

# Las Vegas, New Mexico Community Foundation

## Grant-Making Guidelines

### Our Goals and Policies

Las Vegas, New Mexico is a unique place and community straddling the front range of the southern Rocky Mountains and the “buffalo” commons plains to the east. This site has nurtured consequential historical events and rich cultural diversity in the nearly two centuries since the communities’ founding in 1835-36. Today this legacy is preserved through the natural resources, historic architecture, and cultural heritage of the region by countless dedicated former and current residents.

The Las Vegas, New Mexico Community Foundation’s vision is to “Help Greater Las Vegas Thrive” and its mission strives “to attract and develop resources to broadly serve the greater Las Vegas communities of San Miguel and Mora counties and their residents through giving, programs and policies.”

The Foundation will support, as resources permit, the efforts of local people and organizations to foster and promote a healthy and thriving community. A healthy and thriving greater Las Vegas community focuses its efforts on productive dialogue, collaborative action, team building and unity of purpose. Therefore, our community will bond and prosper in the benefits of a strong education system; abundant physical activity and recreational opportunities; adequate, affordable, and effective health care and wellness programs; preservation of natural and cultural resources; quality of life for all residents and older adults; rich artistic and cultural expression; and vibrant entrepreneurial enterprises.

Successful applications will nominate projects in the fields of education, arts and culture, health and wellness, community service or community development, preservation of natural and historic resources, and advance one or more of the following objectives:

- Address and help resolve important existing or emerging community issues that can make a positive contribution to a healthier and thriving community
- Promote cooperation and collaboration among other local or regional organizations
- Identify, enhance and develop leadership in the community through creative and innovative ideas that empower individuals
- Improve the quality or scope of charitable work in the greater Las Vegas community and service area
- Recognize that cultural or economic differences do not limit access to health, education or employment.
- Ensure that diverse audiences enjoy the many arts and cultural heritages of our region.

- Encourage that all sectors of our community take responsibility for ensuring a healthy community.

### **Initial Grants and Scope of Support**

The Las Vegas, NM Community Foundation is in a growth phase, seeking both donors and grant applicants. The LVNMCF intends to award a modest program of community grants before December 31, 2024. Currently the community is enjoying enhanced community activity and the LVNMCF wishes to enhance revitalization efforts.

The LVNMCF will announce its annual community grants program in Fall 2024 to support and fund applications for catalytic community projects that embrace and promote the Foundation's vision, mission and policies stated here above. The LVNMCF "Community Building" grants will be awarded in the areas of education, health care and wellness, natural conservation and agriculture, cultural and historic preservation, arts and culture, and community development. Project funding areas are more completely described below.

### **EDUCATION**

#### ***Building on Great Institutions***

Apart from our goals of helping citizens meet basic needs, LVNMCF and our partners plan initiatives for education and information access, creating a firm foothold and making possible the step-up for individuals and families to think and do differently, and thereby to contribute to positive change in our communities. Many would agree that education is key to a child's success in life, to the stability of a skilled and robust workforce, and to the health of a community's future. The LVNMCF wishes to support our existing strong network of local schools, colleges and universities to constantly improve, innovate and provide our residents access to a high-quality education.

### **HEALTH CARE and WELLNESS**

#### ***Growing Minds and Bodies***

LVNMCF seeks to improve health and quality of life through the prevention and treatment of social, physical and mental health conditions by investing in the promotion of healthy behaviors. Supporting health is not just about good physical and mental health. It also includes access to health care, preventative activities, spiritual nourishment, healthy choices and healthy foods. Through this path we work to support the development of a community environment where people feel safe and can lead a healthy lifestyle.

## **NATURAL CONSERVATION and AGRICULTURE**

### ***Nurturing Our Precious Sacred Place***

LVNMCF investments in the natural environment enable the community to permanently protect traditional farmland, preserve water habitat, and maintain the scenic aspects of Las Vegas, San Miguel County and our critical watersheds. Emphasis is on local land-based traditions and culture as well as increasing public awareness of the overall benefit of land preservation.

## **CULTURAL and HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

### ***Promoting Stewardship of a Distinctive American Legacy***

LVNMCF aspires to help preserve cultural, historic and architectural preservation projects that protect the rich heritage of the community and region. Las Vegas is proud of its strong diversity tempered through decades of mutual dependency, cooperation and strife. The contributions of many cultures over the years are reflected in the histories, architectures and expressions that have fascinated and captivated all audiences.

## **ARTS and CULTURE**

### ***Encouraging Original Expressions***

LVNMCF values the experience and wisdom of local artists in all their diversity and affirms their power to unite and build social change. It is through the support of our music, our literature, our art, drama and dance that we tell the story of our past and we express our hopes for the future. Artists challenge our assumptions and push us to view our world in new and unexpected ways.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Infrastructure for Evolving Neighborhoods***

LVNMCF recognizes the ongoing challenges of adapting community networks, organizations and infrastructures for a global economy and new lifestyles. Through sound planning principles and procedures and governance, Las Vegas may enhance its quality of life and implement community projects that provide attractive public facilities and dynamic public programs. LVNMCF hopes to positively impact sustainability and social equity.

### **Who is Eligible?**

Grant applications will be accepted from organizations that:

- Are located or serve the people of San Miguel and Mora Counties
- Are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or are a public or governmental agency, or that have a qualified fiscal sponsor

- Employ staff and provide services without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation, and
- Are at least one year old.

### **What We Don't Fund**

- Religious Projects or Purposes
- Capital Campaigns or Endowments
- Scholarships
- Individuals
- Private School Tuition or educational assistance
- For profit Organizations and Businesses

### **Towards the Future....**

As the Las Vegas, NM Community Foundation matures and evolves, the Board of Directors may choose to modify and adapt our grant making policies.

In addition to the completed application, the following items **must be submitted with each grant proposal:**

- Completed Las Vegas, New Mexico Community Foundation grantee authorization
- List of all recent grants received and pending for this project AND all grants received from the Las Vegas, New Mexico Community Foundation within the last 24 months

Naturally, not all projects can be funded. A denial should not be viewed as a negative reflection on your work, but rather a reflection on the amount of funding available. You will be notified in writing on the status of your grant.