



NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

 City of Phoenix

LOVE YOUR BLOCK PROGRAM AND LOVE YOUR BLOCK GRANTS INFORMATION



In partnership with the Phoenix Public Works and Water Services Departments



Updated 04/08/2025

LOVE YOUR BLOCK PROGRAM

The Love Your Block (LYB) program, administered by the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department (NSD), is for neighborhood groups and/or block watch groups interested in making a difference in their community. The program is designed to improve neighborhoods and increase civic engagement, with technical assistance and grant funding opportunities from NSD and its partners. LYB offers instructor-led workshops designed to provide pertinent information, resources and engagement skills to neighborhood residents, that result in collaborations and partnerships that could bring a positive impact to their respective communities.

THE GOALS OF THE LYB PROGRAM ARE:

- To reduce blight and beautify neighborhoods.
- Engage current and new stakeholders willing to participate in neighborhood improvement efforts.
- Build neighborhood capacity by implementing a sustainable project with a positive impact.

Neighborhood Beautification & Blight Reduction	Engage Stakeholders	Build Neighborhood Capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve aesthetic & cohesion of the neighborhood by implementing resident-led community improvement projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attract new & existing participants to impact volunteer projects and create opportunities for collaboration in community improvement efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement a sustainable project in the community to positively impact the neighborhood

Awarding grants is one opportunity the LYB Program offers that makes these goals achievable. Neighborhood and block watch groups that meet the eligibility requirements and are listed on Neighborhood LINK, are encouraged to apply for grants up to \$5,000, to implement a sustainable project in their community.

Grant awardees will be responsible for managing the completion of their proposed projects by the deadline, as well as researching and selecting business partners or vendors who will provide services to complete their project at a reasonable cost. Grantees are encouraged to identify local businesses who are invested in the success of the community.

NSD will be awarding eight grants up to \$5,000 each. We are very fortunate to have Phoenix Public Works and Phoenix Water Services departments to be our granting partners this year.

LYB GRANT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Be an active neighborhood group that has been listed with NSD's Neighborhood LINK.
- Must propose a project scope and budget that will benefit the neighborhood/community and be accessible to its residents. The proposal must include a maintenance plan for the proposed project, if applicable.
- **This grant cycle, four grants will be awarded to projects that have a water conservation component.**
- Must have a minimum of three neighborhood group members involved with the proposed project.
- Must demonstrate the ability to complete the project within six months (extensions may be granted at the discretion of the LYB Program Administrator).
- If the proposed project site is on private property, the applicant must submit a written letter of permission from the property owner, along with the completed application.
- A completed application must be received by the due date, **5 p.m. Monday, May 12, 2025**.
- If awarded, applicants must be able to attend the LYB mandatory workshop on **Saturday, August 23, 2025**, along with three to six other members of the neighborhood group.

Previous grant awardees are not eligible to apply for the grant within a three-year period.

The LYB grant application review process will be managed by the LYB manager and scored by a review committee made up of city staff and community leaders (who are not applying for the grant). The proposal with the highest score from each City Council district will be awarded a LYB grant. A total of eight grants, up to \$5,000 each, will be awarded.

If there is no application/proposal received from a city council district, the applicant with the next highest score overall will be awarded the LYB grant.

LYB GRANT AWARDEE REQUIREMENTS

- As part of the leadership development, neighborhood groups receiving LYB grants are encouraged to manage and lead their own projects. Groups are responsible for developing their project scope, managing their budget and implementing their project.
- Awardees must research and identify vendors for their project and submit estimated price quotes along with the application.
- Awardees must submit invoices for each expense identified in their project budget to be paid directly by LYB staff. Invoices should reflect the most reasonable price the group was able to find to stay within budget.
- Funds will only be disbursed for a current invoice from the vendor that includes a unique invoice number, date, and total. Invoices should be sent to the LYB email with a brief note explaining what the invoice is for.
- In addition to LYB staff, grant awardees may work with their area Neighborhood Specialist on how to request direct payment to their vendors for goods and services

rendered. Specialists can assist in completing any necessary forms and ensuring that receipts and invoices have all been submitted in a timely manner. Awardees may submit their finalized project scope, budget and documentation of invoices or estimates to their area Neighborhood Specialist, which in turn will need approval from the LYB Administrator and Deputy Neighborhood Engagement Director. To find your Neighborhood Specialist, refer to this page:

phoenix.gov/administration/departments/nsd/get-involved/neighborhood-specialists.html

- Awardees may spend up to the amount awarded. The maximum amount that can be requested by a group is \$5,000, inclusive of all taxes and fees.

USE OF GRANT FUNDS

- A portion of the funds may be used for marketing/branding materials, such as T-shirts, newsletters, flyers, and other materials as part of the larger project proposal.
- Funds may be used to pay for services that support the proposed project, such as services rendered by a muralist or a streets barricade company for a street fair.
- Food and non-alcoholic beverages costs, included in the proposed project's budget, must be no more than 5% of the project's total budget (or total amount requested).
- Funds may be used for building materials needed for the project.
- Groups must spend the awarded funds by **March 31, 2026, which means all invoices and other documentation must be submitted to the LYB Administrator by 5 p.m. on February 27, 2026.** Any remaining funds may not be available after this date or may not be eligible for an extension.

WATER-CONSERVATION THEMED PROJECTS

This year, we have a new partner in the Phoenix Water Services Department, who has contributed a total of \$20,000. Four grant awards up to \$5,000 each will be awarded to neighborhood groups with projects that have a water-conservation theme or component. Projects that embrace desert landscapes, water-smart ways of living or have a water-conservation message are eligible. Some examples of water conservation projects for funding consideration include:

- a community pollinator garden with native plants
- rainwater harvesting basins and barrels
- developing a community "leak watch" group that identifies leaks and helps neighbors fix them.
- grass removal in common neighborhood areas with xeriscape replacement
- mural with a clear water-conservation message/theme

Groups awarded funds for their proposed water-related projects will have access to a water-conservation expert, who can advise and provide guidance to ensure successful project completion.

ZERO-WASTE THEMED PROJECTS

For the past few years, Phoenix Public Works has been a staunch supporter of the Love Your Block Grants Program by contributing \$20,000 each year to help fund various neighborhood projects. This yearly contribution allows for four up-to-\$5,000 grants to be awarded to neighborhood groups. Groups are encouraged to propose projects with a sustainability (recycle, reuse) theme that emphasizes Phoenix's goal of becoming zero waste by 2050. Some examples of such projects for consideration:

- Upcycled community art project installation
- Tree-planting event
- Starting a community repair café
- Murals with a zero-waste theme
- Community cleanups

Groups with zero-waste themed projects will have access to a zero-waste expert, who can advise and provide guidance to ensure successful project completion.

PROHIBITED USE OF GRANT FUNDS

- Administration of the grant itself.
- Projects on private property, including but not limited to landscaping, fencing, painting, etc. There may be exceptions to this rule. If the project site is on private property, applicants must include in their grant application a letter of permission from the property owner.
- Vehicular speed mitigation projects, such as speed humps.
- The purchase of gift cards or gift certificates.
- Alcoholic beverages, including wine and beer.
- Awards and raffle prizes.
- Entrance or admission fees for any in-state or out-of-state non-educational field trips, including water and amusement parks.
- Out-of-state field trips or travel (educational or non-educational).
- Toward the rental or purchase of motor vehicles.

PROJECT COMPLETION

Projects must be completed by **March 31, 2026**, unless an extension has been granted in writing by the LYB manager. Upon completion of the project, groups must provide the following to the LYB manager:

- Photos of the project, during the development phase and completion phase, are to be included in the final report that tells the group's success story.

- Provide any metrics that demonstrate the efforts and the impact of the project in the community. Metrics may include:
 - Number of volunteers and volunteer hours.
 - The number of residents impacted by project.
 - If the project is a community cleanup, the tonnage of debris removed.
 - If the project is a community event, number of participants or expected participants.
- Completed survey to help us understand your experience with the LYB process, as well as to help us improve it.
- All photos, metrics and narrative related to the neighborhood group's project must be submitted to the LYB Administrator by **April 30, 2026, or sooner**.

EXAMPLE OF PAST PROJECTS

- Installation of street sign toppers for neighborhood identity awareness.
- Murals that reflect the neighborhood's identity and beautification (will require written permission from owner of property regarding the use of the wall or building façade that will be painted.)
- Landscaping cleanup projects in the right-of-way to minimize blight and increase community engagement.
- Tree/shrub planting in the right-of way, (may require agreement between the City of Phoenix and the responsible party regarding proper maintenance of trees and shrubs).
- Creating dog/pet waste stations that encourage owners to pick up after their pets.
- Installation of a "little free library" for neighborhood residents to share their literary favorites with each other and encourage reading.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

LYB Program email: LoveYourBlock@phoenix.gov

LYB Manager: Ray Yocopis, ray.yocopis@phoenix.gov, 602-495-0116

LYB Coordinator (accounting): Ashley Henderson, ashley.henderson@phoenix.gov, 602-261-8109

To find your Neighborhood Specialist: phoenix.gov/administration/departments/nsd/get-involved/neighborhood-specialists.html

** If you need accommodations or modifications due to a disability or limited English proficiency to complete this application, please contact Ashley Henderson at (602) 534-4444/TTY 800-367-8939 or loveyourblock@phoenix.gov.*