Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program
Sprout Fund Announces New Projects to Advance Northside Vision

Program Background & Context
The One Northside Neighbor-to-Neighbor grants program is one of the ways The Sprout Fund is catalyzing innovative community projects and creating opportunities to engage citizens and contribute to the One Northside vision. Through support from The Buhl Foundation, grants of up to $1,000 have been offered to provide immediate support for small-scale community projects with broad citizen support.

In total, approximately 50 grants will be awarded for applications with activities that begin in late-spring/early-summer and conclude by the end of 2016.

For more information, to view the schedule of info sessions, or to submit an application, visit sproutfund.org/northside

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Project Criteria
As a program that catalyzes the ideas of creative residents and supports activities that represent the many varied interests and constituencies on the Northside, The Sprout Fund’s Neighbor-to-Neighbor grants will support a constellation of projects covering a diverse array of issues, activities, organizations, and geographies of the Northside.

In addition to a narrative proposal, applicants have been asked to demonstrate that others in the community endorse their ideas through petitions from neighborhood residents, pledges of small financial and in-kind support, and letters of support from community groups and business leaders.

4 Supported Projects, May 2016
After a thorough review, The Sprout Fund is pleased to announce 4 projects that will receive $1,000 Neighbor-to-Neighbor grants in May. As part of their proposals, applicants wrote the headlines that appear below as examples of what the news will say at the successful conclusion of their projects.

Charles Street Valley Neighborhood Reunion
“Charles Street Valley Neighborhood Reunion was held at Riverview Park today, Father’s Day”
Dierdre Cooper’s quality of place project will bring Northside neighbors of all ages together to reminisce through a reunion cookout at Riverview Park. The event will include playful activities for kids as well as cookout refreshments. Attendees will be encouraged to leave their contact information for future gatherings.

Fineview Community Picnic
“Fineview Community Picnic is One Fine Day”
Christine Whispell’s quality of place project will help connect Fineview neighbors through a community picnic. The event will kick off a spirit building campaign in order to lighten the atmosphere in the neighborhood and highlight community needs, such as rehabilitating play space for children. The event will feature screen printing t-shirts, face painting, a cardboard city, ultimate dodgeball, and playground in a bag from City of Play.
Northside Family Brunch

“Northside Family Luncheon provides food, fun, and support for neighborhood families”

Lorraine Laster’s quality of education project will engage low income families through an event that provides access to community resources and encourages positive relationships and support within Northside families. The catered brunch will include family friendly presentations as well as booths for activities, community organizations, and vendors.

When I Grow Up Summit

“Community Members Inspire Future Northside Leaders at The When I Grow Up Summit and Celebration”

Barbara Vargo’s quality of education project will recognize Kindergarten student achievement at Propel Northside through a culminating career research project and graduation ceremony around the topic ‘When I Grow Up.’ Throughout the month of June community members will be invited into the Kindergarten classroom at Propel to share information about their careers and answer questions. At the graduation event students will showcase their final projects, model career outfits, and will also be given educational materials to help improve summer learning retention.

5 Supported Projects, June 2016

After a thorough review, The Sprout Fund is pleased to announce 5 projects that will receive $1,000 Neighbor-to-Neighbor grants in June. As part of their proposals, applicants wrote the headlines that appear below as examples of what the news will say at the successful conclusion of their projects.

ToolKeeper Neighbors

“Mr. Al Gets Relief as ‘ToolKeeper’ Kids Take Over Bike Repairs in Northview Heights!”

Alfred Bahnson’s quality of education project in Northview Heights works to circulate a bike repair kit throughout the Northview Heights community. Children in the community that need bicycle repairs will be directed to the ToolKeeper Neighbors, where they can borrow repair tools, get assistance, and contribute their assistance to help others. This project aims to help children develop skills with manual tools along with a sense of confidence and self-reliance.

Play4Purpose – Northview Heights

“Northview Heights Community United Through the Beautiful Game”

Nduwamaungu Ernest’s quality of place project in Northview Heights consists of a series of bi-weekly summer soccer sessions for Northside youth ages 10-20. The sessions are led by the Young Boys FC, a Northview Heights based soccer club comprised of African refugee young adults, as well as from local partners such as Pittsburgh Soccer in the Community, CameroonFDP, and Bridging the Gaps Fellows. The project aims to create a safe place where people of different backgrounds and cultures and put their differences aside by coming together through a game of soccer without having to worry about a place to play or bring equipment.

Pittsburgh VegFest 2016

“VegFest 2016 is Back and Bigger than Ever-Fun for the Whole Family on the North Side”

Leila Sleiman’s quality of place project in Central Northside is an event that brings together animal welfare organizations, small business food vendors, and green living sustainability aspects from across Pittsburgh. The event features live music, activities for children, and cooking demonstrations along with speakers presenting on animal welfare and food waste.
**Outside Café Space**

“Outdoor Café Space Providing You with a Space Lined with Beauty and Comfort Where You Can Come and Enjoy Great Food, Fellowship, Live Music on the Lawn, Poetry, Spoken Work or Just a Good Conversation Under the Sun”

Lateresa and Michael Blackwell’s quality of place project in Marshall – Shadeland will utilize volunteers from Bidwell Street United Presbyterian Church to clean up and then landscape the area outside of Café on the Corner. Updates to the space will include mowing the grass, clearing out overgrown trees and brush, planting new flowerbeds, and repainting the fence. A community BBQ will be used to thank the volunteers and celebrate their accomplishments.

**Northside Family Legacy**

“A Family Success on the Northside with Family Legacy Award Dinner that Showcase Generational Achievements Within a Family”

Eleanor Williams’ quality of education project in Perry South / Perry Hilltop recognizes Northside families for achievements in Academics, Sports, and Performing Arts. The project focuses on positive achievements within the community with the aim of encouraging excellence across generations. The community will nominate the pilot Legacy family, who will have their achievements showcased at a community dinner.

**18 Supported Projects, July 2016**

After a thorough review, The Sprout Fund is pleased to announce 18 projects that will receive $1,000 Neighbor-to-Neighbor grants in July. As part of their proposals, applicants wrote the headlines that appear below as examples of what the news will say at the successful conclusion of their projects.

**Allegheny Hills Parent Party**

“Parent Party Shares Hope and Solidarity with Northside Parents”

Melanie Sandoval’s Quality of Education project for Spring Hill / City View will be a one-day Parent Party in Allegheny Hills for parents of young children (birth-5 years old) to create social ties between parents in the community, as well as to raise awareness of programs and human services available for parents and young children. The project will also distribute backpacks for parents with "toolkits" for positive attachment and social-emotional development of children.

**Back to School Fitness Walk**

“Back to School Fitness Walk”

Porsha Humphries’ Quality of Place project for Central Northside will encourage local families to adopt a healthy lifestyle by offering a fitness walk around the neighborhood. Additionally, the project aims to put children and their families in a positive frame-of-mind for the start of the school year.

**Combat Litter**

“Combat Litter: The Front Line on Trash in Troy Hill”

Ellen Crist’s Quality of Place project for Troy Hill has the core purpose of litter cleanup. Additionally, the program seeks to educate residents on how to proactively stop litter problems, and the benefits of recycling. Early education about recycling will set the tone for the next generation of Troy Hill residents.
Children's Table Summer Garden Camp Season Finale

“Children’s Table Is Sprouting In The Northside!”

Christy Bean Rowing’s Quality of Education project for Central Northside is the culminating week of a farm and garden camp for youth at Children’s Table Cooking. Activities include the harvest of vegetables and herbs, cooking campfire foods, craft and design of outdoor art, and presentations from bee-keepers, chefs, and local farmers August 8-12.

East Allegheny Pumpkinfest: A Children’s Harvest Festival

“25th Annual Children’s Festival Celebrates Northside Children, Families and Fall!”

Barbara Burns’ Quality of Place in East Allegheny provides children and their families a festival, with activities such as a petting zoo, pony rides, pumpkin decoration contests and more. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Festival, children will contribute to a time capsule and plant a Sugar Maple tree.

Fineview Community Garden Speaker Series

“Ideas and Interests Grow at Fineview Community Garden: Local Speaker Series Promote Local Businesses while Encouraging Healthy Habits for Fineview Residents”

Jessica Slean’s Quality of Place project for Fineview will energize a reclaimed vacant lot in the neighborhood through a community health speaker series. Each speaking event will focus on educating Fineview community members on healthy lifestyle options, raising awareness of local businesses, and engaging diverse and historically withdrawn neighbors.

Manchester Growing Together Farm – Health & Wellness Event

“The Manchester Growing Together Farm is truly rooted in the Manchester community”

Lisa Freeman’s Quality of Place project for Manchester is a community self-reliance education program promoting access for all people to healthy food and a healthy lifestyle. From planting to harvesting; food preparation and nutrition; growing healthy food and building a community, this health & wellness event strives to ensure that Northside residents remain healthy.

MAYA Prenatal Parent Program

“Northside nonprofit leads efforts to keep babies dry and safe!”

Tomilyn Ward’s Quality of Education project for East Allegheny will seek to expand the Prenatal Parent Program, which provides free classes to expectant parents and rewards them with brand new car seats, playards (commonly referred to as pack n’ plays), wipes, and diapers for their babies. The program goal is to promote the health and safety of infants and parents. Class topics include healthy pregnancy, understanding fetal development, childbirth education, breastfeeding, newborn care, car safety, safe sleep, calming the crying infant, parental stress management, preventing child abuse, postpartum wellness, and more.

Meet Your Neighbor Rally

“Meet your Brighton Heights Neighbors at this free, fun, family-friendly event!”

Rick Weiss’ Quality of Place project for Brighton Heights will encourage Brighton Heights neighbors to meet each other and work together to address the needs of the community. A goal of the project is to strengthen relationships between local churches, community organizations, government officials and community leaders. In addition to providing information about local services (ranging from AA/NA meetings to food banks to after-school activities) the Rally will promote Brighton Heights strong presence of local resident artists by holding an art show/studio tour.
Money Mogul 16!
“Teaching small businesses how to stay ahead of the financial curve”

Simone Quinerly’s Quality of Employment project for Allegheny West will establish a financial training center with three workshops for small businesses in the community. Financial workshops, group discussions, and engaging panelists will give local businesses an introduction to financial literacy, a network of reliable resources, and will ensure that underprivileged residents get the help they need to start a business. Training sessions will feature local community workers, whose areas of expertise include wealth management (budgeting, saving, investing), taxes, and business financial management.

North Side National Night Out
“Neighbors unite with local organizations and police to celebrate their community”

Samantha Ellwood’s Quality of Place project in Marshall-Shadeland is part of a larger annual national movement that focuses on a community-building campaign, promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods, like the North Side, safer and better places to live. The North Side Night out will give residents, community partners, and law enforcement a place to come together to share a meal, listen to music, and enjoy one another’s company, helping to build the relationships needed for strong communication and a strong community.

City Steps Clean Up (Phase 2)
“Building bridges between neighborhoods and communities to continue unifying”

English Burton’s Quality of Place project for California-Kirkbride and Central Northside will continue the beautification clean-up program to reclaim city steps in need of repair. The next phase of this operation will be to perform any required upkeep on the steps. The renovated steps provide the opportunity for interaction among neighbors during the project and the removal of an eyesore from the community.

Northside Toastmasters Capacity Building
“Where Northside Leaders are Made”

Paul Matthew’s Quality of Employment project for the Central Northside will increase neighborhood awareness of, and participation in, the Northside Toastmasters Club. The Toastmasters provide a low-cost, high-quality, self-paced educational program that gives members valuable speaking and leadership experience in a non-threatening and supportive environment.

NTOSAKE Leadership Training
“These Amazing Ladies Of Bidwell Church Rise To The Top!”

Shelia Collins’ Quality of Education project for Chateau is a leadership training for women to build capacity for organizing community activities in Perry North, Manchester, and Chateau. NTOSAKE means "she who walks with lions; she who carries her own things". The Ntosake development program will empower participating women to develop leadership skills, confidence, and life direction to benefit the Northside.

Outdoor Movies in Manchester
“Summer Fun in the Northside’s Manchester Community: Movies in the Park”

Michelle Wright’s Quality of Place project for Manchester will provide a fun recreational activity for friends and family. Family-friendly movies will be shown outdoors in the local community field, bringing together residents for relaxation and fellowship. Additionally, Manchester Citizens Corporation will make volunteer sign-up sheets and information about
community meetings and events available during movie showings, to encourage residents to become more involved in their community.

**Rox Performance Instrument Rental Program**

“Local music program teaches life lessons through music”

Erik Stillabower’s Quality of Education project for East Allegheny / Deutschtown is a music instruction and performance program for Northside youth. With this support, Rox Performance will provide free music lessons and performance opportunities on Saturdays at the Allegheny Elk’s Lodge 339.

**Spring Hill First Month Festival**

“Spring Hill’s First Month Festival Welcomes Students and Families for an Incredible School Year!”

Diana Carter’s Quality of Education project for Spring Hill / City View is a back-to-school festival at PPS Spring Hill K-5 for families, students, teachers, and staff to build strong relationships at the start of the school year. The festival will feature enrichment activity previews, healthy student habit support, food, and an overall celebration of community – school relations in Spring Hill.

**Women Writers of Northview Heights Documentary**

“Women Writers of Northview Heights: from paper to film and back again”

Hudson Rush’s Quality of Place project for Northview Heights will produce a documentary of the Women Writers of Northview Heights. The documentary aims to build on the group's momentum, heighten awareness of the program and invite more women to join, promote positive happenings in the Northview Heights area, and welcome others to see and hear what the women writers do and say about their lives, their community and their continued work in creative writing and other artistic practices, including drawing, painting and photography.

**18 Supported Projects, August 2016**

After a thorough review, The Sprout Fund is pleased to announce the next 18 projects that will receive $1,000 Neighbor-to-Neighbor grants in August. As part of their proposals, applicants wrote the headlines that appear below as examples of what the news will say at the successful conclusion of their projects.

**#InvolveNorthside Community Conversations**

“Innovative Community Currency Helps to bridge Gaps in Northside Neighborhood”

Kenny Chen’s Quality of Place project for multiple Northside neighborhoods hopes to bring communities closer together by offering a way for business, nonprofits, and volunteers to work together to create digital content and accomplish mutual goals. The project will record and promote interviews with Northside business owners and nonprofit leaders around the Northside in order to get people more involved in the community and to get to know new businesses and organizations.

**Allegheny West Historic Timeline Exhibition**

“Allegheny West Historic Timeline Exhibition – Celebrating 50 years of rebuilding the smallest neighborhood in Pittsburgh”

Doris Short’s Quality of Education project for Allegheny West will be a celebration of Allegheny West Civic Council’s 50th anniversary, focusing on the struggles and successes over the past 50 years and helping to find solutions for future
improvements in Allegheny West. The timeline will inform, entertain, and help current residents gain a stronger understanding of the storied history of Allegheny West.

**Angels’ Place Community Meals**

“Northside Families Break Bread Together in Celebration of Family, Community and Love”

*CJ Strauss’s* Quality of Education project for Perry Hilltop / Perry South provides children at Angels’ Place and their families with three community meals. These meals are meant to strengthen the bond between two generations of parent and child, which has been noted as a critical component of a child’s development and will help aide the young parents in attaining stability and independence.

**The Banjo Club (documentary)**

“Local documentary puts a spotlight on The Pittsburgh Banjo Club”

*William Gandy’s* Quality of Place project for the Central Northside will spotlight The Banjo Club, a local organization that comes together every month to celebrate the community and the banjo. The documentary will highlight the variety of opportunities and experiences available on the Northside, and promote a positive image of the Northside on social media.

**Baytree Community Garden**

“Abandoned Vacant Lots Transformed into Beautiful Gathering Place”

*Leslee Schaffer’s* Quality of Place project for Perry North / Observatory Hill transforms an overgrown vacant lot, which has begun serving as a neighborhood gathering spot, into a community garden. The project will add raised garden beds to grow fresh vegetables for a local food bank.

**CCAC Allegheny Campus Food Pantry**

“CCAC, Allegheny Campus now offers a Food Pantry to Students in need”

*Jane Greenwood’s* Quality of Place project for the Allegheny West provides qualifying students of the Community College of Allegheny with groceries once a month along with information on food assistance programs designed to reduce hunger and improve college retention. CCAC students will provide volunteer support to pack and sort the groceries, however only CCAC staff will interact with students receiving the groceries in order to be sensitive to the dignity of the students and lessen the stigma around participating in the program.

**Cedar Market Exchange: A Broadcasting Experience**

*Lauren Stauffer’s* Quality of Place project for East Allegheny/Deutschtown and Allegheny West aims to highlight Northside commerce and promote local businesses as community partners. Curated interviews will target around 40 small business owners, community leaders, and volunteers involved in related community projects. The interviews will be centered around exploring community commerce and will include relevant One Northside projects.

**Dream Dancers**

“Dream Dancers – Transforming Lives through the Art of Dance”

*Sakeenah Johnson’s* Quality of Place project for multiple Northside neighborhoods supports the costumes for a dance competition. The Dream Dancers provides children with a safe environment to avoid violence, learn social skills, and most importantly, learn to love and appreciate dance.
East Deutschtown Community Orchard

“New Community Orchard Offers Fresh Produce for Local Residents in East Deutschtown”

Charles Triechler’s Quality of Place project for East Allegheny / Deutschtown provides inviting, shaded green-space and access to locally produced fruit to the residents of the East Deutschtown Neighborhood. The project additionally provides opportunities for local residents and youth to learn about planting, pruning, and caring for fruit trees.

Food City Sustainability – Equipment Purchase

“With the help of the Sprout Fund, Food City, a community garden located in East Deutschtown neighborhood of the North Side, acquires the equipment necessary to ensure sustainability for years to come”

Madison Nestor’s Quality of Place project for East Allegheny / Deutschtown is looking expands the functionality of the Garden at Food City with improved equipment. By purchasing the equipment and tools, the garden works to become self-sustainable for years to come.

Hope for the Homeless

Charles Chapman’s Quality of Place project for multiple Northside Districts is comprised of three events to engage the community around the topic of homelessness. The events include a community forum with information on how to best care for and serve the homeless; an outreach event to pass out clothes and food to over 500 individuals and families; and a conference for homeless service professionals to share best practices for engaging the community in helping the homeless.

Metamorphosis – She’s Got Her Wings

“A Riveting Monologue show takes audience on emotional creative journey through the transformative lives of 7 amazing women”

Ayeshah Bull’s Quality of Place project for multiple Northside neighborhoods is a performance arts project geared towards creating a space for women of color on the Northside. The project aims to creatively share the womens’ stories in order to encourage and empower women that are silently suffering. The performance will offer hope to other women in the audience who may be currently experiencing or have experienced similar situations and may see Creative Arts as a space to heal.

Pittsburgh Truing Stand

Aryn Gaslowitz and Alison Keating’s Quality of Employment project teaches bicycle mechanic skills to young women on the Northside. The program will help the young women become familiar with the mechanical tools, processes, and principles related to bicycle repair by building a bicycle. By having these skills, they will be able to repair bicycles at a level that enables them to seek employment at bike repair shops in addition to repairing bicycles for their family and friends.

Puppets at the Party

“Giant Puppets delight neighbors all over the Northside”

Cheryl Capezzuti’s Quality of Place project for multiple Northside neighborhoods provides puppet entertainment at Northside neighborhood events. The project will also stage surprise “puppet parades” in Northside neighborhoods that have never hosted the puppets for their neighborhood events.
Recipes for Success for Hungry Minds

Lisa Freeman and Wallace Sapp’s Quality of Education project to improve math skills and parent involvement for students who are performing poorly in school. The project will add a “who ate my math homework” cooking component to the Math Doctors class for 3rd grade students at Pittsburgh Manchester PreK-8. The students will receive the book Recipes for Hungry Minds and make recipes on a bi-weekly basis as a way to incorporate family involvement into their learning. There will additionally be monthly engagements for the students and their families and supporters.

Sons & Daughters of Sons & Daughters

“A Source of Change in the Community”

Debra Green’s Quality of Place Project for Perry North / Observatory Hill is a citizen-led effort to provide basic needs for her neighbors, such as food, school supplies, and clothing. Debra began helping her neighbors by using her own already scarce resources, and now will expand her giving and actions for change in partnership with One Northside.

Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) Behavior Intervention in Morrow Elementary School

“Kids learn to SNAP out of Trouble”

Dee Dee Giovanazzi’s Quality of Education project for Brighton Heights brings awareness to parents about the benefits of the incoming SNAP program at John Morrow Elementary. SNAP is an evidence-based program that teaches children to use coping skills to avoid trouble and control their behavior. Events such as luncheons, parent meet and greets, and parent-teacher nights will provide information about the program coming into the school, parents’ role, and how to make additional referrals throughout the Northside community.

Youth Collaboration

Angel Gober’s Quality of Education project on behalf of Brightwood Civic Group continues and expands a violence prevention program for youth in Marshall-Shadeland. Through the program, youth discuss topics such as poverty, food desserts, resource scarcity, and divestment in order to help them understand the root causes of issues in the community so that they can be empowered to work toward a better vision for the future.

About

One Northside

Since early 2014, hundreds of residents of the 18 neighborhoods on Pittsburgh’s Northside have engaged with local leaders and stakeholders in community-wide conversations to create a shared agenda for the revitalization of this vital component of the greater Pittsburgh region.

Facilitated by Jackson/Clark Partners and supported by The Buhl Foundation, this process has been able to leverage existing community assets and the inherent hard work and dedication of the people of the Northside to create a meaningful community-driven engagement initiative and to articulate one compelling vision for the future of these communities.

The Sprout Fund

Sprout is Pittsburgh’s leading agency supporting innovative ideas, catalyzing community change, and making the region a better place to live, work, play, and raise a family. Sprout provides critical financial support for projects and programs in the early stages of development—when just a small amount of investment has the potential to yield big results in the community. Since 2001, Sprout has worked successfully across political and geographic boundaries to make hundreds of community-decided investments in early-stage projects, organizations, innovators, and activities.