

 <p><b>The Community Foundation</b> Serving the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino</p>	<p align="center"><b>S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation Form</b></p>	
<p align="center"><b>Grant Period:</b> <b>November 15, 2012 through November 30, 2013</b></p>		<p align="center"><b>Evaluation Due Date:</b> <b>December 15, 2013</b></p>

Organization: Blue Grass Community Foundation

Contact Name: Barbara A Fischer, Dir. of Nonprofit Services

Phone Number: 859. 225. 3343 Grant Period: Nov. 15, 2012 – Nov. 30, 2013

Award Amount: \$25,000 Grant Number: 2012845

- Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.
- What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?
- Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.
- Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.
- Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.
- Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).
- Additional condition: Please report on the following:
  - ❖ Please send copies of publicity and other promotional materials.
  - ❖ All variances or time extensions must be approved by The Community Foundation's Grant Committee. Please contact us at 951-684-4194, ext. 111 immediately if a variance or extension becomes necessary.

**Please return the completed form to:**  
 Penny Beaulieu, Manager, Grant Programs  
 The Community Foundation  
 3700 Sixth St., Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951-684-1911  
 Or email to: [pbeaulieu@thecommunityfoundation.net](mailto:pbeaulieu@thecommunityfoundation.net)

## **S. L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation**

**Blue Grass Community Foundation**

**499 East High Street St. Ste. 112**

**Lexington KY 40507**

**Contact: Barbara A. Fischer, Director of Nonprofit Services**

**[bfischer@bgcf.org](mailto:bfischer@bgcf.org); 859-225-3343**

**Grant Number: 2012845**

**Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.**

Our goal is to establish the **Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden (IMMAG)**, an urban park and trailhead to the 12-mile Legacy Trail, located in the East End, a disinvested, historic African American neighborhood in Lexington, Kentucky. The park is named for East End resident and African American jockey Isaac Murphy (1861 – 1896), who is considered one of the greatest riders in American thoroughbred horse racing history.

Target population includes those affected by a blighted environment and lack of green space in this inner city neighborhood. The East End has 4000 residents in approximately 1,561 households, 47% of which are below the poverty level. At its neighborhood elementary school, William Wells Brown, 96.9% of a total of 388 students receive free or reduced lunches. In addition, as a city park, all Lexington residents will be welcome to enjoy it. Making the garden an inviting, comfortable and beautiful place will bring people from other parts of town, possibly enhancing development as visitors begin their Legacy Trail rides or walks there.

Our key objective is to establish an environmentally-friendly inner-city green space that fosters learning, exercise and community pride in Lexington's most deforested neighborhood; to connect the urban core to a rural environment; to enhance the community's physical environment through landscaping and the planting of native species; to provide an outdoor classroom; and design and provide artwork and signage highlighting the community's African American culture and heritage.

All of this will be accomplished when IMMAG is completed.

Lexington Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) has oversight responsibility for the construction of the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden (IMMAG) and is the ultimate owner of the park land. LFUCG requires all necessary funding to be in hand or formally committed prior to the start of the construction contractor bidding process.

As of September 10, 2013, all Gimbel grant funds (\$25,000) have been expended in full, by payment to LFUCG.

Now that KFUCG has all necessary private and public funding in hand, it will adhere to the following schedule for the remainder of 2013:

- Announcement of the construction project/public contractor bidding process for IMMAG will be advertised on or about September 30, 2013
- Contractor bidding process opens on or about October 1 and closes October 31, 2013.
- Selected contractor must be approved by the LFUCG Urban County Council
- Upon approval, construction can start on or about November 15, 2013

Attached is a copy of the budget that we submitted with our original grant application showing how Gimbel grant funds will be used.

**What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?**

The Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden has been a dream of the East End, the Community Foundation, and countless supporters since the project was first proposed during a series of town meetings presented by the Community Foundation in 2006. See *Organizers tout Isaac Murphy memorial garden, Lexington Herald-Leader, April 23, 2009*, included with this grant report.

But there have been delays and frustrations--acquiring the land, securing a commitment from the city of Lexington (LFUCG); higher bids than anticipated, delays in submitting bids which delayed the process another year; new City Council members who had to be brought on board with the project; problems with designs and building materials that necessitated extensive plan revisions; and most recently, delays within the state government in processing and releasing to LFUCG Federal Transportation funding that is key to the project. (See *Merlene Davis: Isaac Murphy garden delayed, but organizers hope for completion in 2013, Lexington Herald Leader, Nov. 5, 2012*)

Nevertheless, the community and the Community Foundation persevered. The Community Foundation continued to seek and receive support of all kinds for the project, most recently from the Gimbel Foundation. The Gimbel Foundation's \$25,000 was the last piece in this very complex puzzle. With this final installment, the city of Lexington is ready to move ahead with receiving bids and then constructing the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden.

**Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.**

Not all the delays were negative and frustrating. In fact, one in particular bordered on the magical. See *Merlene Davis: Bring your shovel to the Isaac Murphy Art Garden, Lexington Herald-Leader, May 10, 2011*, included with this grant report.

When the community chose the half-acre plot in the East End to build a park to commemorate its most celebrated resident, Isaac Murphy, it was known that it was

close to where Murphy had lived. Then a Lexington genealogist, Pamela Brinegar, discovered possible evidence that the park's site might have actually been the site of Isaac Murphy's residence. Archeological excavations were scheduled and carried out—further delaying the project. The community was invited to participate in the dig—on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Isaac Murphy's birth. Findings from the dig will be incorporated into the park's design.

The publicity for the archeological dig along with the exciting finds and community involvement in the project reinforced the neighborhood's enthusiasm for working together on this and other shared projects.

**Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.**

The Community Foundation has long partnered with the East End community to identify much-needed improvements and amenities to the neighborhood. Our work began in 2006 with the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden. Isaac Murphy's struggles and ultimate triumph as one of the first African Americans in professional sports continues to resonate across the Bluegrass.

Although IMMAG fell far behind schedule, plans for the park have brought the community together in surprising and lasting ways and has paved the road for the Community Foundation's other cooperative projects in the area.

Since our initial work with the East End, the Community Foundation and East End residents have been empowered to work together on countless other initiatives, including

- the renovation of the East End's historic Lyric Theatre
- bikes, helmets, and bike safety education for East End youth
- creation of the East End Renaissance Fund, a challenge grant program overseen by East End constituents and administered by the Community Foundation
- a multiple year grant supporting the urban gardening work of SeedLeaf, a local nonprofit, and supporting a youth summer program at William Wells Brown Elementary School, through a partnership of the Community Foundation and Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky
- Food Works, a project of the Knight Foundation, the Community Foundation and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, a website project which assists East End residents in helping each other eat better by improving and sharing information about food
- A multi-partner approach to explore the feasibility of a mobile farmer's market utilizing a retired city bus, facilitated by the Community Foundation
- Community Radio, a project under development under the umbrella of the Community Foundation, to feature local East End programming that will be determined by East End residents
- Good Neighbor Store Project, to address the strained relationship between the East End community and the owners of the Pak 'n Save (the only grocery serving the East End); to help repair the community's damaged perception of that store, and to bring about necessary changes like renovations to the blighted structure,

more affordable food and fresh fruit and vegetables. (See Merlene Davis: The Eat to Live Expo might make me change my diet, Lexington Herald-Leader, September 9, 2013.)

- Public art projects
  - an innovative bus shelter on East Third Street
  - a historic marker for Kentucky's First Race Track (located at the center of the East End)
  - decorative banners with East End logo throughout the neighborhood
- The Good Neighbor Store painting and mural project. A professional painter from the East End will paint the East End's Pac 'n Save grocery store. A professional artist (and East End resident) chosen during an open competition will design and paint an art mural on the side of the Pac 'n Save.

None of these projects would have been accomplished—not to mention envisioned—without the excitement generated by plans for the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden. The final completion of IMMAG, especially the amenities to be funded by the Gimbel grant, will be a visible testament to the power of a community working together.

**Tell us a few successful stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.**

As a result of the Community Foundation and East End residents working together to establish the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden, several other valuable initiatives and partnerships have come to fruition:

- The East End Small Area Plan, facilitated by the Community Foundation, adopted in 2009, to guide re-development and new development in the East End. The Small Area Plan was based on a community-driven engagement process and was ultimately adopted by the LFUCG Urban County Council. Link appears below. <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=7562>
- The East End Community Development Corporation was established in 2013 to guide the continued redevelopment of the area, focusing on the revitalization of the Third Street corridor, where the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden is located.
- LEEEP (Lexington East End Equity Partnership) has come together through the facilitation and leadership of the Community Foundation and is composed of residents, nonprofits and businesses for the improvement of the built environment and healthy food access in the East End. In 2013, LEEEP received three years of funding from the National Convergence Partnership, a coalition of national foundations and federal agencies committed to equity in these focus areas in long ignored communities. This too, is an outgrowth of the IMMAG project.

Inspired by the success of East End partnerships, the North Limestone Community Development Corporation (NoLi CDC) was founded in 2012 by a group of like-minded individuals with an interest in bringing long-term vibrancy to the North Limestone neighborhood. This low-income neighborhood borders the East End.

NoLi CDC is interested in bringing more cultural and artistic capital into the Northside of Lexington, and has helped facilitate initiatives like the Lexington Tattoo Project, NoLi MusicWorks, and The Night Market.

In 2013, NoLi CDC's LuigART Makers Spaces project, a large scale artist housing community, was selected from 1200+ applications as a winner of the ArtPlace America placemaking competition. The project is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2015. Directly related to this larger project will be smaller public art projects, including a planned mural that will transform an unsightly water tower.

We believe that the momentum generated by the planning and funding of IMMAG initiatives will motivate neighborhoods beyond the East and Northside to come together to improve their communities.

## 2012 S.L. Gimbel Foundation APPLICATION

### V. Project Budget

A) Please provide a detailed line-item budget for your project by completing the table below.  
Include all sources of funding for the proposed project.

Line Item Description	Line Item Explanation (Formula/equation used as applicable. Example: 40 books @ \$100 each = \$4000)	Support From Your Agency	Support From Other Funders	Requested Amount From TCF	Line Item Total of Project	
<b>IMMAG – Park Build</b>	-Design/installation of park benches -Installation of an amphitheatre to be used for community performances -Permeable pavers to be installed throughout the park (surface material) -Bicycle rack -Stone seat walls and steps installed throughout the park for seating -Overhead lighting and all required electrical work - -Historical/educational signs, flags and markers	\$110,000		\$15,000	\$125,000	
<b>IMMAG – Garden</b>	-Installation of lawn around the exterior of the park (sod & seeding) -Installation of native trees, shrubs, flowers and groundcover (all perennials) -Installation of a rain garden -Installation of a butterfly garden	\$35,000		\$10,000	\$45,000	
<b>IMMAG – Trailhead</b>	-Marker designating IMMAG as the Trailhead to the Legacy Trail	\$10,000			To be determined – The Legacy Trail was	

	-Permeable concrete paving and asphalt -Pavement markings, crosswalks				designed to be implemented in three phases. Phases I & II of the trail have been completed. Phase III of the project run the trail through the city of Lexington and connect with the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden. The total cost for this portion of the trail is 2.7 million dollars. The city government this final phase.	
<b>TOTALS:</b>		\$155,000		\$25,000	\$180,000	



BLUE GRASS  
**COMMUNITY**  
FOUNDATION  
WE'RE IN IT FOR GOOD.

September 13, 2013

The Community Foundation  
S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund  
3700 Sixth Street, Suite 200  
Riverside, CA 92501

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President and CEO

Grant #: 2012845

Dear Penny Beaulieu,

This letter is written to attest to the use of grant dollars from the S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund for the establishment of the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden (IMMAG). All grant dollars (\$25,000) were disbursed on September 11, 2013 to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG). LFUCG is providing fiscal management for the development of IMMAG Park, and accepted the grant from Blue Grass Community Foundation under the condition that it be restricted exclusively for the construction of park.

Signature:



Date:

9.13.13