2023 Elevate Upstate Grant Recipients

[**Downtown Family Movie Night** (City of Belton)](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=834723792183361&set=pb.100069372422525.-2207520000&type=3)

Family Movie night will combine family friendly movies and food trucks 4 times during the year to bring local families and families from the surrounding area to downtown Belton. The City of Belton decided to focus on a family event appropriate for all ages to provide vibrancy back to the downtown area. Our past Downtown Sounds have been wonderful and will continue but there were less children attending than we anticipated. We want to offer something specifically tailored to fun for children. Our goal is to bring vibrancy back to downtown Belton and create fond memories of movie nights on the Square in Downtown Belton. Our focus is on children and family fun!

[**The Clinton Carnival** (United Way of Lauren County, Clinton)](https://www.golaurens.com/news/united-way-of-laurens-county-awarded-2023-elevate-upstate-grant/article_e02815b8-710e-11ee-93f1-9f5ec1b9f6ab.html)

The Clinton Carnival will be an Annual Event. We would look to have it every year around March, while kids and students would be on Spring Break. We know this will be a tremendous success and popular event! In the county of Laurens, there is no other event like this. This event is to encourage families to come out together and enjoy a fun evening full of games, food, music and much more! This is also for all ages! We are looking to make this event into a fundraising event for United Way. We will charge a fair price for the entry fee. That entry fee will include all the amenities inside excluding the food. The food we will arrange for tickets or meal prices to be made. We believe this event meets the goals it being FUN, enticing & exciting and gives vibrancy to Laurens County!

2023 Bridgeway Station Grant Recipient

**Upstate 48-Hour Film Festival** (Urban League of the Upstate-Greenville)

In 2023, the Urban League partnered with the South Carolina Film Commission to bring more filmmaking to the Upstate. As our signature workforce development program, we created Studio 9.22, located at the George Dean Johnson School of Business & Economics. At Studio 9.22 we support creative professionals, independent filmmakers and entrepreneurs who want their businesses camera ready. In partnership with the SC film Commission, SC-ETV and USC-Upstate, Studio 9.22 has recently hosted free classes and certification programs for individuals to be film grips, hairdressers that want bring their skills to directors shooting in South Carolina and our annual SC Film and Entertainment Symposium and Red-Carpet Reception. Here we bring together industry professionals from around the state and the country. Based on the success of our work, and our commitment to making the Upstate the epicenter independent filmmakers, the Urban League is now licensed and part the exclusive society of 48HFP Producers for the state of South Carolina. The 48Hr Film Project is the oldest and the largest timed film competition in the world. It is a highly efficient process with a strong brand within the short film industry. Last year alone, events were in 115 cities. Studio 9.22 will launch the 48Hr Film SC Project in May 2023. We anticipate that over 100 people, forming approximately 20 teams, will create short films in this two-day competition. Films will be judged with a premier showing at a commercial theater. Because Studio 9.22 is now part of the 48HFP international tour, our winning film will be submitted to Filmapalooza, the annual event open to all filmmakers where each city’s winning film is screened and judged. This year’s event will be in Lisbon Portugal. The winners from Filmapalooza will go on to the Short Film Corner in Cannes, during the Cannes Film Festival. With access to a collection of short films, we can easily replicate the premiere showing of the films at Bridgeway Station and other outdoor venues throughout the region.