

## Van Nuys Neighborhood Council



**Kathy Schreiner**  
[kathy.schreiner@vnnc.org](mailto:kathy.schreiner@vnnc.org)  
President

**Maduka Nkuku**  
[maduka.nkuku@vnnc.org](mailto:maduka.nkuku@vnnc.org)  
Vice President

**Vacant**  
Secretary

**David Harari**  
[david.harari@vnnc.org](mailto:david.harari@vnnc.org)  
Treasurer & Budget & Finance Chair

**Myrra Bolla**  
[myrra.bolla@vnnc.org](mailto:myrra.bolla@vnnc.org)  
Parliamentarian

**Members**  
Hakop 'Jack' Azatyan  
Pam Bingham  
John Camera  
Connor Chiu  
Quirino de la Cuesta  
Brian Edelman  
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Ann Kalb  
Dalilah Perez-Vigo  
Derrick Spears  
Cyle Zegotarski

### Van Nuys Neighborhood Council Budget and Finance Committee AGENDA

Tuesday, March 4th, 2025

6:00PM

Van Nuys Branch  
Library

6250 Sylmar Ave.

Van Nuys, CA 91401

Community Room

Van Nuys  
Neighborhood Council  
P.O. Box 3118  
Van Nuys, CA 91407-3118

Email: [info@vnnc.org](mailto:info@vnnc.org)  
[www.vnnc.org](http://www.vnnc.org)

Phone: 818-357-2446

Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board/Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board or Committee meeting.

Public comment is limited to a maximum of 2 minutes per speaker per item with a maximum of 10 minutes total per meeting, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. **Actual time for each comment will be recorded in 30 second increments (i.e., 30 sec., 1 min., 90 sec., 2 min.).**

**Speakers shall limit their comments to matters relevant to the item on the agenda. The Chair may rule that the speaker is out of order if the comments are not germane to the item under consideration. Speakers shall direct their comments to the Committee (not to an individual).**

Chair of Budget & Finance Committee: David Harari  
Members: Hakop Azatyan, Myrra Bolla, Kathy Schreiner,

1. **Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Discussion and possible action to recommend that the VNNC Board approve an NPG application from Beautify LA for \$4,750 to support “environmentally sustainable beautification projects within Van Nuys”. See attached and link below:**  
<https://vnnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Van-Nuys-Neighborhood-Council-NPG.pdf>
3. **Discussion regarding the potential types of questions that the VNNC could ask NPG applicants to further clarify how the proposed project or event would impact Van Nuys and its residents and stakeholders.**
4. **General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (2 min per stakeholder). Note that topics discussed must be within the jurisdiction of the VNNC.**
5. Identification of topics Committee members would like to discuss at a future meeting.
6. Adjournment

**THE AMERICN WITH DISABILITIES ACT** - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting VNNC by via email at: [info@vnnc.org](mailto:info@vnnc.org)

**SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION** - Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 72 horas antes del evento. Por favor contacte a [info@vnnc.org](mailto:info@vnnc.org) por correo electrónico para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

**PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS** – VNNC agendas are posted publicly near the front door to the conference room of the Marvin Braude Constituents Building, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401 and also online at [www.vnnc.org](http://www.vnnc.org). You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas>

**PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS** – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non- exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91401, at our website: <http://www.vnnc.org/> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact via email: [info@vnnc.org](mailto:info@vnnc.org)

**RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS** - For information on the VNNC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNNC By-laws. The By-laws are available at our Board meetings and our website <http://www.vnnc.org>

**Notice to Paid Representatives** - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 et seq. More information is available at:

<https://ethics.lacity.gov/lobbying/>

For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

**Neighborhood Council Funding Program  
APPLICATION for Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG)**



This form is to be completed by the applicant seeking the Neighborhood Purposes Grant and submitted to the Neighborhood Council from whom the grant is being sought. All applications for grants must be reviewed and approved in a public meeting. Upon approval of the application the Neighborhood Council (NC) shall submit the application along with all required documentation to the Office of the City Clerk, NC Funding Program.

Name of NC from which you are seeking this grant: Van Nuys Neighborhood Council

**SECTION I - APPLICANT INFORMATION**

1a) Beautify LA 33-1571923 CA 10-21-2024  
*Organization Name* *Federal I.D. # (EIN#)* *State of Incorporation* *Date of 501(c)(3) Status (if applicable)*

1b) 1848 S Gramercy Pl Los Angeles CA 90019  
*Organization Mailing Address* *City* *State* *Zip Code*

1c) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Business Address (if different)* *City* *State* *Zip Code*

1d) **PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
Mark Ragan 435-773-2256 Mark@beautifyla.info  
*Name* *Phone* *Email*

2) **Type of Organization- Please select one:**  
 Public School *(not to include private schools)* **or**  501(c)(3) Non-Profit *(other than religious institutions)*  
**Attach Signed letter on School Letterhead** **Attach IRS Determination Letter**

3) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name / Address of Affiliated Organization (if applicable)* *City* *State* *Zip Code*

**SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

4) **Please describe the purpose and intent of the grant.**  
 The primary purpose of this grant proposal is to seek financial support and collaboration from Van Nuys Neighborhood Council to implement environmentally sustainable beautification projects within the Van Nuys Neighborhood. The initiatives aim to remove homeless, clean the neighborhood of trash and graffiti, beautify, and host events free to the public. By focusing on homeless, clean-ups, beautification, and events free to the public, this grant will help transform the neighborhood into a more attractive, cohesive, and vibrant neighborhood. The intent of this grant is attached separately (page 1).

5) **How will this grant be used to primarily support or serve a public purpose and benefit the public at-large. (Grants cannot be used as rewards or prizes for individuals)**  
 Beautify LA, through the grant funding, aims to significantly enhance public spaces and support local communities, particularly focusing on under-resourced areas and populations, including free community workshops, surveys, and assisting those experiencing homelessness.  
 Here's a breakdown of how the organization plans to utilize the grant for the public good.  
 Homeless Initiatives:  
 Beautify LA will utilize a portion of the grant funds to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness with food, clothing, and hygiene kits with the support of shelters. The organization will launch outreach programs that link unhoused individuals & families to necessary resources such as shelter, job training, and health services. Additionally, public art projects and clean-up initiatives will serve as engagement tools to foster connections between community members.  
 Please see Page 2 of the attached.



**SECTION III - PROJECT BUDGET OUTLINE**

You may also provide the Budget Outline on a separate sheet if necessary or requested.

| 6a) Personnel Related Expenses |                 |                      |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|                                | Requested of NC | Total Projected Cost |
| Administrative Costs           | \$490           | \$490                |
|                                | \$              | \$                   |
|                                | \$              | \$                   |

| 6b) Non-Personnel Related Expenses |                 |                      |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|                                    | Requested of NC | Total Projected Cost |
| Program Materials and Supplies     | \$1,910         | \$1,910              |
| Community Engagement Events        | \$1,400         | \$1,400              |
| Support Services for the Homeless  | \$950           | \$950                |

7) Have you (applicant) applied to any other Neighborhood Councils requesting funds for this project?  
 No  Yes If Yes, please list names of NCs: \_\_\_\_\_

8) Is the implementation of this specific program or purpose described in Question 4 contingent on any other factors or sources or funding? (Including NPG applications to other NCs)  No  Yes If Yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

| Source of Funding | Amount | Total Projected Cost |
|-------------------|--------|----------------------|
|                   | \$     | \$                   |
|                   | \$     | \$                   |
|                   | \$     | \$                   |

9) What is the TOTAL amount of the grant funding requested with this application: \$4,750

10a) Start date: 2 / 1 / 2025 10b) Date Funds Required: 4 / 10 / 2025 10c) Expected Completion Date: 6 / 1 / 2025  
 (After completion of the project, the applicant should submit a Project Completion Report to the Neighborhood Council)

**SECTION IV - POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

11a) Do you (applicant) have a current or former relationship with a Board Member of the NC?  
 No  Yes If Yes, please describe below: \_\_\_\_\_


| Name of NC Board Member | Relationship to Applicant |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|                         |                           |
|                         |                           |
|                         |                           |

11b) If yes, did you request that the board member consult the Office of the City Attorney before filing this application?  
 Yes  No \*(Please note that if a Board Member of the NC has a conflict of interest and completes this form, or participates in the discussion and voting of this NPG, the NC Funding Program will deny the payment of this grant in its entirety.)


**SECTION V - DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE**

I hereby affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided herein and communicated otherwise is truly and accurately stated. I further affirm that I have read the documents "What is a Public Benefit," and "Conflicts of Interest" of this application and affirm that the proposed project(s) and/or program(s) fall within the criteria of a public benefit project/program and that no conflict of interest exist that would prevent the awarding of the Neighborhood Purposes Grant. I affirm that I am not a current Board Member of the Neighborhood Council to whom I am submitting this application. I further affirm that if the grant received is not used in accordance with the terms of the application stated here, said funds shall be returned immediately to the Neighborhood Council.

12a) Executive Director of Non-Profit Corporation or School Principal - **REQUIRED\***

Mark Ragan Founder  2/19/2025  
 PRINT Name Title Signature Date

12b) Secretary of Non-profit Corporation or Assistant School Principal - **REQUIRED\***

Edward Portillo Vice Chairman  2/19/2025  
 PRINT Name Title Signature Date

\* If a current Board Member holds the position of Executive Director or Secretary, please contact the NC Funding Program at (213) 978-1058 or [clerk.ncfunding@lacity.org](mailto:clerk.ncfunding@lacity.org) for instructions on completing this form



Beautify LA's Grant Request for Beautification, Creating Additional Community Support, Supporting the Arts, Education, and Community Improvements.



The intent of this grant:

1. **Community Enhancement:** The intent of the grant is to create visually appealing public spaces that reflect the culture and diversity of the community. This includes activities such as landscaping, planting native trees and flowers, and creating community gardens that not only beautify the area but also encourage local biodiversity.
2. **Community Engagement and Empowerment:** We aim to actively involve residents in the beautification process, empowering them to take ownership of their environment. Through volunteer programs, workshops, and collaborative art projects, community members will have opportunities to learn skills, share ideas, and work together towards a common goal.
3. **Environmental Sustainability:** The grant will prioritize sustainable practices by incorporating drought-resistant plants, sustainable materials, and eco-friendly landscaping techniques. These efforts will contribute to reducing the environmental impact and promoting resilience against climate change.
4. **Civic Pride and Ownership:** By enhancing the aesthetic appeal of public spaces, we intend to foster civic pride among residents. The beautification projects will create inviting areas for community gatherings and events, reinforcing a sense of belonging and encouraging social interaction.
5. **Long-Term Impact:** The proposed initiatives will not only provide immediate beautification but also establish a framework for long-term community engagement and maintenance. We aim to create a sustainable model that encourages ongoing participation from residents to keep the neighborhood beautiful for years to come.

Through this grant proposal, Beautify LA seeks to collaborate with the Neighborhood Council to create a shared vision for a more beautiful, green, and vibrant community, enhancing the quality of life for all residents. We believe that together, we can make a significant and lasting impact on the neighborhood.

Continued from section 2, #5 -

### **Social Media Engagement**

Beautify LA plans to leverage social media platforms to foster community involvement, raise awareness, and promote its initiatives. By regularly sharing updates about beautification projects, volunteer opportunities, and success stories, they can encourage community participation and build a sense of belonging. Campaigns highlighting the impact of beautification on neighborhoods will help galvanize support and actions among residents, making them active stewards of their environment.

### **Volunteer Programs**

The grant will support the expansion of Beautify LA's volunteer programs, inviting local residents to participate in clean-up days, planting initiatives, and community art projects. These programs not only beautify the neighborhoods but also empower residents, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for their environment. Volunteer events can be designed to specifically include marginalized communities, ensuring inclusive participation and outreach.

### **Partnerships with 311**

Collaborating with the 311 service will enable Beautify LA to identify specific needs and areas requiring improvement throughout the city. By creating a streamlined communication channel, the organization can address community concerns efficiently, from reporting graffiti and litter to requesting landscaping services. This partnership ensures that beautification efforts are targeted toward areas that would benefit the most, thereby enhancing the public spaces that residents use daily.

### **Supplementing Neighborhood Beautification Efforts**

Beautify LA's overarching goal is to enhance the aesthetics and functionality of public spaces through a variety of projects. The grant will enable the organization to engage local artists to create murals, install community gardens, and manage landscaping projects. This beautification serves a dual purpose—improving the environment while also creating spaces where communities can gather, interact, and thrive.

By integrating these initiatives, Beautify LA will effectively serve the public interest by providing direct benefits to residents, creating cleaner and more enjoyable public spaces, fostering community engagement, and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. Ultimately, the use of the grant will not only beautify neighborhoods but also strengthen community ties and promote social equity across Los Angeles.

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## Budget Outline for Beautify LA

**Total Budget: \$4,750**

### **1. Program Materials and Supplies - \$1,910**

- **Gardening Supplies:** (e.g., seeds, soil, plants, pots) - \$950
- **Cleaning Supplies:** (e.g., trash bags, gloves, safety equipment) - \$480
- **Art Supplies:** (e.g., paint, brushes, canvas for community murals) - \$480

### **2. Community Engagement Events - \$1,400**

- **Workshops and Training Sessions:** (e.g., gardening workshops, art classes) - \$650
- **Community Clean-Up Days:** (e.g., gloves, bags, t-shirts, food and refreshments for volunteers) - \$450
- **Promotional Materials:** (e.g., flyers, posters, social media ads) - \$300

### **3. Support Services for the Homeless - \$950**

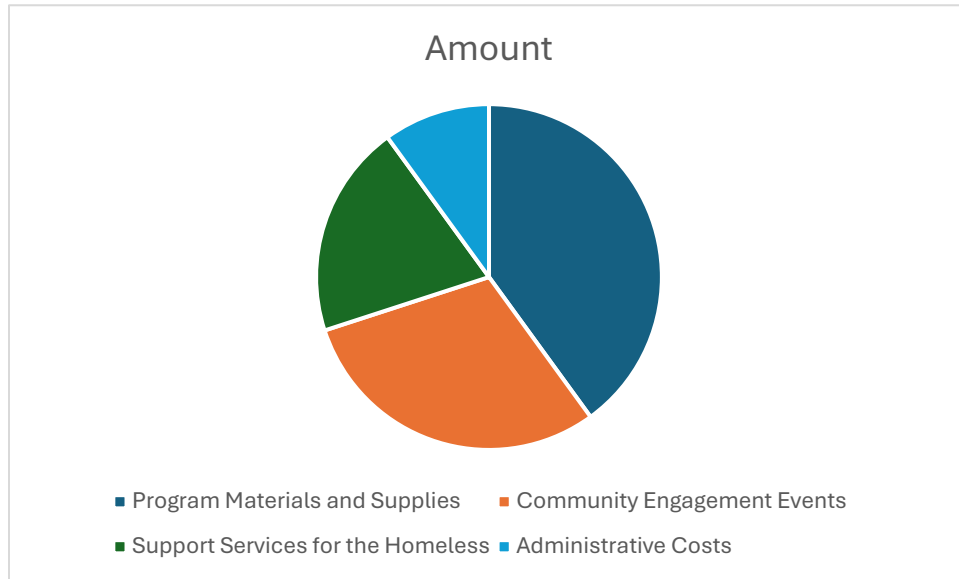
- **Outreach Supplies:** (e.g., hygiene kits, blankets, food, consulting services) - \$550
- **Collaboration with Local Service Providers:** (e.g., team members using 311 & Circle, food banks, shelters, in partner with graffiti cleanup and provide supplemental efforts to clean graffiti) - \$400

### **4. Administrative Costs - \$490**

- **Insurance:** (e.g., liability insurance for events) - \$240
- **Miscellaneous Supplies:** (e.g., office supplies, printing paper, printer, transportation costs) - \$150
- **Accounting/Grant Reporting Services:** - \$100



## Budget Outline



### Justification of Budget Categories

- 1. Program Materials and Supplies:** This category reflects direct costs that enhance the aesthetic of the community while simultaneously providing resources for individuals experiencing homelessness. By investing in gardening and cleaning supplies, Beautify LA will be able to carry out effective beautification projects and foster community spirit.
- 2. Community Engagement Events:** Hosting events is crucial for building relationships within the neighborhood and attracting volunteers. Engaging the community through workshops and clean-up days can help build a caring neighborhood atmosphere, making it essential for Beautify LA's mission.
- 3. Support Services for the Homeless:** This allocation focuses on the organization's commitment to aiding the homeless population. By providing basic necessities (food, clothing, and consulting) and collaborating with local services, Beautify LA can support vulnerable individuals and families to encourage community members to participate in outreach activities.
- 4. Administrative Costs:** While supporting programmatic efforts is critical, it is also important to account for administrative costs to ensure sustainability and compliance. This ensures that all events can run smoothly, and financial reporting is precise and professional.

This budget outline supports Beautify LA's mission while demonstrating a clear, actionable plan for utilizing the Neighborhood Purpose Grant effectively. By highlighting how funds will directly correlate with community beautification, support for the homeless, and fostering community engagement, this budget can effectively convey the organization's commitment to positive neighborhood impact.

Thank you,

**Beautify LA**

**1848 S Gramercy Pl**

**Los Angeles, CA 90019**

**Cell:435-773-2256**

**Email: Mark@beautifyla.info**

[www.beautifyla.info](http://www.beautifyla.info)







Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Tax Exempt and Government Entities  
P.O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201

BEAUTIFY LA  
1848 S GRAMERCY PL  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90019

Date:  
11/21/2024  
Employer ID number:  
33-1571923  
Person to contact:  
Name: Victoria E.  
ID number: 5508771  
Telephone: 877-829-5500  
Accounting period ending:  
December 31  
Public charity status:  
509(a)(2)  
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required:  
Yes  
Effective date of exemption:  
October 21, 2024  
Contribution deductibility:  
Yes  
Addendum applies:  
No  
DLN:  
26053719007484

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities). Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements



# Secretary of State Certificate of Status

I, SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D., California Secretary of State, hereby certify:

**Entity Name:** Beautify LA  
**Entity No.:** 6432297  
**Registration Date:** 10/21/2024  
**Entity Type:** Nonprofit Corporation - CA - Public Benefit  
**Formed In:** CALIFORNIA  
**Status:** Active

The above referenced entity is active on the Secretary of State's records and is authorized to exercise all its powers, rights and privileges in California.

This certificate relates to the status of the entity on the Secretary of State's records as of the date of this certificate and does not reflect documents that are pending review or other events that may impact status.

No information is available from this office regarding the financial condition, status of licenses, if any, business activities or practices of the entity.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I execute this certificate and affix the Great Seal of the State of California this day of February 03, 2025.

**SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.**  
**Secretary of State**

**Certificate No.:** 291915932

To verify the issuance of this Certificate, use the Certificate No. above with the Secretary of State Certification Verification Search available at [bizfileOnline.sos.ca.gov](http://bizfileOnline.sos.ca.gov).