

Village Square Public Engagement Grant Official Application Form

Please read our [selection criteria](#) before applying. All applications **must** be received by **Friday, October 17**.

If you have any questions about this application please contact Davenport's Assistant Director, Ashley Trim, by email at ashley.trim@pepperdine.edu or by phone at 310-506-6878. Liz Joyner, co-founder of the Village Square, is available for consultation as you develop your thinking and write your grant at liz@tothevillagesquare.org or by phone at 850.264.8785.

Organization Details

Full Name: _____

Title: _____

Municipality/Organization: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Web Address: _____

1. Briefly describe your organization or municipality. (100 words max)

2. If you have engaged the public around a particular tough issue in the past (online or offline) then please describe that engagement process (100 words max).

3. How would your particular community benefit from building better capacity to have ongoing vibrant civic discourse across partisan and other divides? Include a brief description of the current state of civic engagement and public debate in your community. Are there important issues or relevant history we should be aware of in your hometown? (200 words max)

Project Details

4. Imagine a series of dinner programs held throughout the year in your community on a theme of interest to a wide variety of citizens in your hometown. This theme could be a local, state, or national topic, but must have broadly local relevance. What do you think a valuable theme might be and what 3 or 4 program topics might work well with your theme? This is, in part, a brainstorming activity. Feel free to develop the idea, be creative, and take risks. You are not committed to execute your first brainstormed idea. If you require more space, you may attach your answer as a separate document.

Here are some examples of past Village Square season themes and programming:

[Dinner at the Square](#)

[Year of Living Dangerously](#)

[E Pluribus Unum](#)

[The Divided States of America](#)

[America's Energy Future](#)

5. We hope this grant will begin an ongoing, multi-year relationship between The Village square and the grantee.

Ongoing financial support may be available for such a relationship in the state of California (see <http://www.tothevillagesquare.org/davenport> for more details). Please confirm that your organization is also interested in that *possibility* and tell us how you see Village Square programming benefitting your community in future years. Note that local Village Squares are free to develop their own programming ideas.

Here are some examples of programming ideas used by local Village Squares:

[Dinner at the Square](#)

[Take Out Tuesday](#)

[Other Events](#)

Advisory Group, Partnerships and other resources

6. The Davenport Institute has learned from consulting on and funding many public engagement projects throughout California that to be successful, these efforts must be supported across a government institution and civil society at large. Central to the Village Square model is a core group of leaders with diverse perspectives - ideally with some friendly pre-existing relationships devoted to improving civil discourse and community engagement. Please describe the makeup of your Advisory Group, both those already committed and those you will seek out. (Note: if you are a non-profit applicant there must be government representation in this group. If you are an elected leader, please list another leader in your community on the opposite side of the aisle who will serve as co-founder with you for these events (100 words max).

7. Tell us about the staff resources you will commit towards this engagement project.

8. What local organizations might you approach to partner with you in hosting this series of programs, remembering the requirements to draw citizens from a wide variety of ideologies and demographics? Include organizations that might make in-kind contributions like a facility for dinners, technical support, or other resources.

9. Local news organizations (print and online) can play a crucial role in covering/promoting your engagement effort. Do you have a relationship with the local press, which might promote this project (100 words max)

10. Are there other resources you will bring to this project that you'd like to describe?
(100 words max)

Submission Information

You can submit your application by email to ashley.trim@pepperdine.edu; by fax to 310-506-7494 (attn: Ashley Trim); or by mail to

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Pepperdine University
24255 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA 90263.