

Community Development Block Grant Proposal

DRIVER PLAZA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

I. Proposal Summary

Santa Fe Community Association & Neighbors and Self-Help Hunger Program are seeking a \$20,000 grant for the installation of picnic tables, entry arbors, a community bulletin board, improved signage, and on-going maintenance and community engagement.

II. Organization Description and History

Santa Fe Community Association & Neighbors and Self-Help Hunger Program have been working together for approximately eight years maintaining the Santa Fe neighborhood's only green space. We have brought together a diverse cross section of short- and long-time residents and mended a previously antagonistic relationship between immediate neighbors and regular plaza users. Santa Fe CAN is a project-based organization and Driver Plaza has been its longest running project starting at its inception. Self-Help Hunger Program provides weekly hot meals at Driver Plaza in the spirit of the Black Panther Party and Serve the People. Both organizations are Oakland based and strongly supported by the immediate community.

III. Background

As mentioned, Driver Plaza is Santa Fe's only green space and the closest green space for much of South Berkeley below Ashby. It is also a heavily trafficked bicycle boulevard junction linking Oakland and Berkeley. But despite this, it is primarily passed by or passed through by most residents. Our goal is to provide a welcoming space that invites people in for active enjoyment as opposed to the passive visual enjoyment. Over the years a memorial fruit orchard has sprung up along with a living fence providing protection from busy Stanford Avenue. The next step is to add certain aspects that will draw the community in.

IV. Project Description

The items we'd like to use the funding for are picnic tables, entry arbors for the memorial orchard, a bulletin board or information kiosk, improved signage, on-going maintenance, and community engagement.

Picnic Tables

There is currently a well-used and well-loved picnic table in the concrete gathering space that has been repeatedly repaired. We would like to replace this picnic table and add another one to provide additional seating.

Entry Arbors

The south and west corners of the memorial orchard have become natural entry points with the addition of the living fences. However, they are still not obvious entry points and by adding an arbor at each location we can define them as such while also providing termination points for the living fences.

Bulletin Board

An attempt was made years ago to install a cork board in the plaza to provide a place for local information and events, but it was never a proper structure and has since fallen apart. We would like to install a proper Oakland-approved bulletin board or information kiosk where we can provide announcements for upcoming workdays, community events, and information on local history.

Improved Signage

We would also like to add signage at various locations to let the community know what the space is as well as its history.

On-going Maintenance

These funds would go to equipment, materials, professional consultation for tree care, etc.

Community Engagement

Community engagement would involve outreach plus supplies and equipment purchase or rental for workday and other annual event.

V. Budget

Item	Fund request	Total
Picnic tables	\$750/each	\$1,500
Arbor Material	\$750/arbor	\$1,500
Bulletin Board	\$1,000	\$1,000
Signage	\$1,000	\$1,000
On-going maintenance	\$7,500	\$7,500
Community engagement	\$7,500	\$7,500
Totals		\$20,000