



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
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**DE BLASIO ADMINISTRATION AND CITIZENS COMMITTEE ENCOURAGE  
RESIDENT-LED COMMUNITY GROUPS TO APPLY FOR 2018 *LOVE YOUR BLOCK*  
GRANT**

*Love Your Block awards 25 \$1,000 cash grants to NYC resident-led community groups and links them to City Services to transform a public space in their neighborhood – applications are due on Monday, November 6, 2017*

**NEW YORK**–NYC Service and Citizens Committee for New York City launched the 2018 *Love Your Block* application to support resident-led volunteer projects that transform public spaces, like City blocks or community gardens, and empower residents to be change makers in their neighborhoods.

NYC Service and Citizens Committee are seeking project proposals that address important community concerns and contribute to building stronger communities through neighbors working together toward sustainable improvements. The application will be open through Monday, November 6th and 25 community groups will be announced as *Love Your Block* winners and receive a \$1,000 grant and support from City agencies. Since its inception, ten years ago, over 270 *Love Your Block* awards have been granted, over 900 City services have been provided, and nearly 10,000 volunteers have been engaged.

“New Yorkers are change agents and *Love Your Block* is one of our City's longest running initiatives building valuable partnerships between community residents and government,” said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. “We want to continue investing in our community leaders and empowering them with the tools to help make our City more equitable, resilient and sustainable. I encourage any resident-led group to apply for a *Love Your Block* grant and take a step towards making a difference in your neighborhood.”

“NYC Service believes in the power of New Yorkers to help address local needs through volunteerism and community building,” said **NYC Chief Service Officer Paula Gavin**. “*Love Your Block* is an opportunity for the City to build relationships with its residents while encouraging civic engagement. We are so proud to offer *Love Your Block* as a means to inspire and empower New Yorkers to serve our City and each other.”

"*Love Your Block* gets New Yorkers out of their apartments and houses and into the streets to spruce up their neighborhoods," said **Peter Kostmayer, CEO of Citizens Committee for New York City**. "And it gets them to meet their neighbors and know them as well, which these days may be just as important."

In addition to a \$1,000 grant, recipients receive project planning assistance, volunteer management resources, as well as services from the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Sanitation, and the Department of Transportation. Services from these City agencies include vacant lot cleanup; graffiti removal; dead tree removal; tree stewardship workshops; resident surveys to plant new street trees; supplies for gardening projects; repair of and installation of street signs and street lights; traffic safety surveys; and installation of bicycle racks, speed bumps and more.

Resident-led volunteer groups across the five boroughs are encouraged to [apply for a Love Your Block Grant by November 6th](#). Visit [nyc.gov/loveyourblock](http://nyc.gov/loveyourblock) for more information.

Interested participants may also attend a *Love Your Block* Information Session on Monday, October 23rd from 6:00-7:30pm. Contact Shawn Whitehorn ([SWhitehorn@citizensnyc.org](mailto:SWhitehorn@citizensnyc.org) or 212-822-9563) for more information and to RSVP.

"The Department of Sanitation is pleased to support NYC Service and Citizens Committee as part of the 2018 *Love Your Block* Initiative," said **Department of Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia**. "Sanitation is proud to support this initiative and any civic organization that takes the time and effort to initiate projects that invest in the betterment of their neighborhoods."

"Volunteering to beautify your local neighborhood is one of the most direct ways New Yorkers can help improve our environment and create a more resilient, sustainable city," said **DEP Acting Commissioner Vincent Sapienza**. "We encourage neighborhood groups from all parts of the city to apply to be a part of the 2018 *Love Your Block* program."

"*Love Your Block* is about empowering New Yorkers to care for and protect our city's public spaces, including the thousands of trees that line our streets," said **NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP**. "NYC Parks is proud to be a part of this great initiative that strengthens communities while making our neighborhoods a better place to live."

"*Love Your Block* gives residents the opportunity to reclaim and beautify their neighborhoods, one block at a time," said **DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg**. "We are happy to partner once again with Citizens Committee and our sister agencies -- NYC Service, Sanitation, DEP, and Parks -- for this great initiative. Whether installing new signage, streetlights, or bike racks, DOT values the role community groups play as our partners in creating safer and more livable streets. We look forward to another year of *Love Your Block* -- and seeing all of the new beautification projects completed throughout the five boroughs."

"*Love Your Block* is an exciting way to support small-scale volunteer projects making large-scale impacts on the quality of life in their neighborhoods," said **Brooklyn Borough President Eric**

**Adams.** “I encourage groups across Brooklyn to apply for one of these grants and advance their efforts to make our communities safer places to raise healthy children and families.”

“It is so very encouraging to see the sense of community and civic engagement that *Love Your Block* promotes, especially at this particularly divisive time in our nation,” said **Council Member Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.** “It is programs like this that allow New York City to continue to stand as the shining example of the good we can achieve when we focus on our commonalities and the betterment of our communities for the benefit of all.”

“I encourage everyone who is part of a small organization, whether it’s your block association or just a group of active residents, to apply for a Citizens Committee grant,” said **Council Member Antonia Reynoso.** “They present a great opportunity to jumpstart a community project, as many great organizations and community gardens in my district have done with these grants in recent years.”

### **NYC Service**

NYC Service is a division of the Office of the Mayor which promotes volunteerism, engages New Yorkers in service, builds volunteer capacity and mobilizes the power of volunteers and national service members to impact New York City’s greatest needs. The vision is to inspire and empower all New Yorkers to serve their City and each other. For more information and to find an opportunity to [#ServeNYC](#), visit [www.nyc.gov/service](http://www.nyc.gov/service).

### **Citizens Committee for New York City**

Citizens Committee for New York City’s mission is simple: to help New Yorkers – especially those in low-income areas – come together and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Residents are uniquely situated to define and act on the issues affecting their communities. When provided with modest support, neighborhood and school groups can effectively mobilize community resources to improve quality of life. Citizens Committee for New York City supports these grassroots efforts by offering grants, skills-building workshops and further technical support in the form of project planning assistance and an equipment share library. In 2016, we provided 421 projects with \$1.8 million in grants and services, and our staff facilitated 30 workshops to over 500 social entrepreneurs. Since 1975, we have promoted the spirit of volunteerism, local engagement and social justice that drives our work. Visit us online at [www.citizensnyc.org](http://www.citizensnyc.org).

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