



2021 Community Contributions

Diann completed the Pender Thurston Community Education Foundation Fund grant and submitted it in December for \$5,000 to assist with the payment of the blight study and wages for extended hours for Diann for grant writing. This grant was awarded!

Diann worked with Andrea at NENEDD on the NIFA application. We have applied for \$250,000 as matching funds for the Rural Workforce Housing Grant offered by DED. All data was compiled and submitted to NIFA on December 28, 2020. These matching funds if awarded will be leveraged in the Department of Economic Development Workforce Housing Grant due in late January. This grant was awarded!

Diann assisted Andrea in the completion of the DED Nebraska Workforce Housing grant application. It was submitted on January 28th prior to the deadline. Awards will be announced in late April. If awarded, this grant will be for \$600,000 with matching funds coming from NIFA and Pender Community Development, Inc. to establish a \$1.2 million revolving loan fund to build work force houses in Pender. This grant was awarded!

The four remaining murals have been placed on the Pender Grain building going north out of town on highway nine. These five murals were partially paid for by the Tourism Improvement grant.

Diann worked with Jan at NENED and Mark at Penro on the sewer line road issue for the Village of Thurston. We explored many grant opportunities. At the March Board meeting - Thurston decided to have Penro do street maintenance and NOT apply for a grant. The grants were so large that the match at 25% was still significant. The street integrity was reviewed with a camera system and the damage was limited to a very small area – therefore, the grant application was not needed.

The Downtown Revitalization lighting program was awarded to Maise Electric. There was a pre-construction conference in March. There should be about \$40,000 in overage from lighting that can be reallocated to the façade portion of the grant.

April 15th we were notified that the Rural Workforce Housing Grant was awarded to Pender for \$600,000.

The Pender brochure was updated and available for distribution in time for the Alumni banquet. If anyone has a need there are many brochures available for use – contact Diann Ballard.

Phase Three of Façade Improvements was opened up in mid-March with applications and quotes due back to the City Office by April 30th. We had five Main Street businesses apply requesting over \$47,000. All applicants were fully funded. We still have funds remaining. As the projects complete Andrea at NENED and Diann will determine funding remaining and open a Phase four, likely this fall.

The DTR lighting program is completed, the walk through was completed with the City Engineer on June 1. Andrea is working with DED to complete the final invoices and reports for the lighting sector of this grant. Upon completion the additional unspent funds will be allocated to façade

improvements; sidewalks; and/or a pocket park. The pocket park would be east of the Behavioral Health Building on 4th and Main.