



FORT-ify
Neighborhood Accelerator



NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING & ACTIVATION WORKGROUP



Dan
Baisden



Réna
Bradley



Josh
Campbell



Bernadette
Fellows

Fort Wayne's **Neighborhood Planning and Activation** workgroup is committed to ensuring residents, neighborhood groups, and community leaders work alongside the City's Community Development Division to create and support strong and vibrant neighborhoods.

2023
neighborhood
IMPROVEMENT GRANT



What: Grant Program

Application Deadline:
March 17th

Why: Beautification &
Improvement Projects

Grant Manager Contact: Bernadette Fellows
Neighborhood Grant Manager/Community Engagement Planner
bernadette.fellows@cityoffortwayne.org
260-427-1258



What: Workshop Program

Application Deadline:
March 3rd

Why: Strengthening
neighborhoods & their
leaders

Program Manager Contact: Réna Bradley,
FORT-ify Program Manager / Neighborhood Planner
rena.bradley@cityoffortwayne.org
260-427-2284



FORT-ify

Neighborhood Accelerator



Commitment: Monthly Workshops and Activities (April – August)

Program Completion: September 2023

Applicants/ Participants: 2-3

Outcomes/ Neighborhood Benefits:

- New Logo
- Block Party Funding (August)
- Quick Action Plan Document
- Quick Action Grant Eligibility - \$5,000
- 1:1 Coaching w/ City Staff
- Relationship Building with other associations





WHAT IS A NEIGHBORHOOD ACCELERATOR?

Like all accelerators, FORT-ify supports growth-driven, organizations through **education, mentorship** and **financing**, but unlike most accelerators FORT-ify is designed to provide the accelerator experience for Neighborhood Associations and their leaders. Neighborhoods will participate in the accelerator for a fixed period of time, and as a cohort of neighborhood associations. The accelerator experience is a process of intense, rapid, immersive, and experiential education aimed at accelerating the progress of neighborhood associations – compressing years' worth of learning into just a few months.

THE COMMUNITY NEED

Neighborhood Association Leaders often lack access to funds, tools, mentoring and resources it would take to start, grow, and accelerate progress in their neighborhoods. **(Some feel daunted by the long-range planning process)**

This program aims to strengthen developing and relaunching neighborhood associations across our city through workshops, mentoring, logo development, and funding. Accelerator program participants will also be eligible to receive \$5,000 in funds to complete a project from their planning document



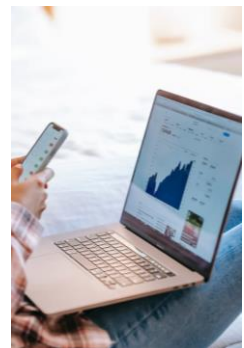
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HOW WILL NEIGHBORHOODS BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM?

Each Neighborhood Association accepted into the 2023 Forti-fy cohort will...

- Experiential learning
- Have the opportunity to build relationships with other local neighborhood associations
- Have access to 1:1 coaching with city staff for 12 months
- Obtain a new **association logo**
- Obtain printed and digital copies of the **Quick Action Plan (QAP)** they will co-create with City staff
- Be funded to host an end of program **block party/ community engagement session** for their neighborhood in August
- Be **eligible for \$5,000** in funding to implement a project from their QAP





WHAT PARTICIPATION LOOKS LIKE...

Mentorship - direct coaching with city staff to help you implement projects and activities and collaboration with your peer group of association leaders.

Funding - each neighborhood who completes the accelerator will have a chance to but unlike most accelerators FORT-ify is designed to provide the accelerator experience for Neighborhood Associations and their leaders. Neighborhoods will participate in the accelerator for a fixed period of time, and as a cohort of neighborhood associations.

Tech Assistance:

- 1) Logo
- 2) Block Party Support; help with organization, create budget, find vendors, etc.
- 3) Drafting Quick Action Plan itself

Education - workshops and hands-on activities

- **4 Workshop topics**- governance, AFCD/listening, grant writing & fundraising, civic engagement
- **3 Activity topics** – plan and host a listening event, update bylaws, host a block party to communicate new plan and goals to community and have a little fun in the meantime! **(full list on page 4 of FAQ)**



APPLICATIONS ARE

OPEN!

FT WAYNE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE

FREE CRASH COURSES IN...

- Community Listening
- Association Governance & Succession
- Civic Engagement
- Fundraising

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- QUICK ACTION PLAN
- NEW LOGO/ BRAND
- UP TO \$5,000 IN FUNDING



APPLY NOW/ LEARN MORE

www.fortwayneneighborhoods.org

Brought to you by the City of Fort Wayne's Neighborhood Planning & Activation Workgroup
200 East Berry Street | Fort Wayne, IN 46802 | www.cityoffortwayne.org



April

Workshop: Community Listening/ Asset-Focused Community Development

Activity: Plan Listening Events

May

Workshop: Governance & Succession

Activity: Community Listening Activity

June

Workshop: Civic Engagement

Activity: Update Association Docs & Infrastructure

July

Workshop: Fundraising & Grant Writing

Activity: Signature Gathering + Promotion (for community engagement event)

August

Event: Host Block Party

Workshop/ Activity: Brainstorm & Draft grant applications

September

Event: Celebration/ Graduation

Activity: Celebration Day/ Presidents Meeting Presentation





HOW TO APPLY

Cost for Participation/ Application - Free (Competitive Application)

President/ VP-led teams

- **You must have president/ VP be a lead applicant** They should know if you're submitting on their behalf. (City staff will notify all people mentioned on the application that they've been submitted.)
- Have at least two (2) people, up to three (3):
 - 1 must be a president,
 - 2nd must be a resident (they can be a board member, officer, block captain or even just someone who lives in the neighborhood),
 - 3rd person can be someone who lives outside of neighborhood boundaries.

Scoring Rubric

- Completeness – Maximum score of 6 points
- Relevance - Maximum score of 7 points
- Team skills and background- Maximum score of 7 points
- Perceived need of assistance (high or low) - Maximum score of 15 points
- Potential benefit from Programming offered/ How aligned interested are with workshop topics - Maximum score of 15 points





FORT-ify Neighborhood Accelerator Program

Applications are open now until Friday, March 3rd for FORT-ify a new program of the Community Development Division. Leadership development is critical to mobilizing residents to see change in their own neighborhoods and across the City. That's why FORT-ify was designed to help develop and strengthen developing and relaunching neighborhood associations across our city.

FORT-ify is a 6-month leadership development experience. Participants will receive a rapid, immersive, and experiential education aimed at accelerating the progress of neighborhood associations – compressing years' worth of learning into just a few months. Workshop topics will include Asset-based Community Development, Civic Engagement, Fundraising, and Governance.

Any Fort Wayne neighborhood association registered with the City can apply to be one of four neighborhoods that will be selected for the accelerator's first cohort. Applications will be evaluated and scored based on criteria found in the Program Summary and FAQ document below.

Program Application

[FORT-ify Online Application](#)

[FORT-ify Fillable PDF Application](#)

Accelerator applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm EST on Friday, March 3rd. Neighborhoods can apply by completing an [online application](#) or by emailing their completed PDF application to Réna Bradley at rena.bradley@cityoffortwayne.org. Applicants will receive a confirmation that the application has been received within two business days.

FORTify Q&A/Information Session

Monday, February 27th
Facebook Live
[Fort Wayne Neighborhoods Facebook](#)
6:00 PM.

www.fortwayneneighborhoods.org



Neighborhood Accelerator Application

2023 | City of Fort Wayne, Indiana

Is your neighborhood registered on the City of Fort Wayne's Neighborhoods website with current contact information? *

Yes

No

Not sure

Tell us about... you & your team!

Use this space to tell us more about you, your team, and your vision for the future! (FORT-ify applicants can have up to three- but no fewer than two-representatives of their neighborhood participate in the program. Two of those representatives must live in the neighborhood.)

Tell us your vision for the future of your association in 20 words or less. (We're looking for leaders who are ready to take their work to the next level. Let us know what you hope to achieve in your association over the next few years.) *

FORT-ify

Neighborhood Accelerator



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4% Completed

Fields Completed 1 / 22



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2023 I Program Application

ELIGIBILITY & NEIGHBORHOOD REGISTRATION:

Fort-ify is open to voluntary Neighborhood Associations registered on the City of Fort Wayne's Neighborhood Association Page.

Neighborhood associations must be registered on the City of Fort Wayne's website to be eligible to apply for and participate in this program. Please visit the following website to confirm that your registration is up to date and/or to register your association before continuing with the application: www.cityoffortwayne.org/neighborhood-registration.html.

Please check this box to confirm that you are eligible to apply

TELL US ABOUT... YOU & YOUR TEAM!

Use this space to tell us more about you, your team, and your vision for the future! (FORT-ify applicants can have up to three representatives of their neighborhood participate in the program. Two of those representatives must live in the neighborhood.)

1. Neighborhood Association & Lead Applicant

Neighborhood Association Name: _____

Name (First & Last) _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Postal/ Zip Code _____ Association Role/ Title _____

2. Contact Information for Supporting Applicant 1

Name (First & Last) _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Role/ Relation to Neighborhood Association _____
(i.e. resident, business owner, association officer, association block captain, association member, etc.)

3. Contact Information for Supporting Applicant 2 (Optional)

Name (First & Last) _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____



APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1) Confirm your eligibility

2) Tell us about...

- Your team (Names, addresses & skills)
- Your Neighborhood
- Your Neighborhood Association
- Your vision for your community

Note: Responses do have word and character limits and all responses are mandatory unless indicated otherwise.





HOW TO APPLY

Cost for Participation/ Application - Free (Competitive Application)

President/ VP-led teams

- **You must have president/ VP be a lead applicant** They should know if you're submitting on their behalf. (City staff will notify all people mentioned on the application that they've been submitted.)
- Have at least two (2) people, up to three (3):
 - 1 must be a president,
 - 2nd must be a resident (they can be a board member, officer, block captain or even just someone who lives in the neighborhood),
 - 3rd person can be someone who lives outside of neighborhood boundaries.

Scoring Rubric (up to 50 points)

- **Completeness** – Maximum score of 6 points
- **Relevance** - Maximum score of 7 points
- **Team skills and background-** Maximum score of 7 points
- **Perceived need of assistance (high or low)** - Maximum score of 15 points
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FORT-ify

Neighborhood Accelerator

Thank you! / Questions



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