



June 18, 2026

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M.M. Long, City Manager *SM*

Subject: Safe and Clean Neighborhood Grant Awards

The Safe and Clean Neighborhood Fund is designed to support and encourage community-based and community-initiated efforts to improve neighborhood safety, eliminate blight, and increase livability through local-level problem solving approaches and projects. There is a priority focus of projects located in Cincinnati's top ten neighborhoods experiencing gun violence and projects that engage youth. The fund is managed on behalf of the City by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful.

In 2026, the City of Cincinnati is investing \$549,060 through three award cycles: in January, May, and September.

We are pleased to announce the awardees for the May 2026 grant cycle:

Applicant	Neighborhood influence	Project description
ARTE: Art, Reconciliation, Truth, and Empowerment <i>Award Total: \$25,000</i>	South Avondale	ARTE, in partnership with the Hope and Unity Project in Avondale will mentor and hire local youth to design and complete murals at the school, enhancing pride and creative expression. Youth will also engage in lawn care and grounds maintenance, helping beautify the campus, while leading community clean-up efforts throughout the summer. The program fosters responsibility, teamwork, and neighborhood unity while investing in the growth and leadership of young people.
BLOC Ministries	East and West Price Hill	This program engages Price Hill youth leaders in strategies that build personal and community

<p><i>Award Total:</i> <i>\$15,240</i></p>		<p>safety and equips them to lead other youth. Student leaders will participate in trauma-informed training, helping them gain skills to shape holistic safety and reduce violence. They will assist with BLOC's summer program for youth and will participate in a beautification project, repurposing a vacant lot across from BLOC's after school site in West Price Hill. After training, they will use their knowledge to mentor and guide other after school students at IDEA school and BLOC's HUB after school program.</p>
<p>CE3: Community Enrichment, Encouragement, and Empowerment</p> <p><i>Award Total:</i> <i>\$25,000</i></p>	<p>Winton Hills, Avondale, North Fairmount</p>	<p>CE3 leads the Winton Hills Youth Wealth Building Initiative, an eight-week summer program designed to expose youth ages 10–17 to pathways for long-term economic stability through workforce development, entrepreneurship, agriculture, civic engagement, financial literacy, and mental health support.</p>
<p>Cincinnati Learning Institute (CLC)</p> <p><i>Award Total:</i> <i>\$30,000</i></p>	<p>Lower Price Hill</p>	<p>The NextGen Pathways Program will employ Oyer students in grades 7-12 (ages 14 years+) in paid beautification efforts in and around the school, including urban gardening, community cleanups, and youth-led media. These efforts will create a safer, more welcoming environment and build pride in their community. Students will lead planning and implementation while earning hours toward graduation through OhioMeansJobs-aligned work-based learning and professional skill development.</p>
<p>Cincy Nice / Five Points Alley</p> <p><i>Award total:</i> <i>\$18,050</i></p>	<p>Walnut Hills</p>	<p>This project will help sustain, teach, and expand the proven and successful model that transformed Five Points Alley, a hidden Walnut Hills public space that had fallen into unsafe conditions, including overgrowth, needles, human waste, and unwanted activity. Through</p>

		<p>cleanups, fundraising, operations, and community programming, Cincy Nice transformed it into a vibrant third space with hundreds of thousands of pedestrian pass-throughs, hundreds of events, and no known police calls. The project will support stewardship, youth leadership, beautification, and community-led events.</p>
<p>Never the Less</p> <p><i>Award Total:</i> <i>\$23,000</i></p>	<p>Bond Hill, Avondale, OTR, Roselawn</p>	<p>Girls Leading Safe & Clean Neighborhoods, a youth-led beautification project engages and employs 12–15 girls ages 15–17 in Avondale, Roselawn, Bond Hill, and Over-the-Rhine. Participants will help identify neighborhood concerns, plan solutions, and complete cleanup and visible improvement activities that build pride, ownership, and safer shared spaces.</p>
<p>North Fairmount Community Council</p> <p><i>Award Total:</i> <i>\$13,450</i></p>	<p>North Fairmount</p>	<p>The North Fairmount Community Council will lead a youth-driven litter prevention and anti-dumping project in the Beekman corridor (Carll St and Baltimore Ave stairway entrances/walking routes) and the Seeger dumping hotspot. Youth will conduct hotspot walk-throughs, select final locations, and help design durable decals with "Trash Here" and "Report dumping to 311."</p>
<p>Save our Youth Kings and Queens</p> <p><i>Award Total:</i> <i>\$30,000</i></p>	<p>Winton Hills, West End</p>	<p>This project centers and employs local youth as caring residents of their neighborhoods through trash removal, landscaping, and gardening, which increases pride in neighborhoods for both youth and their families. In addition, the project encourages youth to become more invested in skill development, increases enjoyment of beautiful and safer spaces close to home, and discourages criminal activity by demonstrating neighborhood commitment to and ownership of community spaces and safety.</p>

		These things, along with youth leadership training, support positive youth development.
<p>Toolbank Cincinnati</p> <p><i>Award Total:</i> <i>\$15,000</i></p>	Winton Hills	By combining leadership training, hands-on workforce experience, and real-world civic engagement, the program equips high school-aged participants with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make a lasting impact in their neighborhoods. For this project, students will be designing and placing a mini-toolbank in Winton Hills to assist with the Reds Community Makeover, and it will remain as a community asset to help not only sustain those improvements, but to also be available for the community to use as they, the experts, see fit.
<p>YMCA of Greater Cincinnati at Gamble Montessori</p> <p><i>Award Total:</i> <i>\$20,000</i></p>	Westwood	Gamble Montessori Elementary, in partnership with Gamble Montessori High School, Imago, and Adventure Crew, will transform an underutilized outdoor area at Gamble Montessori into a vibrant learning and green space. The redesigned space will include a manual water pump connected to an “activated” dry creek bed that supports hands-on environmental learning and water exploration, along with a physical activity zone that encourages movement, play, and outdoor engagement. Students from Gamble High School will mentor elementary students in helping design and activate the space, creating a welcoming environment that encourages creativity, leadership, and community connection.

cc: Cathy Bailey, Interim Assistant City Manager
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