



IX Arts Park Foundation Accessibility & Infrastructure

A Proposal for a New CDBG-Funded Planning Grant

A Public Hearing before the City of Charlottesville City Council
September 8, 2026

Office of Budget & Grants Management
City of Charlottesville

<https://www.charlottesville.gov/678/CDBG-HOME-Programs>

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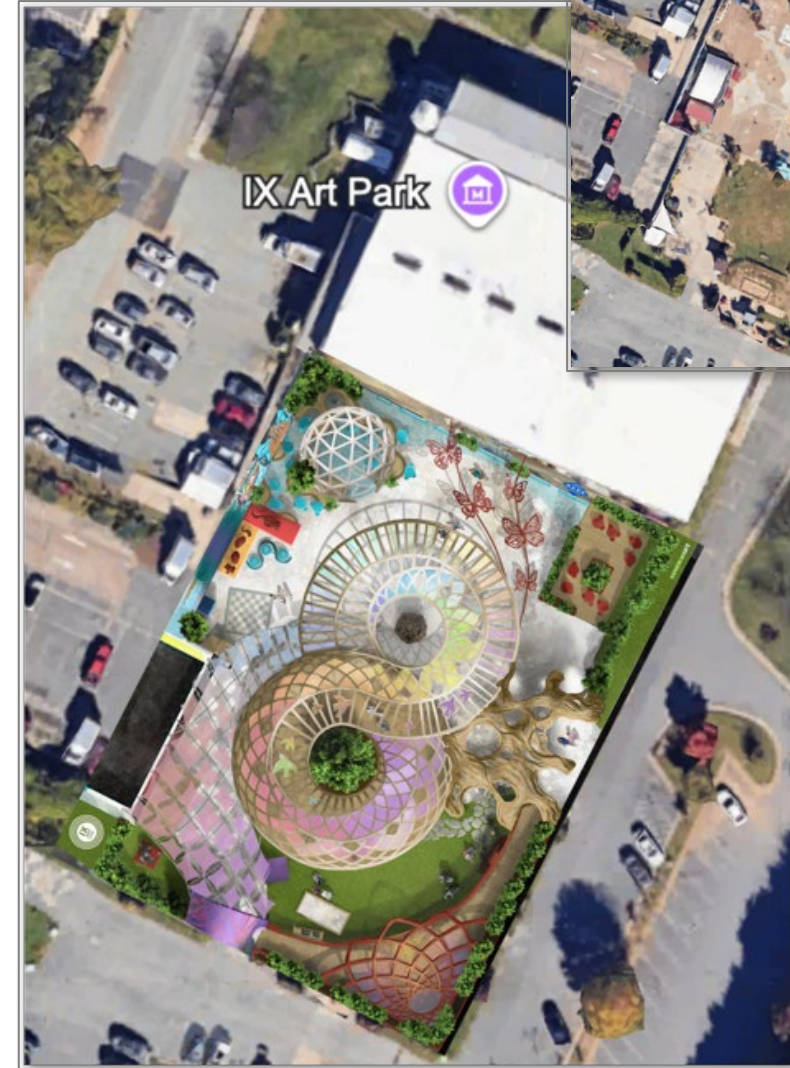
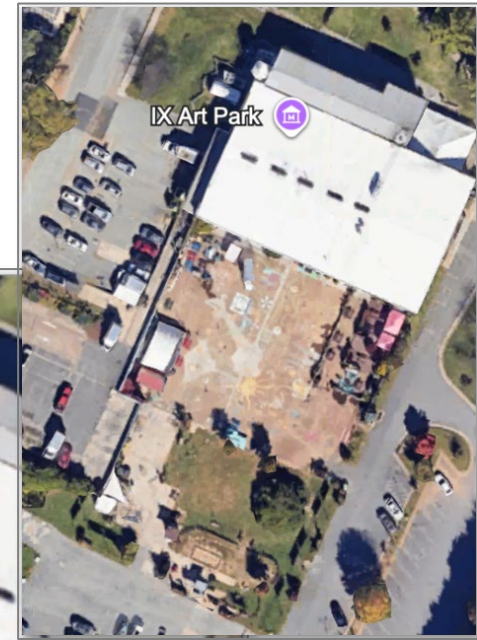
Background on Planning Grants

CDBG-funded planning grants “increase the potential for project success and impact. These grants aid in developing clearly articulated strategies for addressing a locality’s greatest community development needs following meaningful citizen participation.”

[Virginia DHCD](#)

- Planning grants can provide valuable support to smaller nonprofits to do work they would otherwise not be able to do
- The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (“DHCD”) frequently utilizes planning grants as a capacity building tool, awarding \$700,000 to support eleven organizations in their most recent funding round
- Planning grants can help organizations develop plans that can be used to support third-party fundraising efforts, much like ReadyKids leveraged city CDBG funds to secure substantial philanthropic funding for the same activity, thereby expanding greatly what they could accomplish for their clients

What is ➡



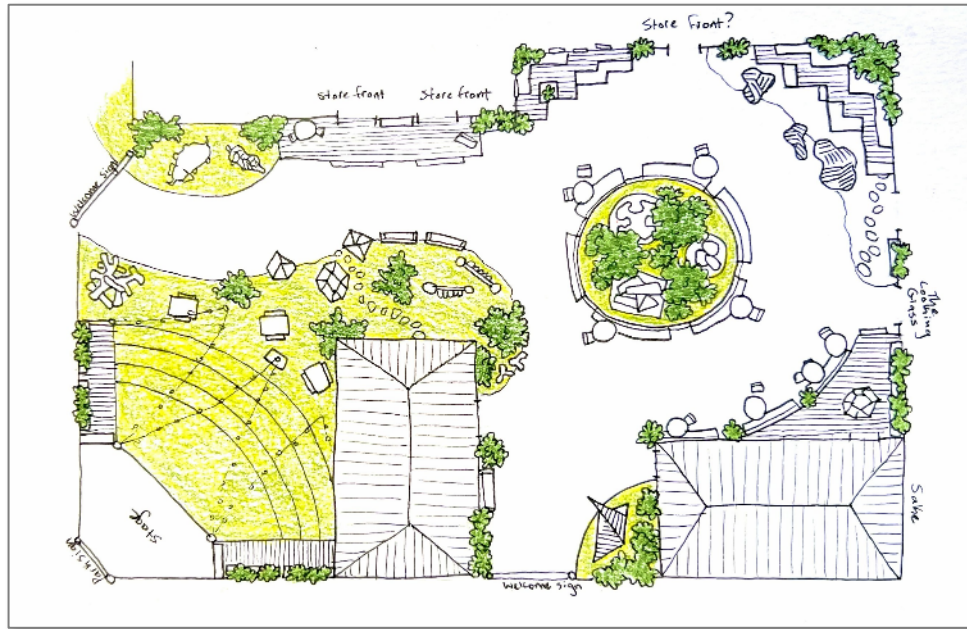
What could be ➡



Benefits of a Planning Grant

CDBG-funded planning grants “increase the potential for project success and impact. These grants aid in developing clearly articulated strategies for addressing a locality’s greatest community development needs following meaningful citizen participation.”

Virginia DHCD



A planning grant will provide IAF with the financial capacity to work with experienced accessibility-focused landscape architects to build their initial vision ...



... into formal architectural plans created with accessibility in mind and that build on recent advances in accessible design

(Note that this professional-quality rendering was submitted during IAF's pre-bid conversations with experienced landscape architects, thereby showing that this process has already generated concrete benefits for IAF)

**Design
Considerations
That Can Be
Addressed
Through a
Planning Grant**



Through the support made possible by this award, IAF staff will be able to plan for the removal of much-used but inaccessible features, like the performance stage, and their replacement by new features designed with accessibility in mind



IAF staff will also be able to plan for the replacement of the existing ad hoc playspace with a new playspace which is designed from the beginning for accessibility, much like was done recently through CDBG funding to ReadyKids



Additional
Design
Considerations
That Can Be
Addressed
Through a
Planning Grant

KEY ELEMENTS TO ADDRESS

- Shade!
- Accessible structures
- New stage
- Seating + tables
- Maintaining plantlife
- Opportunities/space for new art
- Interactivity
- Lighting for safety + Wayfinding
- Power outlets



Considerations for the Scope of Work

*CDBG-funded activities
build on a Scope of
Work agreement to be
developed between
program staff and the
subrecipient.*

Period of Performance: July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027

Proposed Award: \$25,000

Proposed Source: CDBG Program (Fund 218)

2010 ADA Design Standards to Consider*:

- [§36.402](#) Alterations
- [§36.403](#) Alterations: Paths of travel
- [§503](#) Passenger Loading Zones
- **Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) to Consider*:**
 - [R202.3](#) Existing Physical Constraints
 - [R302.2](#) Continuous Clear Width
 - [R302.3](#) Passing Spaces
 - [R302.4](#) Grade
 - [R407.2](#) Ramps/Running Slope
 - [R407.4](#) Ramps/Clear Width
- **Key Deliverable(s):**
 - A detailed design, funding & proposed development plan
 - Documentation of key consultations (e.g., community visioning meetings, design professionals, potential third-party funders, applicable grants to apply for, etc.)

**To the maximum extent possible, the design plan to be developed shall (a) adopt the conventions and accepted definitions specified in the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and PROWAG accessibility standards and will (b) consider certain accessibility design standards including but not limited to those listed herein.*



**Thank you for
your interest in
the City of
Charlottesville's
CDBG program.**

Any questions?

