

Amount of Request (Amount being requested with this grant application): *

Area of Interest (category your request for this grant applies to; choose only one): *

Arts

Education

Environment

Health

Social services

Type of Funding (choose only one to describe the type of funding being requested): *

Pilot program

Project support

General options

Capital

Project Budget (enter the complete budget for this project/program): *

Total: \$4,525

Expense Categories:

- Soil, compost, and mulch - \$1,400
- Tools & Equipment - \$1,150
- Seeds - \$350
- Activity/Craft Supplies - \$250
- Signage and Educational Resources - \$375
- Contingency and Unexpected Costs - \$1,000

Project Geographical Area Served (geographical area that will be served by this program/project): *

This program will serve residents of Laredo, Texas and the surrounding South Texas border region. The primary geographical focus is central Laredo, where the garden beds and activities will be located.

Project Description (enter a complete description of the program/project for which the funds are being requested): *

In Laredo, many residents lack hands-on gardening education to learn long-term sustainable habits best suited for the city's climate. Poor soil health, limited green spaces, and frequent droughts make it difficult for residents to create pollinator friendly habitats or grow their own

gardens. Moreover, the community faces fewer outdoor recreational opportunities as the urban heat island effect continues to rise.

The Keep Laredo Beautiful (KLB) Garden Club pilot program is designed to engage residents ages 15 and older in hands-on environmental education and sustainable gardening practices. Each month will feature a themed workshop, activity, or event covering soil health, composting, pollinator-friendly planting, urban gardening, and more.

Through these efforts, the KLB Garden Club will foster environmental stewardship, educate and equip participants with lifelong gardening knowledge, provide a shared space for residents, and strengthen community connections. Without the program, Laredo will continue to lack hands-on gardening education and miss key environmental benefits such as supporting local biodiversity.

To ensure accessibility, club membership is open to youths, seniors, and adults of all gardening experience levels. The club will utilize the garden space at KLB, giving residents without access to a green space at home the opportunity to learn and practice sustainable gardening.

Both private and public entities will be invited to collaborate. As of now, the following entities are planned to be reached out to for workshops and activities: the Webb County Master Gardeners, local schools, local nurseries and businesses, and the City of Laredo Environmental Services Department.

To ensure the long-term success of the program, board members will rotate every three months to serve as liaison, with KLB staff providing support for unexpected challenges. Educational resources will be obtained to form the foundation of the program's curriculum. With the garden beds located at KLB, members and liaisons will have a consistent meeting place.

The club will operate on a set schedule, with monthly themed workshops and activities. Below is a tentative 12-month schedule, which may be adjusted based on funding availability.

The schedules is as follows:

January - "Seed of the Year"

- Planning Meeting: Set goals, elect officers, create committees
- Workshop: Garden planning & starting seeds indoors
- Activity: Seed catalog swap & vision board for garden dreams

February - "Grow What You Love"

- Educational Topic: Soil health & composting
- Activity: DIY compost bin demo or vermiculture intro
- Prep: Order seeds & prep beds if climate allows

March - "Let's Get Dirty"

- Workshop: Seed starting & transplanting

- Community project: Clean-up day
- Fun: Pot decorating or garden sign-sign making craft

April – “Pollinator Palooza”

- Event: Earth Day or Arbor Day celebration
- Workshop: Native plants & pollinator-friendly gardening
- Activity: Start butterfly garden or bee hotel project

May – “Plant It Forward”

- Project: Launch community vegetable garden or donation program
- Field Trip: Local botanical garden or plant nursery
- Activity: Container garden workshop

June – “Sunshine & Sustainability”

- Workshop: Drought-tolerant landscaping or water-wise gardening
- Activity: Garden tour
- Fun: Summer picnic in the garden

July – “Garden & Gather”

- Event: Mid-summer harvest party or garden tasting
- Activity: Ugly Veggie Photo Contest
- Workshop: Pest control & garden maintenance tips

August – “Hot Tips & Cool Gardens”

- Education: Fall garden planning or succession planting
- Activity: Shade garden ideas or vertical garden building
- Fun: Garden trivia or bingo night

September – “Back to Roots”

- Project: School garden help or youth workshop
- Workshop: Soil amending & compost 2.0
- Activity: Garden journal reflection

October – “Spooky Sprouts”

- Event: Harvest Festival or Pumpkin Planter Contest
- Workshop: Fall bulbs & prepping for winter
- Activity: Seed saving party & garlic planting

November – “Gratitude & Greenery”

- Craft: Wreath-making or succulent centerpieces
- Workshop: Indoor plant care or hydroponics
- Event: Garden Gratitude Dinner or potluck

December – “Rest & Reflect”

- Social: Holiday party with a garden gift exchange
- Activity: Year-in-review slideshow or photo contest
- Planning: Survey members for next year's interests