



FEDERATION OF  
CALGARY COMMUNITIES

# EXPLORING COMMUNITIES: COMMUNITY COLLABS

*Exploring Communities* is a community program we offer in collaboration with an Urban Studies class from the University of Calgary.



## HOW DOES EXPLORING COMMUNITIES WORK?

- Focusing on placemaking, students work with four communities to create a unique project through identifying demographics, needs, and amenities unique to each community.



## WHAT IS PLACEMAKING?

- Placemaking is the process of turning unused spaces into places, and inspiring a connection between your residents and the community.



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Your organization will:

- Learn about the needs and opportunities in your community.
- Learn new virtual ways to engage residents.
- Receive a project plan that you can easily implement.
- Engage your residents!



## WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

- Attend pitch night.
- Support a group of students who will engage your residents.
- Provide students with insight, ideas, and feedback on their projects.
- Carry out the project.



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## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

- Interested communities must submit an application, [available on our website](#).



## WHAT IS PITCH NIGHT?

- After the students dream up their project idea, they will 'pitch' their idea to an audience at a virtual event.
- Winning communities will be awarded \$500 or \$1,000 depending on the audience's decision.
- Note: bring lots of your members to win!



## WHAT ARE DEADLINES AND TIMELINES?

- The application deadline is December 4, 2020.
- Students will work with your community from January-April 2021.
- The project will take place from April to August.
- See "What to Expect" for the complete timeline.

*Need more Information?*

We are always happy to help. Send us an email at [planner1@calgarycommunities.com](mailto:planner1@calgarycommunities.com).





## WHAT TO EXPECT:

### NOVEMBER

The *Exploring Communities* application is due on **December 4, 2020**.

### DECEMBER

The selection committee selects four community organizations to participate.

### JANUARY

Students begin class and learn about your organization, engagement, and the project. The Federation hosts an info session with all organization representatives. (1 hour)

### FEBRUARY

**Session 1:** 30 minutes of board meeting time required. The students meet and engage with the board on values and interests. The students facilitate engagement to learn more about the community. They then engage the broader community.

### MARCH

**Session 2:** 30 minutes of board meeting time required. The students present their project idea and recommendation. The board offers feedback on the project.

The students will complete their final report and share with the instructor and the Federation. This will be an opportunity to prepare for Pitch Night.

### APRIL

**Pitch Night:** Representative members from each association attend the event in early April (2 hours). Students pitch their project ideas to a the audience, who awards \$1000 to first place winner and \$500 to the second place winner.

### BEYOND APRIL

Commitment to implement the project as funded on a reimbursement basis.



## STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENT:

It is important for your organization, the Federation, and the University instructor to be committed to *Exploring Communities* so that the program is carried out successfully. This means that all stakeholders ensure that they can uphold the meeting requirements and commit to open communication.

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### YOUR ORGANIZATION

- Endorses the program and provides support during planning (ex. communications and logistical help).
- Commits to timely communication with the students and the Federation.
- Meets with the Federation to discuss logistics and the purpose of the program.
- Commits to implement the project as funded.

### THE FEDERATION

- Facilitates the connections.
- Commits to timely communication with the other stakeholders.
- Offers funding to “winners”

### THE UNIVERSITY

- Coordinate student projects that incorporate community information.
- The Instructor commits to timely communication with the other stakeholders.

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Projects are encouraged to take place soon after the completion of the winter 2021 semester and must be completed by August 31, 2021.

Questions or comments? We are always happy to help.  
Contact **Toun** at [planner1@calgarycommunities.com](mailto:planner1@calgarycommunities.com)