

**Buncombe County FY2020 Strategic Partnership Grants
Application Summary Sheet**

Project	Restoring the YMI
Organization	YMI Cultural Center

Amount Requested	\$300,000	Strategic Priority or Sustainability Goal	Community Centers
New or Renewal Request	New	Commissioner Districts Served	All

Organization Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The YMI Cultural Center elevates Black communities through cultural, economic and leadership development activities. The YMI is a 125-year-old institution that was founded by Mr. Isaac Dickson, Dr. Edward Stephens and George Vanderbilt, in 1892 to provide an institution for the black construction workers employed at the Biltmore Estate “to improve the moral fiber of the black male through education focusing on social, cultural, business and religious life”. Post-slavery, The YMI was one of the first Businesses that made up the Historical Black Business District of Eagle Market Street and our annual Goombay Festival is a 39-year-old event that brings out thousands of people every year.
Project Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeking bridge funding for a multiyear and multilevel project that is a part of our capital campaign to “Restore the YMI”. The funding will be used in the following ways over the course of three (3) years: 1) \$75,000 will be used for Organizational Capacity Building to support staff time used in the management of this project, 2) \$100,000 will be used to cover the cost of the foundation repairs and finishing the 5000 sqft of underutilized basement space, and the implementation of a commercial kitchen 3) \$50,000 will be used to support programming 4) \$75,000 will be used to cover operational expenses during the time of renovations.
People Served	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will serve all members of the community but is mission specific to Black/African Americans.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Success will be determined by the completion of the renovations, the utilization of the new space, and the increase in visitors. Will track increase in activities/programs, events, visitors, meetings, and the increase in tenants in commercial spaces. The increase in income due to the project will also be tracked. Will track the economic development component of this project that is going to provide contractor specific professional development and capacity building training in partnership with the COA Economic Development department, on contract procurement and the bidding process. Success will be determined by the number of subcontractors that complete the training and by the increase in knowledge, capacity, and access to economic opportunity for the participants or their business.

Budget			
Amount Funded FY2019	n/a	Increase Request	n/a
Project Budget	\$1,570,000	Total Organization Budget	\$1,783,685
Other Funding Sources: Grants, capital campaign and in-kind donations			

Additional Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous recipient of a County Strategic Partnership Grant, \$20,000 in FY2018; did not apply for FY2019 	

Restoring the YMI

FY2020 Strategic Partnership Grants

YMI Cultural Center

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Application Form

Question Group

Please complete the form below and upload the required files for your application. Organizations submitting more than one project must complete one submission form for each project. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Priority is given to nonprofit organizations with projects that contribute to Buncombe County's strategic priorities or sustainability goals.

For FY2020, no Strategic Partnership Grant applications will be considered for the strategic priorities "Affordable Housing" or "Early Childhood Education." Funding for affordable housing projects is managed through Buncombe County's Affordable Housing Services Program. Funding for early childhood projects will be managed through the newly forming Early Childhood Education and Development Fund.

Project Name*

Name of Project.

Restoring the YMI

Amount Requested*

\$300,000.00

Strategic Priority*

Which of the following priorities best reflects the primary goal of your project?

Buncombe County Commissioners are dedicated to strengthening the quality of life for everyone by setting new fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible goals that will guide decisions and improve our community for future generations. The Board has committed to strategic priorities as a guide to shape partnerships and investments of resources to insure a healthy, safe, well-educated, thriving and sustainable community.

Details about the Strategic Priorities are available at [THIS LINK](#).

Other Sustainability Goal

Strategic Priority - Other Sustainability Goal

If you selected "Other Sustainability Goal" from the list of Strategic Priorities, please list it here.

Details about the Sustainability Goals are available at [THIS LINK](#).

Community

Organization Description*

Tell us about your organization. What is your mission? Highlight two or three key facts and accomplishments that best define your organization.

Mission Statement: The YMI Cultural Center elevates Black communities through cultural, economic and leadership development activities.

The YMI is a 125-year-old institution that was founded by Mr. Isaac Dickson, Dr. Edward Stephens and George Vanderbilt, in 1892 to provide an institution for the black construction workers employed at the Biltmore Estate “to improve the moral fiber of the black male through education focusing on social, cultural, business and religious life”. Post-slavery, The YMI was the true center of the civic, cultural and business life of Asheville’s black community. The YMI was one of the first Businesses that made up the Historical Black Business District of Eagle Market Street and our annual Goombay Festival is a 39-year-old event that brings out thousands of people every year. The YMI Board has just appointed its new Executive Director to uphold the longstanding/ pre-determined commitment of the YMI’s predecessors to the African American/Black Community.

Project Description

What do you propose to do? What is your plan? What are your goals?

We are seeking bridge funding for a multiyear and multilevel project that is a part of our capital campaign to “Restore the YMI”. The funding will be used in the following ways over the course of three (3) years: 1) \$75,000 will be used for Organizational Capacity Building to support staff time used in the management of this project, 2) \$100,000 will be used to cover the cost of the foundation repairs and finishing the 5000 sqft of underutilized basement space, and the implementation of a commercial kitchen 3) \$50,000 will be used to support programming 4) \$75,000 will be used to cover operational expenses during the time of renovations. This funding is being requested due to the recognition there will be a loss of income from rental spaces while the YMI is under renovation. The outcome that we hope to achieve with this project is to fully restore the YMICC without assuming any more debt but to remove any barriers to the long-term sustainability of the agency for future generations.

Key Steps*

How will the project work? What are specific activities and milestones that your project entails?

Construction Start 2019, 2021 project completion

Phase 1: A portion of the funding being requested will be used for the urgent structural need to remove a tree that is growing out of the side of the building; that is pushing the windows as well as the walls inward and causing flooding in the basement, and repair of the rotted floor joist and beams due to the moisture in the basement.

Phase 2: There are several other areas that are in disrepair so funding has been secured for improvements to the YMI that include: repaired walls & ceilings, floor restoration in the auditorium, art gallery and board room, electrical & plumbing upgrades throughout, kitchen and bath updates, and a state of the art media system including visual, sound and technology to allow a wide range of performances and exhibits.

Phase 3: Finishing the basement: There is 5,000sqft of unused space, outside of storage, in the basement. We will bring the basement spaces up to building code for occupancy as venue spaces.

Area Served*

Which areas of the County will be served by this project? Which Commissioner District(s) will be served?

A Buncombe County Commissioner district map is available at [THIS LINK](#).

All Three (3) commissioner Districts will be served by this project. We are open to the public for all programs, events, and activities that are not privately booked. We are currently talking to some entrepreneurs who live in the county who would like to rent office space at the YMI Cultural Center (YMICC) to be able to grow their business. We are a nationally recognized agency, centered in Downtown Asheville, with commercial spaces for lease and program/event/exhibition space for rent. This funding will allow us to better meet the venue needs of city and county residents/visitors by offering a variety of venue spaces.

People Served*

Who are the members of our community this project will serve? How many people will be served? Include demographics, including age, area median income, race, neighborhood and/or school.

This project will serve all members of the community but is mission specific to Black/African Americans. We serve all demographics without limits, even though we are mission driven to elevate the Black community we are inclusive of all. We recognize that in order to influence the change that we want to see in greater community that has an impact on the racial disparities across all categories is through the unity of us all.

Partners*

Which other organizations are you working with to reach your goals? What other local organizations provide similar services or serve similar beneficiaries, and how do you work together?

There are no organizations in WNC who is mission specific to elevate the Black community. We are working with several agencies for events and programming like UNCA, Self-Help Credit Union, CoThinkK, Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Delta House, City of Asheville, as well as community groups like Medicare for All, Sister Cities and local artist, caterers, entrepreneurs and community members. All of our partners are helping us reach our "Restoring the YMI" goals that span past the renovations. The goals of this initiative outside of the renovations also includes: The 5 Rs of the "126 Years and Counting" campaign Resurrect - The YMICC under new leadership, Revive - The Legacy of the YMICC, Reconnect - To community which historically has been the root and driver of the success of the YMICC, Restore - Relationships with supporters of the YMICC, Restructure - The internal business model for the YMICC. Partners for this project are GO!, Asheville Design Center, and other contractors.

Personnel*

Who is responsible for the project? Briefly describe project leaders and the role each will play in the project. How do these leaders reflect the population or community that you serve?

The project leaders will be the Executive Director, the Building Manager, Project Manager, Project Coordinator.

The Executive Director will be responsible for providing the oversight for the whole project,
The Building Manager will manage the activities of the YMI work with the Project Manager to develop the timeline for renovations and provide support,

The Project Manager will work with the Executive Director and board to hire the contractors need for the renovations, work with the project coordinator and the building manager to develop a timeline and

implementation plan, and provide supervision of the Architect, General Contractor and all other subcontract support.

The Project Coordinator will be responsible for facilitating stakeholder, advisory, and community meetings and managing the economic development component to the project with the support of the Executive Director

Success*

How will you measure results? What will success look like? How will you document the impact of your project? Include whether there is a model that serves as basis for project design.

Success will be determined by the completion of the renovations, the utilization of the new space, and the increase in visitors. We will be tracking the increase in activities/programs, events, visitors, meetings, and the increase in tenants in our commercial spaces. The increase in income due to the project will also be tracked. We will also be tracking the economic development component of this project that is going to provide contractor specific professional development and capacity building training in partnership with the COA Economic Development department, on contract procurement and the bidding process. Success will be determined by the number of subcontractors that complete the training and by the increase in knowledge, capacity, as well as access to economic opportunity for the participants or their business. We will be measuring this through pre and post surveys. T

Funding*

What is your plan for finding the balance of the project budget? What is your funding timeline and what are your other sources of support?

\$800,000 of the funding has already been secured through the TPDF Grant. Several Grants have been applied for the remaining balance of \$815,000, we will know if we are being funded from all of these by April 2019. The Launch of our "126 Years and Counting" capital campaign has launched with the goal of raising \$1.26 million to support the agency and to remove the debt to optimize on the potential to become a self-sustaining agency in three years. We have several professionals who have committed in-kind hours to the project planning as well as community input and support that is unwavering.

Sustainability*

How will this project be maintained? Please describe funding sources and how you plan to sustain the project in future years.

This project will be maintained and Managed in a collaborative of Executive Director, Staff, Board and community. This project will self-sustain due to the increase in income from additional rent/lease space, and the upgrades to existing rental space. This will also give us the capacity to offer commercial space for minority businesses owners. In future years I foresee the YMI Cultural center becoming the destination for cultural, leadership and economic activities as it continues to be a preferred location for events, exhibitions, meetings and businesses. Marketing and promotion will also develop robust, coordinated branding, marketing and promotional efforts to establish a consistent aesthetic across the H-AAB, designating it to tourists and locals as a coherent, contiguous district.

ATTACHMENTS

Project Budget*

Download the budget form at **THIS LINK**.

Complete the budget form for this project and the overall organization.

Save it to your computer, then upload it.

BC strategic-partnership-grants-FY2020-budget-template.xlsx

Financial Statements

Upload a copy of the most recently completed financial statements.

All financial statements must be audited, reviewed or compiled by a certified public accountant and include a full balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement.

If your organization does not have financial statements, briefly state the reason.

2017 Financial Statements for Year Ending June 30, 2017.pdf

I have uploaded a copy of our most recent financials (2017). We are working on the 2018 audit now.

IRS Form 990

Upload a copy of the 990 nonprofit tax reporting form that you most recently completed.

If your organization does not have a 990, briefly state the reason.

YMICC 2016-2017_990.pdf

Attached is our most recent (2016-2017) 990. We are working on the 2017-2018 990 now

Board of Directors List

Upload a current list of your organization's Board of Directors.

If your organization does not have a board of directors, briefly state the reason.

YMI Board Members.pdf

Authorized Signatory

By typing in below the name of the authorized signatory and date of submittal, you acknowledge that your governing body has authorized this application, that it is true and current to your knowledge. As a condition of any grant awarded, this organization will provide all information in the manner described in the contract to be executed between the organization and Buncombe County or its designee, including program and financial

reporting.

Name & Date

Dewana Little

Other attachments or supplemental information may be submitted to Rachael Nygaard at rachael.nygaard@buncombecounty.org

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- BC strategic-partnership-grants-FY2020-budget-template.xlsx
- 2017 Financial Statements for Year Ending June 30, 2017.pdf
- YMICC 2016-2017_990.pdf
- YMI Board Members.pdf