

	LiGHT Grant Application 2026	
	2026 LiGHT Grant Cover Form and Guidelines	

Name of individual, group or organization: Creative Arts Council of Wells County

Contact name(s): Prentis Moore

Address: 428 S. Oak St. Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone number: (260) 624-5222 Email Address: creativeartsCouncil@gmail

Name of the program as it would appear on the grant award: Women's Night Out:

A Chance to Breathe, Laugh, and Reconnect

Describe who the grant award will serve and approximate number affected: Women of Wells County

Single ladies, Working woman, Moms

Dollar amount requested: \$3000

Would the program be offered if only a *partial* grant from LiGHT is made? I could probably make it work

Summary paragraph of the grant award requested: Women spend so much of their time

➤ May be utilized for part of the presentation.

taking care of everyone else. They forget
their own time. They all deserve time to step away.

Complete all requested items below:

1) This Cover Form

2) Project Narrative, 1-5 pages typed, including:

- What need in the Community will this program address? Give evidence to substantiate your request. (i.e., data, letters of recommendation, etc.)
- What do you want to do?
- What is your timeline?
- What results do you expect?
- If partnering with other organizations, please list.
- Describe the program and tell how the funds from the grant will be used based on your budget
- Signature page: To include endorsement of the project or program by the requesting agency's Board of Directors. This page must include a signature of the Board president.

3) Detailed budget

Creative Arts Council of Wells County

428 South Oak Street, Bluffton, IN 46714

(260) 824-5222

www.wellscocreativearts.com

Executive Director: Prentis Moore

Board President: Ted Smith

Funding Assistance Request for:

Women's Night Out: A Chance to Breathe, Laugh, and Reconnect

Amount requested:

\$3000.00

August 18, 2026

The Need

Women spend so much of their time taking care of everyone else. They are mothers, daughters, wives, caregivers, employees, business owners, volunteers, and friends. Many women in our community are working full time, raising children, managing households, or doing all of these things at once. Even single women and women without children often carry demanding jobs, family responsibilities, and the everyday pressures of life.

What is often missing is simple...time to step away.

There are many programs in our community designed to meet important needs, but there are far fewer opportunities specifically designed to give women a chance to relax, have fun, build friendships, and enjoy an evening where they are not responsible for anyone but themselves. A woman should not have to wait for a special occasion, a birthday, or a vacation to have an opportunity to laugh with friends and take a break.

Our goal is to create an affordable, safe, and memorable experience for 20 to 25 women from the Bluffton area. The program will give women the opportunity to leave their normal routines behind for a few hours and enjoy an evening created just for them.

This request is based on a very simple community need: women need opportunities to connect, recharge, and have fun. When women have time to care for themselves and connect with others, they return to their families, workplaces, and communities with renewed energy and stronger relationships.

What We Want to Do

Creative Arts Council would like to organize a special Women's Night Out for approximately 20 to 25 women from Bluffton. Transportation will be provided by a small bus or trolley, so participants can leave from Bluffton together and enjoy the entire experience without worrying about driving, parking, or arranging transportation.

The group will travel to a Fort Wayne venue for approximately two to four hours. The evening will be designed to feel like a true getaway, even though it is close to home.

Participants will enjoy catered appetizers and desserts, along with a selection of light alcoholic beverages and nonalcoholic beverages. The focus will not be on drinking, but on creating a relaxed social atmosphere where women can sit down, talk, laugh, and enjoy being together.

The evening will include several activities so each woman can choose what sounds fun to her. Options may include:

- A relaxing massage
- A hands on craft workshop
- A guided paint experience
- Games and group activities
- Time to visit and enjoy food with other women
- A silent disco
- Karaoke

The intention is not to create another obligation or structured meeting. It is to create an experience where a single woman can come and meet new people, a working woman can forget about work for a few hours, and a mom can enjoy being known simply as herself instead of being responsible for everyone else.

We want women to walk away saying, "I really needed that."

Timeline

Planning will begin immediately upon notification of grant funding.

Month 1: Secure the Fort Wayne venue, transportation, catering, activity providers, and beverage arrangements. Begin registration and promotion throughout the Bluffton community.

Month 2: Finalize participant registration, confirm vendors and transportation, and purchase necessary supplies.

Month 3: Host the Women's Night Out and collect participant feedback.

Following Month: Review participation, feedback, and outcomes and provide the grantor with a summary of the program and its impact.

Expected Results

We expect 20 to 25 women to participate in the event.

Our primary goal is for participants to leave feeling refreshed, connected, and appreciated. We also expect the event to help women meet others in the community who they may not otherwise have an opportunity to know.

Participants will be asked to complete a short evaluation following the event. We will measure:

- Number of women participating
- Participant satisfaction
- Whether participants felt they had an opportunity to relax and enjoy themselves
- Whether participants made new connections or strengthened existing friendships
- Whether participants would participate in a similar community event in the future

We hope this event will also demonstrate that community programs do not always have to focus on solving a crisis. Sometimes supporting a community means creating opportunities for people to laugh, connect, recharge, and feel valued.

Community Partnerships

We anticipate partnering with local organizations, businesses, and individuals to make the event possible. Potential partners may include:

- A Fort Wayne venue
- A local transportation company providing the bus or trolley
- A local caterer
- Massage and wellness providers
- Craft or art instructors
- Local businesses willing to donate supplies, services, or additional prizes

We will actively seek in kind donations and sponsorships to stretch the grant dollars as far as possible.

Use of Grant Funds

We are requesting **\$3,000** to help cover the costs of transportation, venue rental, food and beverages, activities, entertainment, and supplies for the Women's Night Out.

Preliminary Budget:

Expense	Estimated Cost
Bus or trolley transportation from Bluffton to Fort Wayne and return	\$650
Venue rental	\$500
Catered appetizers and desserts	\$500
Light alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages	\$300
Craft, painting, game, and activity supplies	\$250
Massage/Activity providers	\$400

specifically to make participation affordable and allow the greatest possible number of women to attend.

Without grant support, the cost of transportation, food, venue rental, and activities would likely require a participation fee that could prevent some women from attending. Grant funding allows us to keep the event affordable and inclusive.

Conclusion

This project is about more than an evening out. It is about recognizing the women in our community and reminding them that they deserve time for themselves too.

For a mom, it can mean a few hours without hearing “Mom.”

For a working woman, it can mean an evening without thinking about tomorrow’s to do list.

For a single woman, it can be an opportunity to meet people, make friends, and enjoy an evening without feeling like she has to have a reason to celebrate.

For every woman, it can simply be a chance to laugh, relax, try something new, and enjoy the company of other women.

We believe our community is stronger when the women in it feel connected and supported. We are asking for \$3,000 to make this experience possible for 20 to 25 women from Bluffton. With the support of this grant, we can create an evening that women will remember long after the bus brings them home.

Silent disco or karaoke entertainment	\$300
Miscellaneous event expenses	\$100
Estimated Total	\$3,000

We will seek donations and discounted services to reduce the overall cost and will adjust individual expenses based on the final venue and vendor quotes. Grant funds will be used

Board of Directors Endorsement

The Board of Directors of **Creative Arts Council of Wells County** has reviewed and supports the proposed Women's Night Out project and authorizes the organization to seek grant funding in the amount of \$2,500 to \$3,000 to support this program.

The Board recognizes the value of creating opportunities for women in our community to connect, recharge, and participate in positive social and recreational activities.

Board President: TED K SMITH

Printed Name: TED K SMITH

Signature: Ted K Smith

Date: AUG. 24, 2026

Executive Director/Authorized Representative: Rt D. Mh

Date: 8/24/20