units for low- and moderate-income families. Funds may also support project management and training for property staff to ensure the new housing is safe, well-maintained, and sustainable.

- **Foster Community Engagement:**

Grant funds will also support neighborhood events and activities that bring residents together, encourage participation in local improvement efforts, and strengthen community relationships.

By supporting these initiatives, the City's partnership will not only sustain Lacasa's current community impact but also enhance our ability to leverage matching funds and attract additional funding interest, multiplying the benefit of every dollar invested in Goshen's future.

How will the project meet one of more objectives

Lacasa's 2026 initiatives directly support key objectives outlined in the "Neighborhoods & Housing" section of the Goshen Comprehensive Plan.

N-1: Promote Homeownership- Lacasa supports this goal by expanding pathways to homeownership

through education, counseling, and direct assistance. Our HUD-certified housing counselors guide first-time buyers through the entire process, from financial preparation to post-purchase stability, helping families build lasting equity and strengthen Goshen's neighborhoods.

N-3: Promote Residential and Infill Development- In partnership with the City of Goshen, Lacasa identifies strategic infill opportunities that align with neighborhood character. New homes are designed to complement surrounding architecture, with special attention to maintaining the integrity and charm of historic districts.

N-7: Expand Housing Options and Opportunities- Lacasa advances this objective by developing new affordable rental units, rehabilitating existing homes, and expanding programs for special-needs and first-time homebuyers. These efforts increase the range of safe, affordable housing options available to Goshen residents.

N-9: Promote Energy Efficiency and Sustainability- Sustainability remains central to our development approach. Lacasa integrates energy-efficient systems, solar technology, and sustainable materials into our projects to reduce long-term costs and environmental impact.

Please confirm that you can provide this information by checking this box.

- Yes. We have Liability Insurance and can provide a Certificate of Liability naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured on our policy.

Upload previous year financial statement for your organization (PDF)

- [LaCasa-2023-audit.pdf](#)

Upload list of previous years sponsors (PDF)

- [City-of-Goshen-Community-Partnership-List-of-Sponsors-2025.pdf](#)

Upload 2-4 previous year photos (.jpg preferred)

- [Henrique-Goshen-IDA-Launch-HAP-7.2025.jpeg](#)
- [MHO-in-class-Angelica-teaching-2-April-2025.jpeg](#)
- [Master-your-Money-in-class-2-January-2025.JPG](#)

Upload current fiscal year budget for your organization

- [2025-Budget_condensed.pdf](#)

Upload IRS 501c3 designation letter (optional)

- [501-C3-2.pdf](#)

Upload Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured

- [Lacasa-Insurance-Liability-for-City-of-Goshen.pdf](#)

Applicant Signature



Date

11/10/2025

From: [Trevor Daugherty](#)
To: [Wanbaugh, Michael](#)
Subject: New submission from Community Partnership Application
Date: Tuesday, November 25, 2025 5:21:44 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date
11/07/2025
Organization
Northern Indiana Clay Alliance
Address
1708 Lincolnway E Goshen, Indiana 46526 United States Map It
Contact Person
Trevor Daugherty
Email
trevor@indianaclay.org
Project Title
Michiana Spring Clay Tour / Michiana Pottery Tour / Holiday Michiana Pottery Tour
Amount Requested
\$5,000
Website
https://www.michianapotterytour.com
Additional Organizational Information
The Northern Indiana Clay Alliance is a 501c3 non-profit organization that represents over 150 ceramic artists from around the region. As a member-based organization, our job is to provide programming and opportunities for our artists to sell their work and further Goshen, Elkhart County, and northern Indiana as a destination for clay. Our programming is set annual by our board of directors with sub-committees responsible for various events. In addition to our four annual sales events, we provide opportunities each quarter for artists to connect with eachother during mixers in downtown Goshen, alongside media support and other communication.
Additional Organizational Information Continued
Mission: To develop, strengthen, and advance the Northern Indiana clay community through support, education, scholarship, and documentation. Vision:

We seek to advance the ceramic community and increase awareness of regional artists while building up the next generation of potters through opportunity, scholarship, and relationships.

Years in operation

3

Number of full-time paid staff

1

Number of volunteers

25

List of Board Members

Justin Rothshank, Board Chair
Norah Amstutz, Vice Chair
Lucas Landis, Treasurer
Sarah Kraybill, Secretary
Eric Kaufmann
AnaLuz Sainz Rodriguez
Meredith McGriff
Matt Beachy
Trevor Daugherty, Ex-Officio

Describe how the funds were utilized

The addition of Goshen Community Partnership funds allowed us to add marketing support for not only the Michiana Pottery Tour but also our downtown Goshen holiday sales event as part of December First Fridays. This includes, but not limited to, additional radio advertising, ads in the Goshen News, Edible Michiana, and South Bend Tribune, but also for the first time, live radio remotes at two locations during these events.

How was the City recognized as a Partner?

The City of Goshen was recognized on all print and digital materials, as well as on our website, two billboards, artist t-shirts, and on a total of five social media posts throughout the year in the lead up to and following each event.

Proposed Project Description

The Michiana Spring Clay Tour enters its second year in 2026 following a strong showing in its inaugural year. With a total of 19 participating studios, this event allows clay artists just getting the started the opportunity to welcome visitors into their studios. This event in particular is a gateway for new NICA members to learn about showing their work in more public-facing environments.

The Michiana Pottery Tour is our premier event on the calendar with 10 studio stops, six of which are in Goshen. This event has grown every year since its inception, in both visitors and total sales, surpassing \$125,000 in 2025, all of which is returned to our artists.

The Holiday sale at the Goshen Theater during December First Fridays doubled in total sales last year and brought in over 400 guests during a four hour window. All of our events are free of charge to the general public.

Community needs or problems to be addressed

Because all of our events are free of charge, this is one of the rare opportunities for the general public of all backgrounds to experience museum-quality art with no expense. By eliminating the barrier to entry, anyone is able to enjoy art without paying for a ticket and all of our events are easily accessible in Goshen with access via bike trails or public transportation.

Additionally, our programming allows Goshen's reputation on the national-level to continue to rise as a destination for clay arts. This is a chance to elevate our city's significant clay artist population to the general public as we work to raise awareness of the talent around us.

Population or area to be served

The beauty of our programming is that it is truly welcoming to all thanks to our centralized locations, free admission, and accessible time of day. Typically happening on the weekend, participants are generally not limited by work schedules. Our locations and the lack of admission fees makes our programming equally accessible to young families, retirees, and people of all ages who are interested in viewing museum-quality art. It is not uncommon to see a diverse range of ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds at our events due to our high level of accessibility.

Person(s) responsible to complete the work

Trevor Daugherty, Executive Director of NICA, largely heads up our programming for the year alongside sub-committees for each event. Additionally, the Spring and September tours have responsibilities delegated to hosts at a each studio location.

Start Date

05/23/2026

End Date

12/04/2026

Goals:

Our goals are two-fold, with the first being an increase in visitors and total sales for our artists. Each year that these events have been happening, dating back 15 years in the instance of the Michiana Pottery Tour, we have seen an increase in both categories. We track sales and visitors for all locations during each event.

Secondly, we aim to continue raising the profile of clay arts in Goshen, both locally and nationally. We believe that Goshen's long-standing tradition as a hub for ceramics helps our town stand apart in a unique way that should be celebrated.

Aside from tracking sales and visitor data, we send out surveys to both our guest artists and shoppers to gain a better understanding of trends, attendance, and ways that we can improve their experience.

What date do you anticipate need these funds?

03/01/2026

Describe how grant funds will be utilized

We will use these funds to support our marketing budget for each event along with a portion going towards administrative costs. Our goal is to continue to pursue marketing opportunities on platforms that reach groups we might otherwise not have access to through radio, digital, print, and hopefully TV ads in 2026.

How will the project meet one of more objectives

Our three events that we are asking for support check off a number of goals from the comprehensive and CDBG plans. Both C4 and C5, providing opportunities for the arts and lifelong learning are achieved by bringing museum-quality art to Goshen's population at no cost to participants, not only strengthening our community's art tradition but also educating about the long history of clay art in our town. By providing free admission to our events, we eliminate many of the socio-economic barriers described in the CDGB plan that keep portions of Goshen's population from participating in events.

Please confirm that you can provide this information by checking this box.

- Yes. We have Liability Insurance and can provide a Certificate of Liability naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured on our policy.

Upload previous year financial statement for your organization (PDF)

- [NICA-2024-Profit-and-Loss-Sheet1-2.pdf](#)

Upload list of previous years sponsors (PDF)

- [2025-NICA-Event-Sponsors.pdf](#)

Upload 2-4 previous year photos (.jpg preferred)

- [NICA25_Michiana-Pottery-Tour-2025-155.jpg](#)
- [NICA25_Michiana-Pottery-Tour-2025-569.jpg](#)
- [NICA25_Michiana-Pottery-Tour-2025-477.jpg](#)
- [NICA25_Michiana-Pottery-Tour-2025-427.jpg](#)

Upload current fiscal year budget for your organization

- [2025-NICA-Annual-Budget-Sheet1.pdf](#)

Upload IRS 501c3 designation letter (optional)

- [NICA-501c3-confirmation.pdf](#)

Applicant Signature

Signature Image

**Date**

11/07/2025

From: [Chris Stager](#)
To: [CommunityRelations](#)
Subject: New submission from Community Partnership Application
Date: Friday, November 14, 2025 4:47:47 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date

11/15/2025

Organization

Economic Development Corporation of Elkhart County

Address

300 Nibco Parkway Suite 201
Elkhart, Indiana Elkhart
United States
[Map It](#)

Contact Person

Chris Stager

Email

chris@elkhartcountybiz.com

Project Title

Ongoing Annual Support

Amount Requested

25,000

Website

<https://elkhartcountybiz.com>

Additional Organizational Information

We are a 501 c3 not for profit organization providing economic development services throughout the county such as;

Business Incentives
Business Attraction and Retention
Quality of Place initiatives
Talent; Attraction, Development, Upskilling
Process Improvement
Cost containment and bottom-line profitability consultation
Regional and local labor and workforce or demographic data
Infrastructure and utility assistance
Education and connectivity to a myriad of resources available to businesses

Additional Organizational Information Continued

To attract, maintain, and develop a sustainable and innovative economic base.

Years in operation

25

Number of full-time paid staff

4

Number of volunteers

Dependent on opportunity

List of Board Members**2025 Board Members**

Jeff Beachy Bristol Town Council
Adam Bujalski Elkhart County Councilman
Bill Burton First Source Bank
Mary Cripe Middlebury Town Mgr.
Brian Dickerson Final Phase Electric
Bill Dutkowski Nappanee Chamber of Commerce
Rhett Fisher Ancon Construction & EDC Board Vice President & Treasurer
Scott Ford Notre Dame VP of Economic Development
Phil Jenkins Mayor City of Nappanee
Levon Johnson Elkhart Chamber of Commerce
Nick Kieffer Goshen Chamber of Commerce
Jess Koscher Write Connections Owner
John Letherman Cadet Construction
Gina Leichty Goshen Mayor
Zhongjie "Peter" Liang Fabric Services
Carl Risk President of Elkhart General Hospital
Rod Roberson Elkhart Mayor
Brad Rogers Elkhart County Commissioner
Lori Snyder Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
Mike Stump Forest River(retired)
Jeremy Stutsman Lacasa
Brett Weddell Goshen City Council President
Clark Warner Ceres Co-op
Suzie Weirick Elkhart County Commissioner
Jack Welter Retired and EDC Board Secretary
Mike Yoder Town of Bristol Manager & EDC Board President
Chris Stager EDC President/CEO
Coley Brady Alliance RV CEO

Describe how the funds were utilized

The funds were primarily used to support our Business Retention and Expansion Programs which is approx. 75% of our overall activity.

Business and Retention visits: 50+
Companies participating in training either at their facility or at the EDC: 10
Companies taking advantage of:

ARI Find and Fix program 3
Regional Skills Accelerator Training Grant 3
OEO utility sponsored lighting replacement program 3
Tactical Energy Group Energy Efficiency Program 3

Provided the Program is refunded number of new Goshen companies receiving State of Indiana/Conexus Manufacturing Readiness Grants: We are pooring prospective applicants do to the program being discontinued in early 2025. We are awaiting a replacement program under Governor Braun.

Served on READI Grant Advisory committee and worked with developer on Cherry Creek subdivision go to market plan and funding assistance.

How was the City recognized as a Partner?

Links on Webpage. As a part of our standard presentation process we highlight the organizational structure and funders and list the City of Goshen. We provide City leaders board membership and opportunities for connection and involvement.

Proposed Project Description

Our primary objective of our annual program is to utilize our unique resources to partner with and advocate for the City of Goshen during all meetings with local manufacturing and logistics businesses, local developers, national site selectors and other entities looking to grow or relocate their existing Goshen business or relocate here from outside the area. We actively meet with manufacturing and logistics businesses to discuss EDC and partner program information, barriers to further growth and opportunities and resources relating to additional profitability and productivity that are available at the state, local, and federal levels Additionally we are a communication conduit for data and observations from the local business community to flow back to City government. We assist local in talent development and training and retention and work with companies to effectively leverage all community support programs that are available to them at the local, state, and federal levels.

Community needs or problems to be addressed

1. Creating and retaining equitable job opportunities and wage growth for Goshen citizens.
2. Growing and improving City of Goshen revenues via residential and business assessed value growth.
3. Work with partners on upskilling our existing workforce for the jobs of the future.
4. Provide communication and connectivity to all businesses on available programming
5. Advocate with infrastructure providers on needs of industrial and small business clients

Population or area to be served

Our work provides benefits to all area of the Goshen Community and is inclusive of all demographics. The effort provides subsidized and unsubsidized training and educational opportunities. It creates additional career pathways for incumbent and the next generations of Goshen's work forces while focusing on improving wages. It improves overall tax revenue for the community which in turn allows the City of Goshen to do more for its constituents. Our manufacturing base needs to continually improve in multiple areas to remain competitive in the world marketplace and retain our current standards of living.

Person(s) responsible to complete the work

EDC Staff, Indiana Economic Development Corporation, South Bend-Elkhart Regional Partnership, Goshen College, Purdue Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Purdue Ag. Extension, Ivy Tech, Goshen Schools, and other partners

Start Date

01/01/2026

End Date

12/31/2026

Goals:

Continuing to position the City of Goshen favorably to its external customers, citizens, and business

community

- A. Project volume from new real and personal property investment: \$10M
- B. Jobs Created from projects: 100
- C. Business and Retention visits: 50+
- D. Companies participating in training either at their facility or at the EDC: 10
- E. Companies taking advantage of subsidized apprenticeship and internship opportunities: 20
- F. Companies receiving either workforce training funding either through the Regional Skills Accelerator or Power up job training funding: 10
- G. Provided the Program is refunded number of new Goshen companies receiving State of Indiana/Conexus Manufacturing Readiness Grants: 5
- H. Completion of Elkhart County Fiber local community fiber initiative to reduce Goshen's technology infrastructure costs and harden their network from outside intervention.

What date do you anticipate need these funds?

03/01/2026

Describe how grant funds will be utilized

This year we will again be using this grant largely for operational support costs. We will be working with all local and regional partners to continue to diversify the Goshen business base and drive entrepreneurial, knowledge based, and technology focused skills growth. We currently engage with the Horizon Educational Alliance, all local higher learning institutions, Enfocus, South Bend Elkhart Regional Partnership and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to provide training content, operational and talent support services and grant funding. Additionally, we partner with the Purdue Manufacturing Extension Partnership and Notre Dame's Labs for Industry Futures and Transformation on the advancement of Industry 4.0, continuous improvement training, and overall digital literacy. We hope to again host our region's Hustle SBE minority business accelerator program that supports minority start up activity.

How will the project meet one or more objectives

We will be working with all local and regional partners to continue to diversify the Goshen business base and drive entrepreneurial, knowledge based, and technology focused employer and employee skills growth. We currently engage with the Horizon Educational Alliance, all local high schools and higher learning institutions including Goshen College, Enfocus, South Bend Elkhart Regional Partnership and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to provide training content, operational and talent support services, and grant funding. Additionally, we partner with the Purdue Manufacturing Extension Partnership and Notre Dame's Labs for Industry Futures and Transformation on the advancement of Industry 4.0, continuous improvement training, and overall digital literacy and transformation. We currently host our region's Hustle SBE minority business accelerator program that supports minority start-ups. This work requires a more specialized skill set, can be complex, and EDC of Elkhart County is recognized as one of the leading Economic Development entities in the State of Indiana that is well positioned to complete this type of work more effectively than local government.

Please confirm that you can provide this information by checking this box.

- Yes. We have Liability Insurance and can provide a Certificate of Liability naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured on our policy.

Upload previous year financial statement for your organization (PDF)

- [2024-EOY-Financials.xlsx](#)

Upload list of previous years sponsors (PDF)

- [2024-Investors.pdf](#)

Upload 2-4 previous year photos (.jpg preferred)

- [2.jpg](#)
- [3.jpg](#)

Upload current fiscal year budget for your organization

- [EDC-Approved-Budget-112025.xlsx](#)

Upload IRS 501c3 designation letter (optional)

- [EDC-of-Elkhart-County-IRS-determination-and-name-change.pdf](#)

Upload Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured

- [Certificate-of-Liability.pdf](#)

Applicant Signature

Signature Image



Date

11/15/2025

From: [Adrienne Nesbitt](#)
To: [CommunityRelations](#)
Subject: New submission from Community Partnership Application
Date: Friday, November 14, 2025 4:55:08 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Date
11/14/2025
Organization
Goshen Art House
Address
216 S Main St Goshen, Indiana 46526 United States Map It
Contact Person
Adrienne Nesbitt
Email
adriennean@gmail.com
Project Title
Arts on the Millrace
Amount Requested
\$4000
Website
https://www.artsonthemillrace.org/
Additional Organizational Information
Goshen Art House is run by a working board of eight individuals with backgrounds and passions in the arts. Goshen Art House has a robust calendar of events, all produced by board members, that showcase and collaborate with regional artists of all specialties.
Additional Organizational Information Continued
Goshen Art House's mission is to provide creative opportunities for the region's artists by producing low-barrier, high-possibility events featuring film, theater, comedy, music, literature, and art.
Years in operation
21
Number of full-time paid staff
0
Number of volunteers

35+

List of Board Members

Riley Mills – Board President
Taylor Stansberry – Vice-President
Emma Eitzen – Secretary
Aaron Lambert – Treasurer
Kevin Peters
Keith Heibner
Charlie Burkley
Joni Earl

Describe how the funds were utilized

2025 funds supported the 12th Annual Arts on the Millrace by funding marketing, supplies, rentals, and entertainment.

How was the City recognized as a Partner?

The City of Goshen was recognized on social media, on posters and flyers, on signage at the event, on the back of the event shirts, and on the day of map/program.

Proposed Project Description

Arts on the Millrace is an adjudicated fine arts festival. The festival features over 40 individual artists and 3+ Art Guilds/Collectives. The day includes free music, kids activities, food vendors, and amazing art available for the community to purchase.

Artists are invited to apply starting on May 1st through Mid-July. All art is reviewed by a jury to approve their participation.

2026 Arts on the Millrace will be celebrating their 13th event!

Community needs or problems to be addressed

Goshen touts an amazing amount of artists. A lot of those artists struggle to find a market and opportunities to sell their creations. Arts on the Millrace is committed to keeping booth fees low, making the festival accessible to artists throughout the region, making load-in and parking simple and providing hospitality and support to the artists all day long.

We also keep the festival free so attendance is accessible to all in the community!

Population or area to be served

Artists are served through the opportunity to sell art.

Families and low-income demographics are served through having a positive placemaking event available that has free entry!

Person(s) responsible to complete the work

Arts on the Millrace Committee
Adrienne Nesbitt
Brad Hunsberger
Kelly Avila
Josh Cooper
Amanda Wagner
Joni Earl
Merrill Krabill
Sandra Perez
Jeremy Schrock

Colin Avila
Start Date
09/12/2026
End Date
09/12/2026
Goals:
Increased Attendance: 2025 had an attendance increase by 2% Artist Surveys: 55% completion in 2025 (on par with 2024) Attendee Surveys: 5% completion in 2025 (.5% increase from 2024)
What date do you anticipate need these funds?
07/31/2026
Describe how grant funds will be utilized
Grant funds will be used to support marketing, rental expenses, and to assist in paying musicians.
How will the project meet one of more objectives
This project directly serves C-4 of the Comprehensive Plan To provide opportunities for arts and cultural engagement. Specifically, the festival hits #2 – Support arts and cultural events in partnership with the private/nonprofit sector
Please confirm that you can provide this information by checking this box.
• Yes. We have Liability Insurance and can provide a Certificate of Liability naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured on our policy.
Upload previous year financial statement for your organization (PDF)
• Financial-Statement-and-2025-Budget.pdf
Upload list of previous years sponsors (PDF)
• 2025-AotM-Sponsors.pdf
Upload 2-4 previous year photos (.jpg preferred)
• AotM25-Winner-Tent-Aesthetic.jpg • AotM25-Winner-Peoples-Choice.jpg • AotM25-Winner-Jake-Loewen.jpg • AotM25-Winner-Best-in-Show.jpg
Upload current fiscal year budget for your organization
• Financial-Statement-and-2025-Budget1.pdf
Upload Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the City of Goshen as an additional insured
• City-of-Goshen-COI.pdf
Applicant Signature

Signature Image



Date

11/14/2025



Budget Report

Account Summary

For Fiscal: 2025 Period Ending: 11/30/2025

		Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Percent Remaining
Fund: 1101 - GENERAL FUND							
Expense							
Department: 01 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS							
1101-5-01-4110130	CRC/FULLTIME PERSONNEL	110,000.00	110,000.00	0.00	45,736.12	64,263.88	58.42 %
1101-5-01-4110151	CRC/INCREMENT	500.00	500.00	0.00	200.00	300.00	60.00 %
1101-5-01-4130100	CRC/SOCIAL SECURITY	6,850.00	6,850.00	0.00	2,618.41	4,231.59	61.78 %
1101-5-01-4130200	CRC/MEDICARE	1,600.00	1,600.00	0.00	612.40	987.60	61.73 %
1101-5-01-4130300	CRC/RETIREMENT	15,650.00	15,650.00	0.00	444.16	15,205.84	97.16 %
1101-5-01-4130501	CRC/INSURANCE	44,350.00	44,350.00	0.00	16,550.10	27,799.90	62.68 %
1101-5-01-4130700	CRC/CELL PHONE	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	400.00	800.00	66.67 %
1101-5-01-4130701	CRC/CLOTHING/BOOT/FITNESS	200.00	200.00	0.00	34.32	165.68	82.84 %
1101-5-01-4210500	CRC/OTHER OFFICE EXPENSES	200.00	200.00	0.00	54.23	145.77	72.89 %
1101-5-01-4310501	CRC/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	200.00	1,300.00	86.67 %
1101-5-01-4310502	CRC/CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	2,800.00	200.00	6.67 %
1101-5-01-4320301	CRC/TRAVEL EXPENSES	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	579.00	2,421.00	80.70 %
1101-5-01-4330501	CRC/OTHER PRINTING & ADVERTISI	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,508.27	-508.27	-50.83 %
1101-5-01-4390501	CRC/EVENTS EXPENSES	10,000.00	10,000.00	102.72	8,165.67	1,834.33	18.34 %
1101-5-01-4390910	CRC/EDUCATION & PROMOTION	7,000.00	7,000.00	124.23	1,046.90	5,953.10	85.04 %
Department: 01 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS Total:		206,050.00	206,050.00	226.95	80,949.58	125,100.42	60.71%
Expense Total:		206,050.00	206,050.00	226.95	80,949.58	125,100.42	60.71%
Fund: 1101 - GENERAL FUND Total:		206,050.00	206,050.00	226.95	80,949.58	125,100.42	60.71%
Report Total:		206,050.00	206,050.00	226.95	80,949.58	125,100.42	60.71%

Group Summary

Departmen...		Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Percent Remaining
Fund: 1101 - GENERAL FUND							
Expense							
01 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS		206,050.00	206,050.00	226.95	80,949.58	125,100.42	60.71%
Expense Total:		206,050.00	206,050.00	226.95	80,949.58	125,100.42	60.71%
Fund: 1101 - GENERAL FUND Total:		206,050.00	206,050.00	226.95	80,949.58	125,100.42	60.71%
Report Total:		206,050.00	206,050.00	226.95	80,949.58	125,100.42	60.71%

Fund Summary

Fund	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Variance	Percent Remaining
					Favorable (Unfavorable)	
1101 - GENERAL FUND	206,050.00	206,050.00	226.95	80,949.58	125,100.42	60.71%
Report Total:	206,050.00	206,050.00	226.95	80,949.58	125,100.42	60.71%