



## REQUEST FOR GRAND RAPIDS EDA ACTION

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**AGENDA DATE:** August 10, 2023

**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:** Consider authorizing a grant request to the Blandin Foundation for Downtown Organization planning and establishment.

**PREPARED BY:** Rob Mattei, Executive Director

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The past seventeen years since the implementation of the 2006 Downtown Plan have seen much accomplished toward establishing an active and vibrant downtown. GREDA's recent completion of a public participation driven update to the Downtown Plan is intended to build upon that success into the future.

As the public engagement with stakeholders during the recently completed update to the Plan revealed, Grand Rapids currently lacks the organizational capacity to support a more vibrant downtown.

To create that capacity, the attached request to the Blandin Foundation outlines a proposed project that will provide an opportunity for our community to learn about the capabilities and effectiveness of downtown organizations in peer markets and use that information to guide the creation of an organization to support downtown Grand Rapids. With that context, the proposed consultant, Janna King of Economic Development Services will guide stakeholders to create the appropriate organizational structure, leadership, goals, budget, and funding for a 3-to-5-year period.

The proposed budget for the project, including \$55,000 of funding requested from the Blandin Foundation is as follows:

#### **Project Budget**

<b>Revenue:</b>	
<i>Blandin Foundation</i>	\$55,000
<i>IRRR Development Partnership (not secured)</i>	15,000
<i>GREDA</i>	15,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>	
<i>Consultant Fees</i>	<i>\$62,550</i>
<i>Tour (transportation, food, and lodging)</i>	<i>18,200</i>
<i>GREDA (in-kind)</i>	<i>4,250</i>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>

A more detailed outline of the proposed project is detailed in the attached application.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**REQUIRED ACTION:** Approve a motion authorizing a grant request to the Blandin Foundation for Downtown Organization planning and establishment.