



Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association

January 14, 2026, at 12 p.m., In-person at City Hall-
McCloskey Conference Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84576005312?pwd=SERpaXRLenV0U0J6dXlCNlVGVmNPUT09>

Meeting ID: 845 7600 5312

Passcode: 953182

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- **Roll Call**
 - Approval of Minutes - December 2025
- **Director’s Report**
- **New Business - Presentation**
 - CDFI & Allies for Community Business
John Zody and Brad McConnell, CEO of A4CB
- **General discussion**
- **Adjournment**

Name	Appointed By	Term
Heather Robinson, Chair	Mayor	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2028
Felisa Spinelli, Vice Chair	Common Council	2/1/2023 - 1/31/2027
Mary Morgan, Secretary	Common Council	2/1/2022 - 1/31/2026
Kate Rosenberger	Common Council	2/1/2025 - 1/31/2029
Virginia Githiri	Mayor	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2028
Jane Kupersmith	Mayor	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2028
Philip Amerson	Mayor	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2028
Michael Hover	Mayor	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2028
Brad Wisler	Mayor	2/1/2024 - 1/31/2028

Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association

Board Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2025 | 12:05 p.m. | Hooker Conference Room

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the **Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association (BUEA)** Board was called to order at **12:05 p.m.**

2. Roll Call and Quorum

Board Members Present:

- Brad Wisler
- Mary Morgan
- Heather Robinson
- Michael Hover
- Jane Kupersmith
- Virginia Githiri
- Felisa Spinelli (Virtual)

Staff Present:

- De de la Rosa, Economic & Sustainable Development (ESD)
- Holly Warren, Economic & Sustainable Development (ESD)
- Aleks Pratt, City Assistant Attorney

A quorum was established.

3. Approval of November 2025 Minutes

Motion: (Morgan) Approve the November 2025 BUEA Board Meeting Minutes.

Second: (Kupersmith) Received.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

4. Unfinished Business

Historic Facade Grant – First Christian Church

Amount: \$40,000

Staff presented a Historic Facade Grant request for masonry work at First Christian Church. Although the property is located just outside the BUEA boundary, the request was evaluated using Board-established criteria for projects outside the zone, including benefit to zone residents and the surrounding physical environment.

Motion: (Morgan) Approve the Historic Facade Grant for First Christian Church in the amount of **\$40,000**.

Second: (Hover) Received.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

5. New Business

2025 Arts Grants – Remaining Allocations

Staff presented recommendations for the remaining 2025 Arts Grants administered through the Bloomington Arts Commission:

- Prior 2025 allocation: **\$27,983**
- Proposed additional allocation: **\$23,500**
- Subtotal: **\$51,483**
- Additional **\$4,000** payment to the Lotus Festival for a previously approved but unpaid 2024 operations grant (grant period still active)

Total proposed allocation: \$55,483

Motion: (Githiri) Approve the Arts Grants allocations totaling **\$55,483**, as presented.

Second: (Kupersmith) Received.

Roll Call Vote:

- Felisa Spinelli — Yes
- Brad Wisler — Yes
- Mary Morgan — Yes
- Heather Robinson — Yes
- Michael Hover — Yes
- Jane Kupersmith — Yes
- Virginia Githiri — Yes

Result: Motion carried.

6. 2026 Budget

Staff presented the proposed **2026 BUEA Budget**, including updated financial statements through November 2025.

Summary:

- **2025 income:** approximately **\$834,000**
- **Projected 2026 income:** approximately **\$519,000**
- **Projected 2026 expenditures:** approximately **\$697,000**, resulting in a planned deficit
- **Cash reserves:** approximately **\$3.4–\$3.5 million**

The Board reviewed administrative costs, program allocations, and a proposed **\$25,000 pilot for an administrative consultant**.

Facade Grant Budget Adjustment

Because the **\$40,000 First Christian Church facade grant** approved earlier in the meeting will be expended in 2026, the Board approved increasing the **Facade Grant** line item by **\$40,000** to reflect known obligations.

Rapid Response Fund Loan Conversion

Staff reviewed a proposed **\$100,000** allocation to support the conversion of outstanding Rapid Response Fund loan principal.

7. Action: Approval of 2026 Budget

Motion: (Hover) Approve the **2026 BUEA Budget**, including the additional **\$40,000** to the Facade Grant line item, as presented.

Second: (Githiri) Received.

Roll Call Vote:

- Felisa Spinelli — Yes
- Brad Wisler — Yes
- Mary Morgan — Yes
- Heather Robinson — Yes
- Michael Hover — Yes
- Virginia Githiri — Yes

Result: Motion carried.

8. 2026 Draft Calendar

Staff presented a draft 2026 calendar and requested Board feedback. An updated draft will be circulated prior to the January meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately **1:17 p.m.**

Director's report

- General updates:

- **In Progress** - Loan Conversion Program
 - Five applicants at this time. Staff is reviewing documents and working on redactions to submit to review committee
- **In Progress** - a living calendar for BUEA board (will be read only). Would the board prefer a spreadsheet or google calendar to add to personal calendars?
- **In Progress** - admin consultant RFP for board review in February
- **In Progress** - EZID Reminders& Invoices to be sent in March
- Meeting with Jennifer Crossley this week to refamiliarize myself with the board appointment process. If board members have recommendations, please feel free to share may contact to prospective applicant for more information. Apply at <https://bloomington.in.gov/onboard/seats/vacancies>
- **In Progress** - Downtown Action Plan draft. Once the final version is available. I will give a presentation to the BUEA. Hoping for board support and participation!
- Event at the Mill - Business After You: Succession Planning Made Real
 - Discussion about Succession planning and entrepreneurship through acquisition.
 - Panel - Sue Aquila, Pat East, Isaiah Merriman
 - Moderator - Me
 - Darn Good Soup is providing soup samples/tasting.

Resources for Bloomington Businesses

Our vision is that entrepreneurs from any background can start and grow businesses that create generational wealth for their families and communities.

Our mission is to provide the capital, coaching, and connections entrepreneurs need to grow great businesses that create jobs and wealth in their communities.



Capital

Loans

Allies for Community Business offers loans between \$500 and \$500,000 to early, emerging, and established businesses at fair prices.

Grants

We frequently manage grant programs with partners who share our mission to provide funds to business owners who will put those dollars to good use in their communities.



Coaching

1:1 Coaching

Allies for Community Business provides free 1:1 coaching to anyone who wants to start or grow their business.

Group Coaching

We provide frequent business classes online, and run cohort programs such as the Neighborhood Entrepreneurship Lab.



Connections

Licensing

Allies for Community Business can help you secure the business license you need to operate legally in the City of Chicago.

Larger Contracts

We can help you secure your Women-owned Business Enterprise (WBE) or Minority-owned Business Enterprise (MBE) certification and can then help you secure contracts from our institutional partners.



Learn more at a4cb.org

info@a4cb.org | (312)-275-3000 | 135 N Kedzie Ave, Chicago, IL 60612



Recursos para negocios en Bloomington

Nuestra visión es que los emprendedores de cualquier origen pueden iniciar y desarrollar empresas que generen riqueza para sus familias y comunidades.

Nuestra misión es proporcionar el capital, la asesoría y las conexiones que los emprendedores necesitan para hacer crecer gran empresas que crean trabajos y riqueza en sus comunidades.



Capital

Préstamos

Allies for Community Business ofrece préstamos entre \$500 y \$500,000 para empresas iniciales, emergentes y establecidas a precios justos.

Subvenciones

Frecuentemente, A4CB administra programas de subvenciones con socios que comparten nuestra misión de proporcionar fondos a propietarios de empresas que darán un buen uso a ese dinero en sus comunidades.



Asesoría

Asesoría personal

Allies for Community Business ofrece asesoría personal gratuita a cualquier persona que desee iniciar o hacer crecer su empresa.

Asesoría grupal

A4CB ofrece clases de negocios frecuentes en línea, e implementa programas de cohortes como Neighborhood Entrepreneurship Lab.



Conexiones

Licencias

Allies for Community Business podemos ayudarle a obtener la licencia comercial que necesita para operar legalmente en la ciudad de Chicago.

Contratos Grandes

A4CB puede ayudarle a asegurar su certificación de Empresa Comercial Propiedad de Mujeres o Empresa Comercial Propiedad de Minorías y luego puede ayudarle a asegurar contratos de nuestros socios institucionales.