



Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority

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LHVA Partnership Grant Program Funding Priorities

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority provides funding to community organizations through its Partnership Grants Program. LHVA has established five primary funding priorities. These priorities are based on LHVA's "Plan for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley" (1991), its "Management Action Plan and Environmental Impact Study" (2004), its goals, and the goals of its funding agencies. LHVA supports projects that are aligned with one or more of these funding priorities.

1. Community and Economic Development

Many aspects of heritage tourism complement community development initiatives. LHVA is committed to supporting and strengthening existing attractions, marketing the region as a destination, and helping to provide visitors with a memorable experience. Successful programs for economic revitalization can use the Valley's heritage to promote increased tourism and other private reinvestment in key buildings and districts.

Project Examples: Major community planning initiatives, directional and interpretive signage, strategic marketing of heritage attractions, and joint ticketing and "packaging" projects.

2. Partnerships

LHVA believes that success depends on building strong partnerships. Through its Partnership Grants Program, LHVA develops and nurtures relationships with local communities, nonprofit organizations, cultural and historic attractions, public officials, business and civic leaders, planners, educators, preservationists, conservationists, and private citizens. These partnerships help develop important projects that have a positive impact on the community, and strengthen the capacity of the partnering organizations.

Project Examples: Successful grant applicants will demonstrate partnerships and community support through dollar-for-dollar matching funds, in-kind contributions, and volunteer services.

3. Cultural Conservation, Historic Preservation, and Local Heritage

LHVA fosters the conservation of the region's distinctive and varied cultural resources. It supports historic preservation, adaptive reuse of older buildings, and reinvestment in neglected areas to help places retain their unique character. It promotes the stories of the communities, celebrates cultural traditions, and encourages the preservation of ethnic and traditional folkways in neighborhoods and communities.

Project Examples: Restoration and adaptive reuse of historic structures, feasibility studies for heritage sites/attractions, exhibit design and fabrication, interpretation planning, sponsorship of ethnic festivals, oral history projects, and artifact and archival identification and preservation.

4. Environmental Conservation/Renewal, Recreation, and Open Space

Hurt by decades of neglect and industrial harm, the Lackawanna River is once again becoming a unique aesthetic, environmental, and recreational asset in the Lackawanna Heritage Valley. Improving community uses of the river is one means of giving fostering connections with the natural environment while also promoting its redevelopment. LHVA encourages the public rediscovery of this community treasure that in many ways symbolizes the transformation of the entire region from its industrial past to its cleaner future.

Project Examples: Rails-to-trails planning and implementation projects, environmental education programs, and open space plans.

5. Interpretation and Place-Based Education

LHVA commemorates the region's historic role in the industrial development of our nation, and promotes its future through the next generation of citizens. LHVA supports interpretive and educational programs that teach the heritage and culture of the region, and encourage understanding and stewardship of the area's environmental resources.

Project Examples: Interpretive exhibits and panels, curriculum guides, educational events and programs, documentary videos, educational DVD development, and teacher education.