



## **CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE CIVIC GRANTS COMMISSION MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

March 18, 2024 5:00 PM  
2424 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI  
South End Council Chambers

1. Call to order.
2. Approval of May 14, 2024 minutes.
3. Update on 2024 Bucyrus Civic Grant recipient projects.
4. Consideration to approve eligible local nonprofit requests to apply for 2025 Bucyrus Civic Grant funding.
5. Schedule next meeting.
6. Adjourn.

### **Public Notice**

There is a potential that a quorum of the Common Council may be present at this meeting. Upon reasonable notice, a good faith effort will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aid at no cost to the individual to participate in public meetings. Due to the difficulty in finding interpreters, requests should be made as far in advance as possible, preferably a minimum of 48 hours. For additional information or to request this service, contact the South Milwaukee City Clerk at 414-762-2222 or write to the ADA Coordinator, City Hall, 2424 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53172. The City of South Milwaukee is TDD equipped and can be accessed by calling 414-768-8060.



## **SOUTH MILWAUKEE CIVIC GRANTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

May 14, 2024

**1. Call to order/Roll Call.**

Meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm. Members present Melissa Ellis, Aleta Schilling, Alderman David Bartoshevich, Dave Kieck (arrived 5:08) and Ericka Lang.

**2. Approval of March 12, 2024 meeting minutes.**

Ellis moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Schilling. Vote 4-0.

**3. Presentations by civic grant applicants.**

Darlene Piszczek from nonprofit ArtWorks presented a mural project in the downtown at 907 Milwaukee Avenue, identifying iconic themes for new murals. The proposed mural shows a VW bus, a symbol of Woodstock. Other board members present were Leah Minue, Chuck Winn, Ernie Wunsch, and James Moran. ArtWorks requested \$23,000, included funds for a community engagement event and future mural maintenance.

John Litchford from the nonprofit Warm Up South Milwaukee is requesting \$9,000 for purchasing, training and installing three AED defibrillators. One is for training, another at Sorce martial arts business and for the South Milwaukee Little League. Another \$1,000 was requested for establishing a winter coat program at Lakeview Elementary, purchasing new coats.

Sue Hebner and Suzanna Schroeder were present for the South Milwaukee Friends of the Library, requesting \$13,600 for three child-appropriate tablets, three work stations and two lounge furniture in the children's area. The tablets will not be checked out.

Nancy Wucherer, Don Bulley and Marilyn Geiger presented for the nonprofit Friends of Mill Pond, requesting \$2,000 to \$5,000 to install a two-sided informational kiosk near the Milwaukee County Warming House by Mill Pond and Oak Creek Parkway. The funds are for purchasing and installation. The kiosk will have information about the Mill Pond, events and pictures of the interior. The group continues to fundraise to improve the building.

Judy Balestrieri and Sue Ziarek presented for the South Milwaukee Historical Society, requesting \$3,350 for a laptop and printer for people researching ancestry, a replacement scanner, an all-equipment IT three-year contract and renewal of the Ancestry online subscription.

**4. Discussion/possible motion to recommend approval of Bucyrus Civic Grant applications.**

For ArtWorks, commissioners agreed \$20,000 for professional services and materials only and additional funds for adding \$2,000 for lighting and three-dimensional elements to the mural.

For Warm Up South Milwaukee, commissioners discussed AED locations and other schools for the new winter coats initiative. An additional \$1,400 was granted for new winter coats at South Milwaukee schools.

For Friends of the Library, it was confirmed none of the requests are considered replacements.

For Friends of Mill Pond, the request was for \$2,000 to \$5,000 and no quotes were provided. Commissioners noted general pricing around \$1,000 found on the internet for the sign type and agreed \$2,000 for purchase, shipping and installation is appropriate. Commissioners requested a letter of permission from Milwaukee County to install the kiosk.

For South Milwaukee Historical Society, \$1,000 for a laptop and printer for the public to use and search ancestry are eligible. Other items were not.

Ellis moved to approve \$22,000 for ArtWorks, \$11,400 for Warm Up Winter, \$13,600 for Friends of South Milwaukee Library, \$2,000 for Friends of Mill Pond and \$1,000 for South Milwaukee Historical Society, seconded by Kieck. Vote 5-0.

Any remaining balances by the May 31, 2025 must be returned to the City of South Milwaukee's Bucyrus Civic Grants fund.

**5. Update on 2023 grant recipient projects.**

During presentations, Warm Up South Milwaukee and the Historical Society gave an update on 2023 awarded projects and unspent funds. Litchford noted 300 extinguishers were distributed and over 500 people educated at local senior facilities. The Historical Society noted the web designer continues to add-to and improve the website.

Reports were provided in March and all recipients with unspent funds were notified that expenditures may proceed through May 31, 2024 for eligible items and sales receipts and financial documents are required.

Commissioners discussed requiring recipients provide a mid-year report as well as a final expenditure report. The next meeting will be scheduled in December to prepare for the 2025 award cycle.

**6. Adjourn.**

Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 pm, seconded by Schilling. Vote 5-0.

Ericka Lang

Economic Development Manager

**2025 SMKE Bucyrus Civic Grant**

Organization	Determination	Description
<b>1 Friends of the Library</b>		
\$2,200		Purchase video player & games for young adults/children
\$6,000		Partner w/ schools to purchase multiple books and author fees;
<u>\$13,180</u>		Improve library entry with mural and bench
\$21,380		
<b>2 Friends of Grant Park</b>		
\$1,000		Annual art fair event- pavilion rental, insurance, advertising, stipend for materials & staff for kids activities
<b>3 SM Fire Department</b>		
\$20,000		support establishment of a Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program- purchase essential equipment, advanced training for paramedics, and development of community outreach initiatives.
<b>4 Growing South Milwaukee</b>		
\$8,000		Build storage shed at community gardens 1308 Milwaukee. Includ concrete slab and landscaping
<b>5 Celebrations Committee</b>		
\$5,000		New music series at Bucyrus Commons for music talent and advertising campaign
<b>6 Human Concerns</b>		
\$10,000		to hire professional grant writer at \$75/hr for 130 hours
<b>7 Bucyrus Museum</b>		
\$4,800		Purchase 2 AED devices. Currently has one east end 1st floor. Advised need 2 more- at west side 1st floor and in museum
<b>8 Gearbox Labs, Inc.</b>		
\$2,500		Purchase electronic kits, project books and instruction for 2 free workshops, one for SM middle school students, one for educators in STEM
<b>9 SM Heritage Days Parade</b>		
\$750		New memorial float to honor Chet Grobschmit
<u>\$1,500</u>		patriotic band
\$2,250		
<b>10 MARM Farm Education &amp; Conservation Center</b>		
\$20,000		Construct shipping container Self-contained urban growing unit for hydroponic garden; partner w/ SM schools as living classroom.
<u>\$10,000</u>		Part time manager
\$30,000		
<b>11 Scouting</b>		
\$10,000		Increase participation in underserved youth, providing financial support for activities, supplies, and hiring program aids
<b>12 SM Historical Society</b>		
\$650		Purchase Epson photo and document scanner
\$3,850		Purchase flatbed scanner for oversized photos/documents
<u>\$2,500</u>		Purchase acid-free 5-drawer storage for large files
\$7,000		
<b>\$121,930</b>		

2024 South Milwaukee Bucyrus Civic Grant						
Organization	Description	2024 Appl	2024 Outcome based on Fund Max	2024 Unspent Funds	2024 Expense Report	
<b>1 Friends of the Library</b>						
	\$13,600 total in LOI: Purchase: (3) tablets for kids, \$2,100; furniture for learning lounge, \$5,800; (3) child computer stations \$5,700			\$404.54		
	12/17/2024 City approved unspent funds to buy charging towers to put by children lounge areas.					
	3/5/2025 returned unspent funds \$407.54 check #1249					
	3 tablets for children	\$2,100	Eligible			
	3 child-sized computer stations	\$5,700	Eligible			
	children furniture for learning lounge	\$5,800	Eligible			
		<b>\$13,600</b>				
<b>2 Historical Society</b>						
	\$9000 total LOI: Purchase a laptop & printer to access Ancestry online, \$1,500; purchase a Pixologi seminar on creating digital Photo Estate \$3,500; Have artist create/ print a coloring book for visitors \$1,500; purchase acid-free boxes for safe storage of pictures/artifacts \$2,500					
	Dedicated Laptop Computer - HP 17.3" Touch Screen 8GB Memory	\$600	Eligible			
	Dedicated Printer - HP Office Pro 8139e Wireless All in One Printer & Ink	\$400	Eligible			
	Digitizing Scanner - Epson FF-680W Wireless High-Speed Photo Scanner	\$650	LOI Not approved			
	Geek Squad [or similar service] IT support [3-year Contract]	\$1,200	LOI Not approved			
	Ancestry Subscription renewal – Genealogy [1-year subscription]	\$500	LOI Not approved			
		<b>\$3,350</b>				
<b>3 Warm Up South Milwaukee</b>						
	Establish Automated External Defibrillator Distribution Program	\$9,000	Eligible			
	Continue Senior Fire Safety Program, purchase extinguishers		LOI, Not eligible			
	Launch Winter Coat Program for Lakeview Elementary	\$2,400	Eligible, approved \$2400			
		<b>\$11,400</b>				
<b>4 Friends of Mill Pond</b>						
	Educational kiosk	\$2,000	Eligible, approved			NA
	Upgrade surrounding trails		Not eligible			
	1/15/2025 informed Milw County did not approve kiosk and funds were returned					
<b>5 Art Works</b>						
	Mural. Only for artist fees/materials as provided in accepted contract	\$22,000	Eligible			
		\$50,000				
	3/12/2024 commission determined all unspent funds may be used up to May 31, 2024 for only items approved and sales receipts or banking statements to be provided for all funds used after the financial report was provided. All recipients emailed 3/13/2024					

# CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE

## 2023 Bucyrus Civic Grant Awards

The City received 11 Letters of Interest from local nonprofit organizations totaling \$917,800 in proposed projects.

The annual grant budget is \$50,000 with seven nonprofits receiving funding.

<b>Nonprofit</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Project</b>
South Milwaukee Police Department	\$5,000	New K9 unit program
Friends of Grant Park	\$1,600	New trail entry signs at Seven Bridges, for educational, wayfinding, work progress announcements, and relevant County and City information maintained by the FOGP.
South Milwaukee Lions Foundation	\$6,000	New and upgraded electrical service for Lionsfest event space
Bucyrus Museum	\$1,825	Large format scanner for scanning historical collections and contributing to "Recollection Wisconsin Program" online catalog
Friends of the South Milwaukee Library	\$16,300	Create a multi-use lab and learning space to enhance technology and training opportunities; Create a more friendly post-coronavirus children's play area for ages 6 and under.
South Milwaukee Historical Society	\$4,500	Create a new website and new Ancestry subscription.
Warm Up South Milwaukee (South Milwaukee firefighters)	\$14,775	Develop plan for new senior extinguisher program and future nonprofit projects; purchase apartment-size fire extinguishers; coaching and consulting for implementing program.
	\$50,000	

## Friends of South Milwaukee Library

1907 10th Avenue  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

February 26, 2025

Dear Ericka,

The Friends of the South Milwaukee Library wishes to request eligibility to apply for a South Milwaukee Bucyrus Civic Grant.

The Friends of the South Milwaukee Library would use the 2025 Bucyrus Civic Grant to:

- **Add video games and players for young adults and children.**

The staff is receiving a growing number of requests for video games for young adults, teens and some older children. The library would like to better serve this difficult-to-reach, and therefore under served, population but lacks the funds to add this resource. We want to purchase two game systems, extra remotes to expand the number of people able to play at one time, a game cartridge library spanning multiple ages and security cases to prevent theft. The estimated cost of this project is \$2,200.

- **Host a visit from a popular children's author.**

Authors inspire and encourage literacy, creativity, motivation, organization, and communication — all fundamental skills for young people. We propose partnering with South Milwaukee schools to help teachers capitalize on the author's visit with various reading and writing activities that use the author's book to build skills and possible author talk(s) at school. We want to purchase multiple copies of the book, prior to the visit, so the schools and their students can capitalize on all aspects of the author's visit. Depending on the author, a reasonable fee for the visit is between \$2,000-\$5,000 plus travel and hotel costs. A high-end estimate of the total cost should not exceed \$6,000.

- **Beautify the library entrance.**

The current entrance to the library is a concrete jungle with no seating, little visual interest and almost no green space. We envision a fun, colorful art installation appropriate for a library, a sturdy, colorful bench and an artificial green wall to beautify and soften the library entrance. All items can be moved to a new location, if needed. The estimated cost of this project is \$13,180.

The development of these resources will benefit South Milwaukee residents of all ages.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sue Hebner, 2025 President  
Friends of the South Milwaukee Library  
suehebner@gmail.com  
937-390-3306

Bethany Meyer, Director  
South Milwaukee Public Library

**Ericka Lang**

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**From:** Larry Pizur <d-lpizur@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2025 12:36 PM  
**To:** Ericka Lang  
**Cc:** Pam Uhrig; Tony Giron  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Friends of Grant Park Letter of Interest

Erika, Friends of Grant Park letter of interest is below. If you wish me to send it as an attachment please let me know.  
Debby

Dear Grant Committee,

The Friends of Grant Park (FOGP) appreciates the opportunity to share information about our group and seek funding of an ongoing project which we seeks to improve.

Our project matches the grant criteria in item E eligible grant item: Vibrant art and cultural amenities and other activities that offer experiences for residents and visitors.

Our project is: Friends of Grant Park Art Fair  
Friends of Grant Park is one of many friends groups throughout the county. We are a well established group and our fiscal agent is The Park People of Milwaukee County and work hand in hand with the Milwaukee County Park staff.

Who will benefit - artists, attendees, and the city.  
The art fair will bring in people from outside South Milwaukee as well as residents. We estimated as many as 500 people attended last year.

Estimate Costs - \$1,000  
Costs include, rental of pavilion, insurance, advertising in local publications and online, music, stipend for leader of children's' activity and materials for children's' activity.

Organization - Friends of Grant Park (FOGP)

Contact - Debby Pizur, Vice-chair FOGP  
414-764-4236  
[d-lpizur@att.net](mailto:d-lpizur@att.net)  
809 Hawthorne Ave, So. Milw., WI 53172

The art fair is planned to kick off Heritage Week. This cultural event will consist of 32 artists displaying their works, music, refreshments, and a new addition, children's make and take art activity. This event is a free event for all that wish to view art, listen to music, enjoy food and meet with friends,

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<https://www.oakcreekwi.gov/home/showdocument?id=15262&t=637568444423093058>





# City of South Milwaukee Fire Department

929 Marshall Ct · South Milwaukee, WI 53172

414-768-8191 · jlitchford@smwi.org

## **Grant Interest Statement: Bucyrus Foundation Civic Grant**

**Applicant:** South Milwaukee Fire Department

**Program Title:** Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Program

**Funding Request:** \$20,000

Dear Bucyrus Foundation Grant Committee,

Warm up Winter has partnered with the South Milwaukee Fire Department, and are dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of our community through innovative and proactive emergency medical services. We are seeking \$20,000 from the Bucyrus Foundation Civic Grant to support the establishment of a Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Program. This funding will be allocated towards the purchase of essential equipment, advanced training for our paramedics, and the development of community outreach initiatives.

### **Purpose and Objectives:**

The primary objective of the MIH program is to bridge the gap between emergency medical services and community healthcare. By expanding our role beyond emergency response, we aim to provide preventive care, reduce hospital readmissions, and improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations, including the elderly, chronically ill, and underserved members of our community.

### **Use of Funds:**

The requested \$20,000 will be utilized as follows:

- **Standard Equipment:** Acquisition of necessary medical equipment and supplies, including portable diagnostic tools and telemedicine technology, to enable in-home patient assessments and follow-up care.
- **Advanced Training:** Specialized training for paramedics in chronic disease management, mental health support, and community health education. This will empower our team to provide comprehensive and compassionate care.
- **Community Engagement:** Development of educational materials and community outreach initiatives to promote health literacy and preventative care practices.

### **Community Impact:**

The MIH program will offer significant benefits to the South Milwaukee community by:

- **Enhancing Access to Healthcare:** Providing in-home care and follow-up visits for patients recently discharged from hospitals, reducing unnecessary emergency room visits and hospital readmissions.



# City of South Milwaukee Fire Department

929 Marshall Ct · South Milwaukee, WI 53172

414-768-8191 · [jlitchford@smwi.org](mailto:jlitchford@smwi.org)

- **Improving Public Health Outcomes:** Addressing chronic health issues proactively through education and early intervention, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for at-risk populations.
- **Reducing Healthcare Costs:** By preventing emergency situations through consistent monitoring and preventive care, the MIH program will help decrease the financial burden on both patients and healthcare systems.

We are confident that the MIH program will serve as a model for integrated community healthcare, fostering a healthier and more resilient South Milwaukee. Your support will be instrumental in bringing this vision to life, ensuring that our community members receive the care they need when and where they need it most.

Thank you for considering our request. We are eager to collaborate with the Bucyrus Foundation to make a lasting impact on the health and well-being of our community.

#### #4 Growing South Milwaukee

March 3rd, 2025

Attn: Ericka Lang  
City Grants Committee | Bucyrus Foundation  
2424 15th Avenue  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

To whom it may concern:

We are requesting eligibility to apply for project funding from the Bucyrus Foundation's 2025 Civic Grant.

Growing South Milwaukee, a 501c3, is looking to build a storage shed at our community garden located at 1308 Milwaukee Avenue.

This shed will serve as the final piece in our original garden design and make important tools accessible to the community volunteers that are interested in helping the garden thrive. We plan to store our push mower, string trimmer, hoses, vegetable crates, and garden tools in this shed. The shed will have a combination lock and will be an efficient way for our volunteer teams to keep the grounds at the community garden looking tidy.

We feel that if volunteers are able to access the tools in our shed, our regular committee can focus their time and energy on tending the gardens that produce fresh organic vegetables for our partners at South Milwaukee Human Concerns.

We are requesting up to \$8000 to cover the costs of landscaping, pouring a concrete slab, purchasing, and installing the shed.

We appreciate any funding that may come from this wonderful community legacy and thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leah Minue | Growing South Milwaukee President  
GrowingSM@gmail.com

## #5 Celebrations Committee

Ryan A. Greco  
South Milwaukee Celebrations Committee  
2424 15<sup>th</sup> Ave  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172  
Ryangreco@gmail.com  
414-745-8170

February 22, 2025

Economic Development Department  
Ericka Lang  
2424 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Dear Bucyrus Civic Grant Committee,

On behalf of the South Milwaukee Celebrations Committee, I am pleased to submit this letter of interest for consideration in the Bucyrus Civic Grant Program. We are excited about the opportunity to bring a vibrant and engaging music series to the Bucyrus Commons, and we believe this initiative aligns closely with the Foundation's mission to enhance community support and cultural experiences. We are seeking a grant of \$5,000 to develop this community-oriented music series to be held at the Bucyrus Commons. This initiative will serve as a catalyst for cultural enrichment, economic stimulation, and community engagement, bringing together residents and visitors from South Milwaukee and surrounding areas.

Our vision for this music series is to create an accessible and inclusive event that fosters unity, supports local and regional artists, and enhances the vibrancy of our city. The requested funds will be utilized to secure high-quality musical talent and implement a robust advertising campaign to maximize community participation. By hosting these performances at Bucyrus Commons, we will continue to strengthen the venue's role as a cornerstone of South Milwaukee's revitalization efforts.

Beyond entertainment, this initiative will support local businesses and public-private partnerships, encouraging increased foot traffic and patronage of nearby establishments. A well-promoted music series will not only attract diverse audiences but also provide opportunities for local vendors, artisans, and service providers to thrive. In doing so, we aim to create a sustainable model for economic growth while enhancing South Milwaukee's cultural landscape.

We are excited about the potential impact of this initiative and would welcome the opportunity to provide further details or discuss our vision with you in greater depth. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the possibility of collaborating with the Bucyrus Civic Grant Program to bring this enriching experience to our community.

Sincerely,  
Ryan A. Greco, Chairperson  
South Milwaukee Celebrations Committee

## #6 Human Concerns



P.O. Box 314  
1029 Milwaukee Avenue  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172  
414-764-5340

February 24, 2025

Dear Members of the South Milwaukee Civic Grant Commission,

South Milwaukee Human Concerns, Inc. has remained faithful to the mission of fighting hunger since 1973. We have helped tens of thousands of people in the last 52 years.

The past couple of years have been a struggle financially, our donations have gone down and grant writing is getting tougher, but the needs in our community are rising.

For our pantry to continue serving our mission of help and hope we are asking for a \$10,000 grant to help pay for a professional grant writer to assist us in the grant writing process. The cost of a grant writer in this area costs about \$75.00 + an hour depending on the size of the grant. If awarded, this grant could help with an approximate 130 hours of grant writing.

South Milwaukee Human Concerns appreciates the opportunity to be considered for this grant and values your continued support. Should you have any questions or need further assistance please feel free to reach out to me.

Very Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra DeBoer".

Debra DeBoer  
Executive Director  
So. Milwaukee Human Concerns, Inc.  
414-764-5340  
[debrahcsomilw@gmail.com](mailto:debrahcsomilw@gmail.com)  
[smhumanconcerns.org](http://smhumanconcerns.org)

### Mission Statement:

South Milwaukee Human Concerns, Inc. is a non-profit 501c3 organization receiving no taxpayer funds that delivers critical help and hope to needs-based residents through emergency food, clothing and other essential services.



**South Milwaukee  
Industrial Museum LLC**  
P.O. Box 84  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172-0084



February 27, 2025

Ericka Lang  
Economic Development Department  
2424 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Subject: Letter of Interest for a South Milwaukee Bucyrus Civic Grant

Dear Ericka,

The Bucyrus Museum and Bucyrus Club are hosts to more than 15,000 guests each year for various co-booked events, including but not limited to Great Lakes Cruise Line visitors, weddings, corporate events, civic events, funeral luncheons, etc. In addition to events, we each receive daily visits from restaurant and museum patrons as well.

At our recent Board of Directors meeting, the subject of patron safety was addressed along with our internal plans to make sure we're prepared for emergency situations. Our Board underwent AED training last year and just completed Narcan training. The building currently has one AED located on the east end of the first floor. With that, we were advised that the building size warrants two additional units, one on the west side (Grand Ballroom) and one on the second floor (museum).

The patrons of the Bucyrus Museum and Bucyrus Club would benefit from the additional proximity of an AED by decreasing the reaction time to address a medical emergency situation where minutes are critical for life saving measures to begin. The units would be purchased by the Bucyrus Museum through the South Milwaukee Fire Department's agreement with their service provider at cost, and installation would be at the expense of the Bucyrus Museum. The total cost for two units is estimated to be \$4,800.00.

We would like to thank you and the Civic Grant Commission for consideration of our request to improve the safety of the many visitors to South Milwaukee that the Bucyrus Club and Bucyrus Museum host every year. I can be reached at 262-902-5235 or [jelbo.com](http://jelbo.com), and will be happy to address any questions regarding the grant request that the Grant Committee may have.

Sincerely,

*Robert Jelinek*

Director



February 12, 2025

City of South Milwaukee  
Economic Development Department  
2424 15th Avenue  
City of South Milwaukee, WI 53172

RE: Bucyrus Civic Grant Program

Bucyrus Civic Grant Program Manager:

Gearbox Labs was founded in 2019 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all-volunteer organization and moved to South Milwaukee in September of 2024 to better serve communities in Milwaukee.

Gearbox Labs was founded to address shortfalls in STEM education, specifically technology, engineering, and coding. To do this Gearbox Labs creates cutting edge and rigorous curricula and experiences for educators and students. We work in most school districts in Milwaukee County providing STEM curricula, professional development, and support for science and engineering fairs.

Gearbox Labs also produces the Maker Faire Milwaukee at Discovery World each November.

After moving to South Milwaukee, Gearbox Labs began supporting South Milwaukee Middle School's STEM Program with its participation in NASA's Techrise (which the team won in 2025) and Samsung Solve for Tomorrow (which the team was a state finalist in 2024).

We have successfully provided over 100 workshops for free around the state with support from multiple foundations over the past 5 years.

This letter of interest is to notify our intent, if invited, to apply for a \$2500 grant from the Bucyrus Civic Grant Program. We have reviewed the requirements for the grant submission and do meet all the requirements. With this grant Gearbox Labs would provide two free one day workshops, one for educators and a second workshop for students on engineering, electronics, and coding. Workshops participants would receive a starter electronics kit, 240-page project book, and instruction.

We have initiated a conversation with the South Milwaukee Public Library to host the workshops and with this grant, Gearbox Labs would be able to provide an engaging STEM program for free to our community and our community's educators.

Thank you for your consideration and we welcome any questions or comments.

Best,

Peter Haydock

Director, Gearbox Labs, Inc.  
[peter@gearboxlabs.org](mailto:peter@gearboxlabs.org)

## #9 Heritage Days Parade



South Milwaukee City Hall  
2424 15th Avenue  
South Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53172  
call us at: 414-762-2222 ext 339  
email us at: smheritageparade@gmail.com

Ms. Erika Lang  
Economic Development  
South Milwaukee Civic Grant Commission

Thank you for your consideration of the South Milwaukee Heritage Days Parade participation in the South Milwaukee Bucyrus Civic Grant.

The South Milwaukee Heritage Days Parade is a highlight of the Heritage Days Weekend, with approximately 6,000 spectators and averaging 110 units. These units consist of local and state celebrities, patriotic units, bands of many genres, drum corps and other entertainment units.

This year, we seek to honor the legacy of the honorable Chester "Chet" Grobschmidt for his lifelong service and dedication to our community. Mr. Grobschmidt was a WWII Navy veteran, a nine-year alderman, and served as Mayor of South Milwaukee for 28 years. Additionally, he dedicated 42 years of service to Bucyrus-Erie and was deeply committed to his faith and family. His unwavering loyalty to our city and its people makes him a fitting figure to recognize through this year's parade.

To commemorate his contributions, we are requesting a **\$2,250 grant** to support a special tribute in his honor. Our proposed plans include:

- A **Memorial Float** (\$750) designed in collaboration with a contracted company at a discounted rate.
- A **Patriotic Band** (\$1,500) to enhance the tribute, pending family approval to participate in the parade.
- Family members of the **Grobschmidt / Southerland family** walking in the parade.
- A **Memorial Banner**, to be carried by Eagle Scouts, signifying his legacy.

We have discussed this concept with Karen Grobschmidt and the Southerland family, they have graciously concensted to and would be honored to have Mr. Chet Grobschmidt recognized in the 2025 Parade, pending grant approval. Receiving this grant will allow us to pay tribute to Mr. Grobschmidt's enduring values—commitment to service, loyalty to community, and the power of hard work—while inspiring future generations.

As a **501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in good standing since 2014**, the South Milwaukee Heritage Days Parade is committed to fostering civic pride and preserving our community's rich history.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information. We appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to the next steps in the grant application process.

Julie Casey  
South Milwaukee Heritage Days  
Committee Member  
414-687-4476- direct  
414-762-2222- voice mail



#10 Marm Farm



Ellen Colby  
1225 Mackinac Ave  
South Milwaukee, WI 53207  
marmfarmmke@gmail.com  
March 1, 2025

Ericka Lang  
Economic Development Department  
City of South Milwaukee  
2424 15th Avenue  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Dear Ms. Lang,

I am writing to submit a proposal for the Bucyrus Foundation Civic Grant to establish a self-contained urban growing unit (SCUGU) in South Milwaukee. This innovative project will transform a shipping container into a hydroponic growing facility that is solar-powered and fueled by harvested rainwater.

Measuring 8 feet by 40 feet, and utilizing vertical grow space, the SCUGU will yield the equivalent of 3 acres of traditional farmland, producing 2 to 6 tons of fresh, sustainable produce year-round. Our partnership with the South Milwaukee School District will allow us to use the unit as a living classroom, providing hands-on agricultural education and job opportunities for students in our community.

We are also committed to addressing food insecurity and plan to donate half of the harvest to Human Concerns, benefiting residents in need. The estimated budget for this project is \$30,000, which includes \$20,000 for materials and \$10,000 for a part-time manager. Ellen Colby, Eco-Agronomist and Founder of The MARM Farm, will oversee the project.

I believe this initiative will not only enhance food security in South Milwaukee but also foster community engagement and educational opportunities. I look forward to discussing this proposal further and appreciate your consideration of our request for the Bucyrus Foundation Civic Grant.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Ellen Colby  
414-651-9212  
Founder/The MARM Farm Education & Conservation Center

## #11 Scouting America

Dear Members of The Bucyrus Foundation,

On behalf of Scouting America, Three Harbors Council, I am writing to express our sincere interest in partnering with The Bucyrus Foundation to expand and strengthen Scouting programs in South Milwaukee. Our goal is to provide essential outreach programs, expand existing Scouting units, and ensure that underserved youth, especially those from families in need, have access to the life-changing opportunities Scouting provides.

Scouting America has a long-standing commitment to fostering leadership, responsibility, and community involvement among young people. However, we recognize that there are many families and youth in South Milwaukee who are currently underserved or unable to participate in our programs due to financial constraints. With the support of The Bucyrus Foundation, we seek to remove these barriers and ensure that every child can experience Scouting, regardless of their socio-economic background.

We are requesting a grant of \$10,000 to help achieve these objectives. The funds will be used in the following ways:

- **Assistance Funds:** Providing financial support to families in need, ensuring that all children can participate in Scouting activities without financial burden.
- **Program Supplies:** Purchasing necessary program materials, uniforms, and other supplies that are essential for delivering high-quality Scouting experiences.
- **Hiring of Program Aides:** Recruiting and hiring program aides who will be instrumental in delivering programs directly to the youth in South Milwaukee. These aides will help ensure that programs are engaging, well-organized, and meet the unique needs of the local community.

Through this initiative, we will be able to expand our reach and offer Scouting opportunities to youth who might otherwise never have the chance to participate. We are particularly focused on helping youth develop skills such as teamwork, leadership, and resilience, while also creating a positive environment where they can build lifelong friendships.

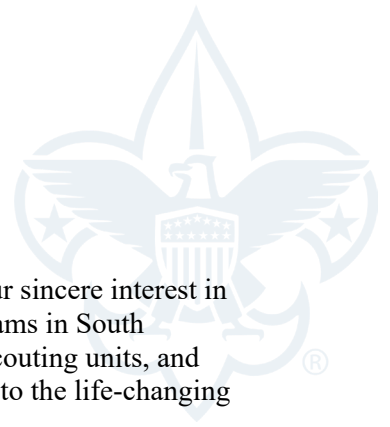
Your generous support will not only benefit the children involved but will have a lasting impact on the entire community. We are excited about the potential partnership with The Bucyrus Foundation and the positive change we can create together in South Milwaukee.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal further and to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for considering our request, and we look forward to the possibility of working together to make a difference in the lives of young people in South Milwaukee.

Sincerely,



Nick Thornton, DFS/COO





# South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue

South Milwaukee WI 53172

City of South Milwaukee  
Bucyrus Civic Grant Program  
Economic Development Department  
2424 15th Avenue  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

March 1, 2025

Greetings:

The South Milwaukee Historical Society (established in 1972) realizes the responsibility that our non-profit 501(c)3 organization has to the City of South Milwaukee. It is our hope to reach more of our citizens by offering more services and opportunities to learn and enjoy the rich history of our city.

Our 2025 goals include:

- a) Digitize visitor-provided photographs to add to our current archives and Genealogy files at the museum.
- b) Digitize over-size photos so that they are permanently preserved and protected from fading and natural deterioration.
- c) Preserve the artifacts and photographs entrusted to us by storing them in acid-free files.

To help meet these goals, it is our desire to acquire eligibility to apply for the City of South Milwaukee Bucyrus Civic Grant. The funds would be utilized in the following ways:

- 1) Obtain a photo scanner that can be used by community members who are submitting South Milwaukee photographs and documents to add to our archives. The goal is to identify and archive the digitized items and to make them accessible to researchers.
- 2) Obtain a flatbed scanner to scan oversize photos and documents. Scanned items would be accessible on our website and in our digital archives.
- 3) Purchase acid-free file to protect donated pictures and artifacts.

Our preliminary budget includes:

Epson Photo and Document Scanner FF680-W	\$ 650
Epson Expression 13000XL Flatbed scanner	\$3,850
Gaylord Horizontal Flat file 36" x 48" – 5 Drawer	<u>\$2,500</u>
Total amount requested:	\$7,000

We look forward to being able to offer better displays, more complete archive information, and improved website content. All digitized photographs and documents will be made available to students and the public for research and historical documentation. We believe our goals listed above will help bring more people into our museum as well as our local businesses. Thank you for this opportunity to help us achieve these goals.

Best regards,

Richard G. Thinner, President  
South Milwaukee Historical Society  
414-762-6214 [southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com](mailto:southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com)