

## **One West Florissant Initiative Request for Qualifications**

Issued by the One West Florissant Initiative Working Group,  
in association with the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

### **Background**

The [One West Florissant](#) steering committee is composed of residents, business owners, educational leaders, and city representatives from Dellwood, Ferguson, and Jennings. The steering committee carried out a series of community engagement events with support from the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, Rise, Urban Strategies, and the Community Builders Network. Conversations were held within Dellwood, Ferguson, and Jennings from July 2018 through January 2019 to develop a community improvement organization focused on the West Florissant corridor and surrounding communities.

Stakeholders in the three municipalities recommended that the steering committee explore existing organizations that could become a place-based community improvement organization to fulfill this need before creating a new organization. The One West Florissant steering committee formed a working group to lead a request for qualifications process to identify an organization to carry forward community economic development in the focus footprint. Below is a request for qualifications that describes expectations of applicants and the mission, vision, values, and goals the community would like to see an organization incorporate into their existing organizational commitments. For further background information on the One West Florissant initiative, visit [onewestflorissant.com](http://onewestflorissant.com).

### **Expectations of Applicants**

The One West Florissant initiative working group seeks an organization that will:

- Adopt the community's mission, vision, values, and goals that emerged from stakeholder engagement in 2018 and 2019
- Add community and economic development activities along and around the West Florissant Corridor to their organizational purpose, by-laws, and strategic path
- Commit to be the lead catalyst and community champion for the footprint for up to three consecutive years
- Work with the One West Florissant initiative working group to develop a six month work plan
- Involve stakeholders (residents, business owners, and other leaders) in governance and direction setting for community improvement initiatives

### **Community Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals**

**Mission:** To lead and facilitate community improvement along the West Florissant corridor and its surrounding communities of Ferguson, Dellwood, and Jennings.

**Vision:** Dellwood, Ferguson, and Jennings are beautiful, safe, inclusive and engaged communities located around a thriving corridor that serves the community and is a destination for the region.

**Values:** Integrity: Honesty, Transparency, Accountability, and Authenticity

Equity: Inclusion and Diversity

Engagement and Empowerment: Community Involvement, Collaboration, Cooperation, and Communication

Effectiveness: Sustainable Success of the Community and its Businesses

**Goals:** Community stakeholders are seeking to develop a community improvement organization to lead, facilitate, and engage stakeholders in community improvement along the West Florissant Corridor and surrounding communities of Dellwood, Ferguson, and Jennings. Through previous engagement efforts residents indicated an interest in seeing early action taken on the following:

- Beautification and Clean-Up
- Safety
- Youth Engagement and Development
- Event Promotion
- Entrepreneurship Development

Community input also indicated that there should be a place-based organization to help pursue resources to support continuous community improvement work. The issues listed above are meant as a starting place for work to take place while ongoing engagement will be needed to make sure the community's priorities are implemented and community actors are able to participate in ongoing improvement efforts.

### **Requested Information from Applicants**

If your organization is interested in responding to this RFQ, please respond to the following prompts in a written application:

- 1) Describe your organization and its historical and current community work.
- 2) How is your organization aligned, and how can your organization further align, with the community's mission, vision, values, and goals?
- 3) How would your organization involve residents and other community stakeholders in governance and direction setting for community improvement initiatives and activities?
- 4) How will your organization strategically implement a plan to accomplish the early action items listed above from residents?
- 5) Given your organization's experience and current staffing, what resources would be needed to assist your organization in fulfilling the role of a community improvement organization for the focus geography of this initiative?

- 6) What collaborative partnerships or relationships do you currently have that could add value to the community initiatives?
- 7) Please include a copy of your organization's IRS Form, 990 and previous year's budget

Send application materials, hard copy or email, to Howl Bean II at the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership by **5:00 PM on Friday May 31, 2019**.

St. Louis Economic Development Partnership  
Attn: Howl Bean II  
7733 Forsyth Blvd. Suite 2200  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
Main 314-615-7663 | Direct 314-615-7722  
Email: [hbean@stlpartnership.com](mailto:hbean@stlpartnership.com)

### **Process: Timeline and Transition Plan**

The selection process includes a review of qualifications, interviews of select applicants, identification of an organization, and development of work plan for the selected organization. The desired timeline for this process is:

May 1 – Request for Qualifications is released

May 31 – Applications due

June 8 – One West Florissant Working Group reviews applications and identifies applicants to interview

June 22 - Conduct interviews and make selection of organization

July – Selected organization and One West Florissant Working Group develop work plan

Please direct questions about the request for qualifications to Howl Bean II as indicated above.