

COUNCIL GROVE AREA FOUNDATION

P.O. BOX 137, Council Grove, Kansas 66846

GRANT APPLICATION

Organization Information

Name: Council Grove Community Center, Inc., better known as the Bowers Community Center

Address: P.O. Box 144, 325 W. Main Council Grove, KS 66846

Phone number of Bowers Community Center: N/A

Address of applicant: 991 S. 875 Road Council Grove, Ks 66846

Phone number of applicant: 620-767-6103

Organization's officers:

President: Lisa Adams 785-304-6912 C

Secretary: Linda Cosgrove 620-767-6103 H

Treasurer: Jane Shehi Reagan 785-844-2300 C

Is your organization tax exempt? No, but we are in the process of applying for tax exemption

Is your organization a nonprofit 501(c)(3)? Yes, as of 1/23/96

Tell us about your organization:

The Council Grove Community Center, Inc., better known as the Bowers Community Center, is a landmark building on our Main Street. It is a historic brick and limestone building that was built between 1904 and 1912 as a First Baptist Church. This Richardson Romanesque style building is named to the National Historic Register and the Kansas Historic Register. Since we are located right on the Santa Fe Trail, our town becomes a destination for many tourists, and tourists help the community thrive.

The lower level of this community building was finished in 2005 and houses the only public restrooms in town, plus a meeting room that can be used by many groups. We do not charge community service groups or not-for-profit groups to use this space. We also have an office space we lease to the Farm Management Service out of K-State. This rent helps us pay all utilities, insurance, repairs, and taxes.

We feel we can bring even more visitors to our town if we have a venue for small conventions. The previous sanctuary space has fantastic acoustics and a sloped floor, and will be perfect for listening to speakers or seeing demonstrations. This space also opens the possibility of having a movie theater in town once again. The stage will also be used for children's theater, musicals, magic shows, and dinner theaters. The room on the east has a flat floor where tables can be set

up and a meal can be catered by one of our local restaurants. Art displays will also be featured events. This community center will be a place for all ages to gather, and for both locals and visitors.

In order to maintain and preserve the remodeled lower level, it is important that we proceed to the next restoration phase of finishing the upstairs. We have weatherizing that needs to be done on the upper level windows and some cracks in the exterior bricks that must be tuck-pointed. This phase must be completed before heat and air-conditioning can be added or the interior of the upper level restored. Safety measures will also be a part of this next phase.

It is vital that we complete the restoration of the second story of the Bowers Community Center! The time is now, while we have plans and phases lined out by Architect Ben Moore and we have his help to write a Heritage Trust Fund Grant application. We have a statement of support from the Community Arts Council, the PRIDE Committee, and the Morris County Historical Society. The Chamber of Commerce is excited to add a finished venue that will draw people to Council Grove. And we have an enthusiastic board that has volunteered over 300 hours over the summer months to repair windows on the lower level, to re-glaze them where necessary, and to scrape, prime, and paint all of them. Using funds already in our account, we have recently purchased pin-on storm windows to protect the windows on the lower level.

Project Information

Name of project: Bowers Community Center exterior maintenance, handicap accessibility, safety measures for immediate use, and future plans for renovation of the upper level.

What geographic area will be served: Council Grove and the surrounding towns

Who will benefit? Youth and adults of the area, plus all local businesses that rely on tourists and out of town groups visiting Council Grove. The tourists will benefit, too!

Anticipated Project Start Date: Spring of 2019 if we receive the Heritage Trust Grant we have applied for, or if we have enough funds to begin the maintenance portion (Phase 1 & 2: making windows airtight, adding handicap accessibility, adding safety measures, and tuck-pointing exterior bricks.)

Anticipated Project Completion Date: The first and second phase will hopefully be completed by Spring of 2020. After that time, our wish is to proceed to the next phase of interior renovation on the upper level.

What is the purpose of this project; what specifically will it accomplish?

The lower level is a nicely finished space with an office, a meeting room, and the only public restrooms in town. It was finished in 2005. It is now time to restore the upper level for use by the town and the community! The upper level space, with amazing acoustics, will become a movie theater, a stage for children's theater and musicals, a place to hold dinner theaters, a meeting and conference venue that will bring people to town, and a place that visual arts can be displayed. With an added catering kitchen, conferences can hire the local eating establishments to cater food for their meetings. This landmark building on our Main Street has the potential to bring people to town from a large region!

What problem is this project attempting to solve?

This is a much needed venue in Council Grove. Right now, our town has no space available to hold conferences for larger groups. Imagine the boost to Council Grove to hold 2 – 3 day conferences throughout the year! We presently have no movie theater. It will be an asset for all ages in the community, and all businesses in town.

Who else in the community is working on this issue? Please list all other groups and /or committees.

We have the support of the Community Arts Council, the PRIDE organization, and the Historical Society. Our local Chamber of Commerce knows that groups often contact them about the possibility of a venue to have conferences in this area, and they will be pleased to recommend and use the Bowers Community Center! Last but not least, we have a very enthusiastic board of directors to move forward with!

How will the project be implemented and how will you coordinate with others working on this issue?

We have a professional architect, Ben Moore, to help plan feasible and necessary stages of renovation, to render the plans that will be necessary, and to recommend grants and write an application for the Kansas Heritage Trust Fund Grant. (due Nov. 1st) Other than that, communicating and working with volunteers in town will be our biggest asset.

What local support is there for this project?

The entire community knows that history is a vital part of Council Grove and it benefits everyone to save our most beautiful buildings, especially on Main Street! Since the lower level was finished in 2005, it is time to finish the upper level of the Bowers Center! The community is anxious to use this venue!

Financial Information

Total projected cost: The architect presented an estimate of \$200,000 for the first phase (exterior maintenance on windows, handicap accessibility, and safety measures), and another \$79,000 on the second phase (tuck pointing bricks on the exterior). We are concentrating on these first two phases at this time in order to keep moisture out and preserve both the lower level that is finished and the upper level.

Amount Requested from CGAF: \$10,000

Please list the amount and source of pledge or commitments to date:

Our hope is to be awarded the Heritage Trust Fund in the amount of \$90,000 to help cover Phase 1. We will be applying to each of the Council Grove Foundations for \$5,000 grant money to help cover the 20% matching funds. (\$18,000) This includes Trembly Foundation, Hylton Trust, Nystrom Foundation, Bill Young Foundation. The City Sales Tax Grant will also be applied for to go towards expenses we occur for the project.

Please list any additional funding requests that will be made.

We can't estimate any future requests at this time. Our plan is to apply for the Mabee Foundation Grant to finish the upstairs interior renovation. This Foundation provides money to non-profit groups who emphasis programs for children. The Bowers Center applied for this a few years ago, and it was stated to us that we were close to receiving it and should apply again. This money is specifically given to organizations who have a project that has been started but needs funds to complete the project.

NOTE:

The belief is strong that the project needs to move forward now! In the event we do not receive the Heritage Trust Fund, we will still need money available to proceed with repairs and renovation; but the project will not be able to move forward as fast. Thank you for your consideration.

Other funding sources for the Bowers Center include the rent received from the Farm Management Office in the lower level, and rent received from two other regular renters in the meeting room. This money helps cover our utilities, taxes, and insurance, but does not bring in any extra income. We do not charge rent for the meeting room for community betterment groups and non-profit groups. This is our service to the community. The rent we do charge for private rentals or profit groups is minimal.

Please send application to: Council Grove Area Foundation, Amy Honer, Director,
at PO Box 137 Council Grove, KS 66846

We appreciate your support and your consideration of grant money to help us realize this goal. The Foundations have been a backbone of many major improvements and milestones in Council Grove and your continued efforts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

The Bowers Community Center Board

Lisa Adams

Dan Cavalieri

Linda Cosgrove

Linda Eldridge

Kelly Gant

Sharon Haun

Jane Reagan

Jim Reagan

Sharmon Richardson

Larry Rose

Jan Sciatca

Dennis Wright