



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT

Travis Leiker, President, Board of Directors

Phone: 303.817.5744

Email: travis.leiker@chundenver.org

CAPITOL HILL UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL RECIPIENTS OF *S.E.E.D. FUNDING PROGRAM* & 2020 *GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS*

All honorees to be recognized at Annual Member Meeting of Neighborhood Organization

Denver, CO—Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN) announced the recipients of its inaugural S.E.E.D. Funding Program and the 2020 Good Neighbor Awards. Launched in 2019, the SEED Funding Program was designed to encourage civic entrepreneurship and community engagement by providing financial support for projects that align with CHUN’s mission and values.

“Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods is excited to foster collaboration throughout our neighborhoods and support the community we love and cherish,” said Vickie Berkley. Berkley, a CHUN board member, chaired the application review committee.

Travis Leiker, president of CHUN’s board of directors said, “this initiative is an opportunity for our 50-year old organization to put ideas for improving neighborhoods into action through impact investing.”

Inaugural S.E.E.D. Award Recipients:

- **Friends of Morey Middle School PTO** to support student access to basic hygiene needs, low cost school supplies, and after-school enrichments; funding also includes small \$250 for the purchase of a Chromebook for those students who lack access to technology at home.
- **The Blue Bench** to conduct *Safe Bars* trainings in the Capitol Hill community. *Safe Bars* training prepares staff at alcohol-serving establishments to recognize and respond to incidents of sexual harassment and assault. The program promotes active bystander intervention to prevent assault and create safer communities.

- **Harm Reduction Action Center** to underwrite a number of ongoing community clean-ups throughout Capitol Hill including removing unwanted trash and litter, as well as improperly disposed syringes and syringe related litter; harm reduction community clean-ups facilitate hard conversations regarding homelessness and neighbors who inject drugs.
- **Warren Village** to incorporate a new resident mural wall on the first floor of their building located at 1323 Gilpin Street. The mural will be representative of the cultures and diversity of the residents living at the building.
- **Historic Denver** will use their award to pay for access railings at the historic Molly Brown House and Museum located at 1340 Pennsylvania Street; work will also include the addition of access amenities in order to provide physical access to the historic structure by adding a wheelchair lift.
- **Spirit of the Sun**, a nonprofit located near Cheesman Park, will use their funding for the Indigenous Youth Art & Culture (IYAC) program—a project that strengthens cultural ties, and provide an outlet for emotional expression, for those Indigenous Peoples residing throughout the greater Capitol Hill community.
- **Denver Turnverein**, a local Dance Hall and Education Center in Uptown, will use funding to enhance their block through added greenery and environmentally appropriate landscaping.

Awards range between \$500 and \$1000 per group. Funding priorities include: Smart, solutions-oriented development; Enrichment through educational programming and other lifelong learning opportunities; Environmental sustainability and combating climate change at the neighborhood level; and Diversity efforts and projects fostering an inclusive community.

Funds for the program were made possible by income generated through CHUN’s Tears-McFarlane House and Community Center (at 1290 Williams Street) and the organization’s growing membership program. Leiker said, “The support of our benefactors, members, and patrons of the Tears-McFarlane House made this new initiative possible; we hope to support more community groups in 2020 and beyond.”

2020 Good Neighbor Award Recipients

CHUN’s has also announced the annual Good Neighbor Award recipients. The program is a longstanding tradition for the nonprofit, and it’s an opportunity to recognize nonprofit organizations, individuals, or businesses for outstanding contributions to the greater Capitol Hill community.

- **Margie Valdez** (*Tom Knorr Award for Community Service*) for bringing people together, building partnerships and helping neighbors realize we can accomplish more when we work together.

- **Molly Williams (*Roger Armstrong Outstanding Volunteer Award*)** for spearheading many of the core aspects of CHUN's 50th Anniversary Celebration and Wine Tasting.
- **Rose Andom Center (*Safe Neighborhood Award*)** for helping victims of domestic violence who are in need through information, resources, safe shelter, and other critical services.
- **Senior Housing Options/Olin Apartments (*Historic Preservation Award*)** for their collective efforts to restore and preserve the historic, architecturally interesting Olin Apartments; CHUN also appreciates the fact that the building will remain open and accessible to those most in need of quality, affordable housing.
- **Ivy on 7th and Carboy Winery (*Neighborhood Character Award*)** for transforming the intersection of 7th Ave and Logan Street; the progress made has enhanced the neighborhood's character while successfully growing small, locally owned businesses.
- **The Denver NEST Program (*Homelessness and Affordable Housing Award*)** for preserving the culture of Denver's neighborhoods experiencing significant change by helping longtime businesses and residents with the resources necessary to remain in place through affordable housing, support for the homeless, and other financial initiatives.

Neighbors are invited to attend **Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2020**. The meeting will be held at the Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center, 1719 E 19th Ave, Denver, CO 80218. **Check-in begins at 6 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.** Join CHUN at chundenver.org/membership. For more information, please call 303-830-1651.

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ABOUT CAPITOL HILL UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS: Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN) is a registered neighborhood organization and a Colorado nonprofit corporation. CHUN's mission is *Preserving the Past, Improving the Present, and Planning for the Future of Greater Capitol Hill* through historic preservation, affordable housing and tackling homelessness, promoting smart land use and zoning, advancing public safety, and encouraging community enhancements through volunteerism and civic engagement. At the foundation of the organization's work is the critical importance of civic participation – that our community becomes healthier and more vibrant through the active involvement of those who live and work in our neighborhoods. Founded in 1969, CHUN has evolved into one of Denver's oldest, largest, and most influential neighborhood organizations.