

Project Overviews

Friends of Mifflin (FoM)

FoM is applying for funding to remove invasive trees as a part of a larger, ongoing effort to restore the native habitat of the Mifflin School Arboretum, located along Midvale Ave, behind Thomas Mifflin School. The restoration of this space will serve the broader East Falls community as a recreational space, once devoted to the education of the importance of native ecology and increased biodiversity. Specifically for the students of Thomas Mifflin School, this will provide an extracurricular educational space to learn about the vital role that humans play in the environment.

Beyond the impact to our local community, the restoration of native plants (as well as the pollinators, birds, and other wildlife that will return to the area) will help combat climate change. With these funds, we plan to hire licensed, insured, and local arborists to safely remove the large invasive trees that inhibit growth of native plants and which volunteers are unable to remove ourselves. We are requesting \$1,000 to help cover the cost of the arborists.

East Falls Tree Tenders (EFTT)

Our goal is to provide materials for two units on trees. Per the teachers, the “focus will include the study of living and nonliving things trees and the living things that depend on them; and how living things meet their needs. There is also “a unit centered on study and appreciation trees.” The purpose is to have the materials needed for the students to explore and analyze literature, read stories about characters who enjoy and appreciate trees, and reading & writing opinion pieces about why trees are important to our communities. Per the teachers, “We will also focus on taking action by inspiring others to appreciate and enjoy trees.”

The EFCC grant would make it possible for EFTT to meet the cost of the materials needed for the teachers for the teaching of the two units. The objective of the proposal is for students to have knowledge about all aspects of trees including their role in protecting the environment as well as their role beautifying our communities. These units will start the students on the path of being stewards of the environment. Request for \$1,000 to cover cost of materials (books, seeds, and additional teaching materials) for 65 students in two kindergarten classes at Thomas Mifflin School.

East Falls Town Watch (EFTW)

The East Falls Town Watch is committed to promoting safety & cleanliness in the East Falls neighborhood. We organize monthly litter cleanup crews, neighborhood patrols, bimonthly community meetings with police representatives, a monthly membership meeting, and occasional meetings with Jefferson students. EFTW also sponsors National Night Out.

Purpose of this grant is to have funds to advertise in EF Now for ads to get more neighbors involved in EFTW for the East Falls community. Requesting \$1,000 to cover cost of advertising May 2026 through March 2027.

Friends of McMichael Park (FoMP)

Friends of McMichael Park is an all-volunteer organization working toward the maintenance and activation of our neighborhood community green space. The work of volunteers includes clearing trash, making repairs, as well as planning and hosting public events across the 6-acre block. The Friends group supports and enhances the efforts of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.

Recently certified as a level 1 arboretum, this grant application seeks funds to complete tree canopy maintenance to support the health and longevity of the existing tree collection. Canopy maintenance will protect park users from falling

limbs, reduce the risk of downed trees during storms, and promote stormwater management and shade in our hotter and wetter future.

Anticipated cost for 1 full day of tree maintenance is \$2,800 and the park is requesting a grant subsidy of \$1,400 for this effort to be completed in early spring. Additional proposals to remove hazard trees and remove dead wood will be requested from at least 3 certified arborists.

Old Academy Players (OAP)

The purpose of this proposal is to reduce the financial barrier of producing quality, licensed theater in the East Falls community. Funding royalties will allow Old Academy Players to allocate additional resources toward accessibility, community engagement, and artist support. Anticipated outcomes include a fully licensed public production, increased attendance, and continued access to live theater for local audiences. This project serves East Falls community members, local audiences, volunteer performers and designers, and emerging artists who rely on community theater for creative opportunities. We are requesting \$1,000. These funds will be used to reimburse the production costs, bringing final costs down. Generally, we pay royalties by the end of February and start tracking costs for the upcoming season once royalties have been paid. The funds will be divided evenly across all productions. Finally, the reporting costs will be provided at the conclusion of the production.

Friends of Inn Yard Park (FoIYP)

Friends of IYP works with the community and Philadelphia Parks & Rec to maintain and improve the 1.5 acre "Green Oasis" to ensure the park remains a safe and active space for East Falls residents.

We would like to hold three special events: Arbor Day with local elementary school children, Jazz Night, and Movie Night. This would encourage use and enjoyment of the park by different aged groups in the community. We are requesting \$1,000. Most of this money will be spent on the Arbor Day event - books for all teachers, equipment for activities, and refreshments for the children and gifts of small plants for each child. A celebration of Arbor Day will be on May 8th. Jazz Night & Movie Night will be held before mid-October.

East Falls Community Garden (EFCG)

As a mutually beneficial service between the neighborhood and the garden, EFCG has, since the beginning, offered to recycle Christmas trees. All neighbors are invited thru several posts on EF Neighborhood FB a page, to drop off trees at the garden instead of leaving them for the Philly sanitation dept. The garden then has them chipped to beautify the paths and create weed barriers where necessary.

Fifteen years ago, this cost \$125.00. This year the cost will be \$300. Our dues usually bring in about 700 a year so you can see we are paying about over 40% of our annual income on this service. We request \$300. The full amount of the money granted us will pay for the tree chipping.

Andrée Collective (Andrée)

Andrée Collective is a social enterprise nonprofit that leverages the wedding and events industry to help build career pathways for female trauma survivors. We are located in East Falls and serve survivors in the local community as well as throughout Philadelphia. We serve survivors of primarily domestic violence and human trafficking by providing transitional employment, therapy, and financial literacy.

Andrée Collective addresses the critical gap in services for female trauma survivors who have left their coercive or abusive situations and the deep need for these women to be able to support themselves, and often their children, as they start over. Andrée Collective is committed to equipping female trauma survivors with the emotional, financial, and professional resources they need to achieve long-term stability and independence.

Through our Apprenticeship Program, employment is paired with mental health counseling and financial literacy for a holistic model, meeting financial and emotional needs, which are the largest challenges survivors face when starting over after domestic violence or human trafficking. Utilizing the transferable job skills gleaned from event planning and pairing them with counseling in a trauma-informed workplace, Andrée Collective is working to ensure women never have to return to their abusers. Our apprenticeships allow us to enter in deeply with a few survivors, addressing structural barriers in a trauma-informed environment to create lasting change. The nine-month, paid apprenticeship allows participants to work part-time alongside professional event planners and career development staff gaining valuable transferable skills that can be applied across a variety of industries. This opportunity for financial independence can be life-changing for a woman starting over after abuse.

Andrée Collective is seeking \$1000 in funding for operational support to sustain our Apprenticeship Program as well as to build the capacity necessary to expand the program and serve the increasing number of survivors who come to us for services.

Eunmi's Sound Healing & Yoga (Eunmi)

Our studio serves as a wellness hub where I provide a wide range of healing practices, including immersive sound baths, yoga, meditation, and barre. These programs include gentle movement, flowing sequences, Tai Chi, and focused breathing exercises designed to help practitioners of all levels reconnect with themselves. We also offer private sessions and integrated events that combine these relaxation tools with creative self-care to support the neighborhood's overall well-being.

My proposal is to launch a comprehensive "Community Wellness Awareness Campaign" for East Falls. The purpose is to educate the neighborhood on the importance of personal wellness and mindfulness while introducing our new physical home at 3502 Scotts Lane as a local resource for these practices. I am requesting \$1,000 to fund a dedicated six-month educational and marketing presence in the East Falls NOW newspaper. These funds will be used exclusively for professional advertising and educational content placements starting in April 2026 and concluding in September 2026. This initiative will ensure that every resident, from long-term homeowners to newcomers, understands the wellness tools available to them right in their own neighborhood.

Scoring Rubric (prioritizing East Falls community benefit)

Scoring scale (per criterion): 5 = Excellent; 4 = Strong; 3 = Adequate; 2 = Weak; 1 = Poor

• Community Benefit & Reach — 35% (35 points)

Measures how directly and broadly the project benefits East Falls residents, public spaces, schools, or neighborhood quality of life.

Scoring guidance: 5 = Clear, direct benefit to many residents or a high-need population; 3 = modest or narrowly targeted benefit; 1 = little or no clear benefit to East Falls.

• Feasibility & Budget Clarity — 20% (20 points)

Are the requested funds clearly budgeted, reasonable, and likely to be spent as proposed? Is the timeline realistic?

Scoring guidance: 5 = detailed, realistic budget and timeline; 3 = basic budget/timeline with some gaps; 1 = unclear or unrealistic.

• Sustainability & Long-term Impact — 15% (15 points)

Will the project produce lasting benefits beyond the grant period? Does it leverage other resources or match funding?

Scoring guidance: 5 = strong plan for continuation or scaling; 3 = limited sustainability; 1 = one-time benefit with no follow-up.

• Measurable Outcomes & Evaluation — 10% (10 points)

Are outcomes defined and measurable? Is there a plan to report results and receipts to EFCC?

Scoring guidance: 5 = clear metrics, timeline, and reporting plan; 3 = some metrics but limited detail; 1 = no measurable outcomes.

• Equity, Inclusion & Need — 10% (10 points)

Does the project serve underserved or high-need groups in East Falls (e.g., youth, survivors, low-income residents)?

Scoring guidance: 5 = explicitly serves high-need or underrepresented residents; 3 = general community benefit; 1 = no equity focus.

• Local Economic/Partnership Benefit — 10% (10 points)

Does the project use local vendors, create volunteer opportunities, or partner with neighborhood organizations/schools?

Scoring guidance: 5 = strong local partnerships and local economic benefit; 3 = some local engagement; 1 = none.

Funding guidance:

90–100 = Strongly recommend full funding;

75–89 = Recommend partial or full;

60–74 = Consider partial with conditions;

<59 = Not recommended.

Scoring, Recommendation, Comments

APPLICANT	FoM	EFTT	EFTW	FoMP	OAP	FoIYP	EFCG	Andrée	Eunmi
REQUEST	<i>tree removal</i>	<i>arbor day w/ Mifflin K</i>	<i>EF Now advertising</i>	<i>canopy maintenance</i>	<i>licensing fees</i>	<i>arbor day, Jazz & Movie nights</i>	<i>tree chipping</i>	<i>operating budget</i>	<i>EF Now advertising</i>
Amount	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$300.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Review #1	86	80	65	90	89	80	73	59	66
Review #2	100	96	96	88	82	78	74	56	28
Review #3	87	90	63	92	63	71	65	58	63
Review #4	94	98	94	91	68	87	84	66	77
AVG SCORE	91.00	88.67	74.67	90.00	78.00	76.33	70.67	57.67	52.33
SUGGESTED GRANT AMT	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,400.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

REVIEWER COMMENTS

<p>FoM: Direct, time-bound habitat restoration with clear deliverables tied to the local school; strong measurable outcomes and community engagement.</p>
<p>EFTT: Strong educational impact for local schoolchildren; established organization with a long track record; budget supports clear classroom deliverables.</p>
<p>EFTW: Clear need to increase neighbor participation; budget is straightforward but measurable outcomes and timeline need strengthening. Recommend writing column for EF Now to increase reach, alongside tabling @ community events. No direct measurable impact in terms of additional activity, but EFTW does make a tangible contribution to the community.</p>
<p>FoMP: High community impact protecting a public park and canopy; strong sustainability and safety benefits with clear deliverables. Recommend funding be contingent upon coordination w/ EFTT and detailed breakdown of proposed expenses.</p>
<p>OAP: Longstanding community arts provider with clear audience and volunteer engagement; budget documentation adequate but could be tighter. Would like to see stronger demonstration of sustainability/impact – next time, rather than requesting for operational expense, request grant for a community-oriented directive (e.g. tickets to give away, sponsoring an artist, etc).</p>
<p>FoIYP: Community events that engage multiple age groups and partner with local schools and businesses; reasonable budget and measurable outcomes.</p>
<p>EFCG: Small, feasible request with immediate neighborhood benefit; clear use of funds and low risk.</p>
<p>Andrée: Application does not clearly demonstrate program primarily serves EF residents. If rewarding grant: 1-page addendum clarifying East Falls resident participation and direct neighborhood benefit. Would like to see stats or information regarding number of clients served, outcomes over the years, and what this grant would fund (besides apprenticeship) - Score could be higher with additional detail.</p>
<p>Eunmi: Supports a small local business and neighborhood wellness but limited direct measurable community outcomes; recommend partial funding focused on direct community access. Recommend writing column for EF Now to increase reach, alongside tabling @ community events.</p>