Core Grants

WHAT
A comprehensive package of preliminary design services

FOR
Non-profits/communities considering or preparing to undertake a significant physical development project

Scope of service:
/ is developed through a field visit by Collaborative staff
/ is tailored to specific needs
/ may include feasibility studies, existing condition assessments, conceptual design
/ is completed in 6 months
/ includes community engagement
/ is provided by a multidisciplinary team of volunteer design professionals (typically 3 to 10 volunteers)

Deliverable is a final report/package that includes multiple products such as:
/ existing condition drawings (site and floor plans, elevations)
/ existing condition assessments (architectural, structural, building systems, energy)
/ site analysis/planning
/ preliminary code review
/ accessibility review
/ historic preservation assessment
/ programming and space planning
/ conceptual design drawings (site and floor plans, elevations, renderings)
/ sustainability strategies
/ identity/branding/environmental graphics study
/ phasing, implementation and maintenance plan
/ opinion of probable cost

In-progress work is reviewed twice by the Collaborative’s Design Grant Review Committee

A final wrap-up meeting is held with the non-profit/community

Cost is $5000 administrative fee ($250 design grant application fee is included)

Average grant value of services (value of pro bono services provided to the non-profit) is $45,000
**FEASIBILITY STUDY**

*Parkside Association of Philadelphia*

*West Parkside Youth Sports Facility: Programming and Site Feasibility Study*

The Parkside Association of Philadelphia (PAP) recognized a large and growing need for a community and sports facility to serve both the West Parkside neighborhood and the city. In order to pursue support for the project, PAP needed to evaluate the feasibility of redeveloping a multi-acre parcel to serve the neighborhood’s, as well as greater Philadelphia’s, sports and learning needs. The Collaborative volunteers confirmed feasibility through the provision of a programming study and a test fit of the program on the proposed site, enabling PAP to move forward with conceptual design for the facility.

**EXISTING CONDITION ASSESSMENT**

*Variety – The Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley*

*Variety Club Camp: Existing Conditions Assessment for Recreational Facility Repair*

Due to deteriorating building conditions, the Variety Club Camp, which serves youth with disabilities, had to close a portion of their sports pavilion that houses an indoor handicapped accessible pool. In order to bring the pool back into use, they needed an assessment of the existing conditions and recommendations for phased repairs. The Collaborative volunteers provided these services and the tools needed to raise the funds for the pavilion and pool renovations.

**CONCEPTUAL DESIGN**

*Mt. Vernon Manor, Inc.*

*Mt. Vernon Manor: Conceptual Design for Affordable Housing*

Mt. Vernon Manor Community Development Corporation (MVMCDC) recognized the need for a new affordable housing model to support the larger-scale affordable housing revitalization efforts happening in their Mantua neighborhood. The Collaborative volunteers created a conceptual design for the infill construction of a new 3-story, mixed-use building and the renovation of an adjacent vacant rowhome, which together provide new affordable housing options. In addition to residential units, the mixed-use facility includes office and community space, enabling MVMCDC to better serve their community.

*Arcadia Commons*

*The Huntingdon Emerald: Conceptual Design for a Community Park*

The Collaborative worked with the creators of a DIY neighborhood park and surrounding residents to envision a much-needed permanent community gathering space in East Kensington. A conceptual design for The Huntingdon Emerald was needed to assist Arcadia Commons with gaining site control and fundraising for implementation. Collaborative volunteers, together with the community, developed a design that incorporates site elements that appeal to park users of all ages, including gates with laser-cut artwork and poetry to memorialize fallen firefighters, a central lawn flanked by a performance stage and informal seating, and areas for bocce, barbecuing, and nature play.

**COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS**

*Nueva Esperanza, Inc.*

*Design Consultations for Storefront Improvements*

The Collaborative provided a grant to Nueva Esperanza to help support their efforts to revitalize their neighborhood’s commercial corridors. Collaborative volunteers consulted with six businesses on the Wyoming Avenue Commercial Corridor who were planning storefront façade improvements and applying for funding to support that work. The business owners received recommendations, sketches, and opinions of probable cost for repainting, preserving historical features, and replacing signage, lighting, windows, and doors. Nueva Esperanza and the business owners used these products to support their applications for funding.