

Community Improvement & Preservation Grants

Awarded by the *Village Preservation and Improvement Society* *Falls Church, Virginia*

First founded in 1885, the Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS) is an active non-profit citizen volunteer organization in the City of Falls Church, Virginia. The Society continues to be comprised of concerned citizens who address many important issues that face our community. As our Statement of Purpose indicates, the Society works to preserve our natural and built environment, historic structures and landmarks, and promotes cultural activities. More information on VPIS and our activities can be found at our website: <http://www.vpis.org/>.

Occasionally, VPIS makes grant funding available for projects and activities that are consistent with the VPIS mission,¹ as stated in the VPIS Bylaws:

- 1. To preserve the village character of the City of Falls Church, a combination of attractive residential neighborhoods and economically viable commercial areas. This village character includes historic structures, landmarks and open space, and parks, all of which create a unique city.*
- 2. To promote community awareness and appreciation of the City's history and unique character, such as to encourage future construction and renovation in architectural and environmental harmony within this setting, leading to the development and improvement of Falls Church's unique and distinctive style.*
- 3. To encourage sustainability by supporting measures to improve the environmental performance of the City. These measures include enhancing our natural environment in our public, residential, commercial and industrial areas through appropriate planting, preservation and maintenance of trees, shrubbery and flowers and advocating for improvements to buildings, water management and other infrastructure to increase environmental efficiency.*
- 4. To promote the development of aesthetic values and cultural activities which will contribute to making Falls Church an interesting, unique, and stimulating community in which to live.*
- 5. To work with governmental bodies and community groups and take action, as appropriate, to encourage and support them in measures conducive to the fulfillment of the above purposes.*

¹ This includes consistency with our status as a non-profit (501(c)3) organization and the limitations this imposes on overtly political activities.

VPIS has also adopted supporting policies over the years (e.g. Affordable Housing Policy, Environmental Goals for the City of Falls Church) and will consider requests that support these policies. In addition to supporting projects that will be implemented within the City of Falls Church, VPIS will consider projects implemented in surrounding jurisdictions having a direct impact on the City, or projects located in other communities within the U.S. or abroad with which the City has entered into non-profit partnerships (e.g., a sister city).

A request for funding will be evaluated on the four project components listed below. Please submit your proposal in this format:

- **Proposed project consistency with the above purpose:** Clarify the purpose of the proposed project and explain how it will support and fulfill one or more aims as defined above. The geographic area in which grant-funded activities will be carried out should be clearly defined as well. *Please explain this in 2 – 5 paragraphs.*
- **Demonstration of proposed project need and expected longevity:** Provide evidence of the need for the project, explain how VPIS funding is uniquely needed to meet this need, and explain how the impact of funded activities will be measured and reported. Long-term maintenance and sustainability should be addressed, especially if the project includes plantings. *Please explain this in 3 – 6 paragraphs.*
- **Clarity of proposed project workplan:** In tabular or bullet format, provide a project workplan that shows the specific activities that will be undertaken and completed on a monthly basis for the life of the grant. Please include detail on any needed coordination (with city government, church, civic organization, etc.), approvals and/or reviews needed, any planning documentation available including photos/drawings and a timeline for execution.
- **Adequacy of proposed project budget:** Provide a line item explanation of how anticipated funding will be expended along with any needed justification of amounts and/or explanation of expenditures. As you develop the budget, please be aware that there may be cost savings from purchasing materials (including plants) through VPIS or through the City of Falls Church if it is a “city” project.

All proposals must be received 45 days or more before the project launch date unless an alternative schedule is arranged by contacting the VPIS President (vpis.president@gmail.com).

If VPIS awards the grant, it is expected that we receive an email (vpis.president@gmail.com) once the project is completed with a summary of the project and how it was received.

Please be aware that VPIS grants typically range between \$300 and \$800 and awards generally do not exceed \$1,000.

Additional Requirements for Youth Projects

Youth Projects are defined as projects executed by a 21-year-old or younger person and could include projects needed to complete the requirements for an award or honor (IB diploma, Eagle, Gold, Honor Society, etc.)

All youth projects must have a non-parent/guardian adult sponsor approved by VPIS. The sponsor can be a scout leader, teacher, community volunteer, etc. Include a suggested sponsor in your application.

Monthly update emails (vpis.president@gmail.com) are expected until the project is fully completed. The update should compare the current state of progress with the workplan and budget submitted.

Additionally, VPIS has worked with the City of Falls Church to develop a list of vetted projects. A project off the vetted list will be given priority.