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Dear Venice Stakeholder

**Thank you** for your interest in the Community Improvement Project funding, a competitive process in which funds of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to local groups and individuals to improve the quality of life in the Venice community. This program is administered by the Venice Neighborhood Council. For the 2008-09 cycle of funding, the Venice Neighborhood Council has a budget of \$40,000 to award.

Please begin by reading the guidelines on pages 1–3 which will provide an overview of the funding process, eligibility requirements, and details on how to submit a proposal. The application to apply for funding can be found on pages 4–12. All applicable pages must be submitted and postmarked by Friday, February 15, 2008.

We appreciate your efforts at helping to improve our community.

Linda Lucks  
Vice President  
Venice Neighborhood Council

CONTACT: Ivan Spiegel at [parliamentarian@VeniceNC.org](mailto:parliamentarian@VeniceNC.org) for questions regarding the application process.

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## WHO CAN APPLY

Applications will be accepted from stakeholders of the Venice Neighborhood Council and Venice community based organizations. A stakeholder is defined as an individual who lives, works, or owns property within the boundaries of the area represented by the Venice Neighborhood Council. A community-based organization is a grouping of five or more Venice stakeholders. An organization can be an organization formed for the sole purpose of creating a proposed project. An organization does not need to have "501(c)(3)" status to apply.

Qualifying organizations can include:

- Homeowner's Associations
- Business Improvement Districts
- Neighborhood Block Clubs
- Neighborhood Watch Groups
- Faith-based Organizations (for projects of a non-religious nature)
- "Friends of ..." Groups
- Parent and Teacher Associations
- Service Clubs

The application requires the listing of a Project Manager. This is the person within an organization or the individual who will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation and supervision of the project.

## WHAT CAN BE APPLIED FOR

Community improvement projects must provide a **demonstrable** benefit to the Venice community. They should build community through the implementation process and enhance the neighborhood once complete. Projects may encompass a wide range and can include, but are not limited to: The Arts, Beautification, Community Support, Education and Capital Improvements. The Department Of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) has the final discretion to determine whether or not the proposed project is clearly beneficial to the community

A project may be submitted that is part of a larger project, but if so, it must be able to be completed independently of the larger project and regardless of whether other funding needs to be secured.

All projects must conform to the funding guidelines of the Department Of Neighborhood Empowerment. When submitting an application ask yourself the following questions:

- Is this a capital improvement project?
  - It should be on public property within Venice
  - There must be co-ordination with appropriate City agencies (i.e. Street Services, Fire, Rec & Parks, etc)
  - Appropriate permits need to be in place
- Is this for program services (i.e. after school program, graffiti removal, etc.)?
  - If for a select group of individuals, the applicant must create a fair selection process to establish participants
  - Effort should be made to secure the best prices from competitive bids

- Is this for equipment and supplies?
  - Equipment and supplies can only be used for the benefit of the community
  - Equipment can not be turned into private property or salvaged without prior approval from DONE
  - Purchases for private organizations need to benefit the local community. Purchases intended for private and/or paid use are not allowed.
  
- Is this an event?
  - Events must be open and advertised to the public
  - There should not be an admission charge
  - Discuss appropriate liability issues

All Community Improvement Projects in this round must be completed by June 30, 2009. Funding will only be valid through this date; thereafter, approval for the funding shall expire.

All projects and publicity must credit of the Venice Neighborhood Council for its support.

## USE OF FUNDS

Community Improvement funds can only be used to pay for materials, supplies and services directly related to the implementation of the project. All funds are payable by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to be billed by a vendor following the completion of a service and the submission of an invoice. Invoices must be billed to the Venice Neighborhood Council and submitted to the Treasurer of the Venice Neighborhood Council who will then review them and forward them to DONE for payment.

Services may be performed by an organization or sole proprietor provided they have a City of Los Angeles Business License and a Federal Taxpayer ID number. Reimbursement to third parties is prohibited; payments must be made directly to the vendor that provides the service. If required, DONE will contract directly with the service provider using a City of Los Angeles approved contract. The service provider must agree to all terms and conditions contained therein.

The funding is entirely conditioned upon compliance with DONE's Neighborhood Council Demand Warrant Guidelines and Neighborhood Improvement Project policies, procedures and limitations and DONE's subsequent approval of such funding (**see DONE website -- [www.lacityneighborhoods.com](http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com)**).

Necessary licenses, permits and/or tax identification numbers shall be presented to the Venice Neighborhood Council prior to the commencement of work.

In addition, project budgets may not include line items for:

- Work performed managing the project
- Administrative salaries
- An organization's operational expenses
- Ongoing maintenance expenses
- Purchases prior to the award notification
- Any item not included on the submitted budget sheet

## APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

The number of projects funded overall will be determined by the amount of applications received with a maximum amount of \$5000 per project. Every effort will be made to share the money as equitably as possible throughout the Venice community.

Applications will be reviewed by the Neighborhood Committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council. The committee is comprised of stakeholders from the geographic areas of Venice as defined by the Venice Coastal Specific plans and is elected by the Board of Officers of the Venice Neighborhood Council. The Committee will make its recommendations for funding to the Venice Neighborhood Council at the May Board of Officers meeting. The Neighborhood Council Board will make the final selections at a public meeting in June 2008. Applicants will be notified of the Board's decision by mail within 14 days and the final decision will be posted on the VNC website (VeniceNC.org).

All qualified applicants will be invited to participate in a public forum to be held in March 2008 for the purpose of presenting their projects to the community. Participation by applicants is not mandatory, but is strongly requested. A non-binding poll of stakeholder attendees will be conducted following the presentations.

## REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

1. The **budget** is realistic, appropriate, and supported with quotes.
2. The organization or individual is **capable** of completing the project.
3. The **work plan** is detailed, specific, and feasible.
4. The project is **supported** by the community.
5. The **number** of Venice stakeholders that will benefit from this project.
6. The project implementation process will **build community**.
7. The complete project will **enhance the community**.
8. The **application** overall is clear and logical.

## APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

Please submit **THREE (3) COPIES** of the application postmarked by Friday, February 15, 2008 to:  
Community Improvement Projects  
Venice Neighborhood Council  
PO Box 550  
Venice, CA 90294

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- The application packet is not to exceed 25 sheets. Submittals beyond the 25<sup>th</sup> sheet will be discarded.
- The packet dimensions should not exceed 8½ X 11 inches. Fold large inserts.
- Applications should not be submitted in decorative folders.
- All letters of support and supplemental materials **must** be submitted with the original application.
- When including attachments, number them sequentially and place them behind the corresponding application sheet. For example, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 etc.

Applications cannot be added to or modified in any way after February 15, 2008.





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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION SHEET**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Include how many stakeholders will be working on this project.) (Maximum 500 words)

IS THIS PROJECT PART OF A LARGER PROJECT?  YES  NO

COMMUNITY BENEFIT (Description of benefit to the entire community and justification for these benefits)





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## PROJECT PLANNING SHEET

WORK PLAN (Include a TIME-LINE for the project with beginning date and completion date of each phase)

MAINTENANCE PLAN (If applicable)





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**PROJECT RENDERING SHEET (If applicable)**

Attach conceptual images of the project to this sheet or design and print your own sheet. Include text explanations.



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**ORGANIZATION SHEET** (Complete this form if the applicant is an organization)

ORGANIZATION NAME
ORGANIZATION ADDRESS
ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION (Include the experience that your organization has in the execution of similar projects)

TOTAL MEMBERS	<b>The proposal must include the names and SIGNATURES of 5 members of the organization (preferably Board members)</b>	YEAR ESTABLISHED
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BY SIGNING BELOW, I declare in good faith that I am a member of the organization named above. I realize the Venice Neighborhood Council may contact me to verify my membership and participation in this organization.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	SIGNATURE



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**INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT** (Complete this form if the applicant is an individual or sole proprietor)

STAKEHOLDER NAME

QUALIFYING ADDRESS

QUALIFICATION STATUS     LIVE     OWN PROPERTY     WORK – NAME OF BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

RESUME AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS PROJECT



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**PERMISSION FOR USE OF PROPERTY SHEET**

Use this form, if applicable, to show the approval of the use of the project site from the property owner, school principal, city agency, etc. Attach as many as necessary.

PROJECT NAME
APPLICANT

NAME OF PERSON WHO CONTROLS USE OF THE PROPERTY	TITLE
FACILITY/BUSINESS NAME	PHONE
SITE ADDRESS	

DESCRIPTION OF USE AND PERMISSION NEEDED FOR THIS SITE
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BY SIGNING BELOW, I declare in good faith that I own or am responsible for the named property. I understand that the applicant is seeking funding through the Venice Neighborhood Council. I grant the applicant permission to use the property for the implementation of the above named project. I understand that the project will begin after July 1, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

