



Hughes Investments Vibrancy Initiative ELEVATE UPSTATE Grants

Description:

Ten at the Top (TATT), through a funding commitment from Phil Hughes and Hughes Investments Inc., has established the Hughes Investments Vibrancy Initiative: ELEVATE UPSTATE Grants (EU). The purpose of EU is to identify and provide initial funding support for community based programs that promote community and economic vibrancy in local areas across the Upstate. The initiative will award two grants annually with each being for up to \$5,000 to entities including neighborhood associations, civic or community based organizations, non-profit organizations or local governments that are committed to developing and implementing programs designed to increase local vibrancy in communities within the Upstate. Ten at the Top and/or the grant committee will provide some guidance through the project implementation process if it is needed.

Eligibility and Program Criteria:

Applicants must be located in and do their work within communities in one of the following ten counties: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, or Union. Successful proposals for projects funded by EU should be able to clearly demonstrate how the implementation of the initiative that they propose will benefit and provide vibrancy in the local community. These proposals may seek to produce a physical result, such as a mural, sculpture or signage that will increase the vibrancy and sense of place within a community, or implement the first of a reoccurring or annual event or program that helps grow vibrancy within a community. Examples of projects that have provided vibrancy within communities across South Carolina and the United States are available through the “Community Vibrancy Great Ideas Project” completed by TATT in partnership with USC Upstate. This list can be found on the TATT web site (www.tenatthetop.org).

It is the expectation of this initiative that these awards will be given to new projects within a community, rather than to support or grow existing efforts, and that each project will be eligible to receive funding only once. However, the selection committee will have the flexibility to alter the criteria if it is deemed necessary. All projects should be implemented within 12 months of receiving EUG funding, with the option to extend the implementation window to 18 months if deemed necessary by the committee.

The annual selection process will be a competitive process with a panel representing the Ten at the Top Community Vibrancy Task Force selecting the two annual recipients based on a set of criteria established by the committee. The judges are Phil Hughes, President of Hughes Investments, Inc., Ingo Angermeier, SmartPulse, and Terence Roberts, Mayor of the City of Anderson.

Among the elements the committee will consider are:

- **Impact** – What is the outcome of the project and how will it create vibrancy within the local community? What will be measured to show success and what will the measurements of a successful project be? Whom will it benefit? What does the project seek to do?
- **Need** – Geography and economy will be taken into account when considering the award of funds. Will this project address a long-term community issue or a crisis? Is this community in a position where they could fund this initiative without this grant? Is this a community that has typically struggled to increase local vibrancy?
- **Ability to Implement** – How elaborate is the project or idea? Are there local champions? Does the organization have the capacity (staff, volunteers, partners, and time) to implement the project? How does the organization plan to implement it? Is this primarily a volunteer effort or is it driven by an organization with dedicated staff?
- **Sustainability** – How long will the project last? If it is a long-term project what is the strategy keeping it operational? If the project is a physical project will it need to be maintained and if so by whom? If it is an event or festival, is there a plan to continue beyond the one year of the grant funding? It is important for the project to have some permanence and be renewable
- **Availability of Additional Funding** – If the overall project budget exceeds the amount of the EU funding, what are the plans for generating additional funding support?
- **Ability to be Replicated** – Is this a project that can be replicated in concept by other communities across the Upstate?
- **Efficiency** – The project will be implementable within 12 months and will use funds efficiently and effectively.
- **Public and Noticeable** – The project will be open and accessible by the public and will be in a highly visible place.
- **Fun Factor** – The project will inspire fun and excitement and will be something that people enjoy and are drawn to; it will make people say, “Wow!”
- **Interactive** – The project will have some element of interactivity included in it. If it is a statue, people will be able to touch it or interact with it in some way; if it is an event or program, people will be able to participate in some component of it.
- **Beautiful/ Attractive** – The project, if permanent will be beautiful and interesting to look at, and people will want to go to it to see it. If the project is an event or program, it will attract people to it and will be exciting and fun to watch.

Application Package:

Interested parties should designate an agent who is familiar with the project to correspond with Ten at the Top during the application process.

Please submit the application along with the following documents:

- Timeline and task list for implementation
- Letters of support from partners
- Brief bios of those that will oversee project
- Project budget

Organizations interested in applying for the 2023 Elevate Upstate Grants are asked to complete the brief **Initial Interest form by August 7th, 2023**. Applications will still be accepted if this initial intent form is not completed, but completing the non-binding interest form is appreciated to help us gauge the number of applications to expect. The **deadline for completed applications is September 22nd, 2023**. Finalists will be announced in October and will be asked to give a brief summary of their project before the recipients are announced at the Ten at the Top Celebrating Successes Event of 2023 (to be held on November 15th).

Hughes Investments Vibrancy Initiative

ELEVATE UPSTATE

Grant Application



The deadline to submit the 2023 grant application is September

22nd. Please submit the application via email to

info@tenatthetop.org.

Contact Information:

Name of Project Contact:	
Contact's Email:	
Name of Organization:	
Contact's Phone Number:	
Contact's Mailing Address:	
(City, State, Zip)	
Has this project been implemented in your community before? (Yes or No) <i>New projects will receive higher priority for funding</i>	

Documents Needed:

In addition to this application, please include these documents in your application packet:

- Timeline/ task list for implementation; see examples on next page *(The project is expected to be implemented within 12 months of receiving funding. Grantees can expect to receive the first half of the funding in December of the year in which the application was completed, with the remainder of the funding given in one lump sum as further expenses are incurred. Extensions up to six months may be granted if there are circumstances that could not have been foreseen that prevent the project from being implemented in 12 months.)*
- Letters of support from partners that will help you implement the project
- Brief bios of those that will oversee project stating their experience or qualifications to implement the tasks they will be responsible for
- Project budget (If the budget exceeds \$5,000, please explain from where the remainder of the funding for your project will be coming and provide documentation of the committed funding. If the funding has not yet been committed, please provide a description of the funds requested and a copy of the application submitted to request the funds.)

Partners:

Please list your partners in this project and a contact for each organization.

Partner Organization	Organization Contact

Project Description:

Please describe your project in the room provided. **Reference the elements the committee will be considering** (see the second page of the overview for each of the elements that the committee will consider in their review of the applications.) Be sure to address **how the proposed project will provide vibrancy** in the local community. Please also include how you will **measure the success** of the project, and **how the project will be sustained** both in terms of management and funding.

