

LIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM 2017

PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN THIRD ROUND

Záryby Community Center

Záryby: Záryby Village Commons

Záryby is a picturesque municipality on the Elbe River, 30 km from the outskirts of Prague. Its lovely village commons are not used by local residents and the Záryby Community Center seeks to turn it into a vibrant village center. The idea is to develop a club café on the site that would act as a public, open place for people to meet, play and create, with creative workshops and festive community and cultural events. The vibrant new center is intended as a vehicle for bringing together young and old, children and adults, native residents and newcomers.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 57,358.

TJ Sokol Vítovice

Rousínov – District of Vítovice: Sokolák Public Space

“Sokolák” was originally a football tennis field in the town of Vítovice. It is the only public space where residents can gather, which makes it an important part of the community. It has a snack bar, benches, a campfire circle and the field. Unfortunately, the site is in very poor condition and needs to be renovated. Through this project, the local association will reinforce the edges of the playing field, put in new benches, smooth out the terrain and build a floor in the snack bar.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 88,750.

Irena Hellerová

Koštice nad Ohří: Grandma’s Closet

This project is about sharing local history. An exhibit of comparative historical and contemporary photos of various buildings and their inhabitants will be held, and residents will put on a fashion show of historical clothing in a local mill during the annual town festival. Residents will be involved in gathering old photos and clothing and sharing family stories. The project aims to strengthen ties between residents of all generations and give them a chance to learn about their local history.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 40,000.

Our Pitkovice

Prague, Pitkovice: Let’s Meet in the Park

The project “Let’s Meet in the Park” was developed in response to the need to create a community gathering place in the municipality of Pitkovice, situated on the southeast outskirts of Prague. The goal is to weave local residents into a community where people know each other, respect each other and care about their community and the needs of others. The project objective is to improve a public space in the town’s centrally located park and make it into a place where all residents can relax and meet. The project team plans on holding community meetings where local residents will provide input on park improvement ideas with help from design practitioners and local politicians.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 100,000.

Petrklíč

Bzenec: Forest Workshops and a Community Garden

This project aims to create a multi-generational public space for a broad spectrum of local residents. The project team would like to develop a community garden and work together to expand residents' skill sets and introduce artistic workshops to foster a creative, engaged atmosphere in the community. Over the long-term the team, which currently works with children, would like to expand its target group to include senior citizens and develop an open community focused on environmental issues and alternative cultural events.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 48,500.

Ski klub Hranice

Potštát: The Way out of Town

This project seeks to support a local community of young people that wants to organize social events for the broad public, including people of all ages and social groups. The group of young people want to bring in new members and develop a year-long calendar of events to give residents opportunities to gather as a community and strengthen their ties to one another.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 70,000.

Kateřina Trčková

Most: My City, My Place

"My City, My Place" is a project about finding the potential of city districts, sparking residents' interest in their own neighborhoods and giving people reasons to identify more strongly with the town itself. The project team tries to motivate residents to take initiative themselves.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 30,000.

Lucie Asenová

Prague, Nové město: "Nové město" Neighborhood in a Flowerbox

The goal of this project is to improve relations between people in the Nové město neighborhood in Prague 2 through urban gardening. The group's vision is to create a community with a spirit of local engagement by holding community events and giving people opportunities to share their own experiences and skills. The project will focus on urban gardening in various settings such as the inner courtyards of high rise apartment blocks, front yards, balconies, window sills and new flowerbox mini-gardens in public spaces. The group will encourage people to work, rest and cultivate gardens together to make the neighborhood a nicer place to live.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 90,000.

Starokolín Beautification Society

Starý Kolín: Looking for Masaryk. Stories of the Bust of Masaryk in Starý Kolín

By acting as “detectives” searching for the lost bust of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, which was created shortly after his death in 1937, was never installed in any public place and was last seen in 1968, this project seeks to awaken interest in community affairs in line with the 2018 commemoration of the centennial of the founding of Czechoslovakia. The project will include intergenerational gatherings to share experiences and memories, storytelling, presentations by professionals, an excursion to the Masaryk monument, readings from the town chronicle and a school project and focuses on the process rather than the result. Whether the bust is actually found and restored and displayed publicly or whether a commemorative plaque will be installed instead is not the most significant aspect of the project – the most important element is the shared experience of remembering, gathering and sharing.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 65,000.

Czech Union of Nature Preservationists, Alter meles Chapter

Útvina (district of the town of Přílezy): Přílezy: Eliminating Lethargy in the Sudetenland

This project will launch a cemetery renovation effort in order to improve relations among residents and overcome prevalent citizen passivity in regard to community affairs. The town is in the former Sudetenland, which experienced massive migration of residents after WWII and resettlement by people from other parts of then Czechoslovakia. As a result, few current residents have roots in the area or feel a bond to the town’s historical values. The project aims to involve residents as volunteers in the renovation of the old German cemetery and church and set the groundwork for local integration through a series of cultural events and community discussions about the town’s future.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 100,000.

SHM Klub Neveklov, z.s.

Neveklov: Will There Be a Community Center in Neveklov?

The objective of this project is to familiarize people in Neveklov and the surrounding villages with a proposal to remodel a building at the local parsonage into a community center. The project team aims to first thoroughly identify the needs and interests of the project target groups (primarily children, youth and senior citizens). The second step will be to hold a community planning meeting involving residents, town leadership, local institutions and associations to verify local interest in the project and discuss potential modes of operation, functions, project sustainability, etc. The long-term goal is to introduce new ideas to the local community, broaden the base of engaged citizenry and develop cross-sector partnerships.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 90,000.

"Let's Save Vrbice"

Vrbice u Hořoviček: Renovation of the Church of Ascension of the Holy Cross in Vrbice into a Community Center, Phase II

This church renovation project aims to prevent further dilapidation of this cultural monument, preserve it for future generations and above all promote dialogue among individuals, neighbors, groups, associations, organizations and businesses in the town of Vrbice. The goals are to strengthen relations, work together to develop a sense of community in the small town, address problems and make a difference on a local level.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 80,000.

Renáta Molová

Prague: Starobohnice Calendar

Bohnice is the name of a hospital and a housing estate in Prague – but it is more than that. Old Bohnice is a village with cultural heritage preservation status that has retained its unique character over the years. But many of the Bohnice’s residents moved from other places and have little awareness of the area’s history. The goal of the project is to trigger residents’ interest in their community and its history by sharing the rich local history with them, thus encouraging them to develop a tie to their community. The project will entail gathering old photographs of Bohnice and the surrounding area, meeting with long-time residents and producing a calendar of the old photos.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 65,000.

School Institute

Hranice: Skalní Community Center

The Skalní Community Center is about creating a place where neighbors can meet, create and learn regardless of their age (0-100+). The project team has at its disposal a building in the center of the town with enough space, disabled access, and a large garden. In the first phase of the project, the team seeks to develop an informal, free art workshop where neighborhood skill sharing events will be held. Gradually, as the community forms, a permaculture garden of edible plants will be developed and nurtured by volunteers. The Skalní Community Center, which will be open daily and accessible to everyone, will also give residents a chance to help plan events themselves.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 100,000.

Library of Things

Prague 1: LOT for Hybernska Street and the Surrounding Area

Library of Things (“LOT”) is a place in the center of Prague that makes a wide variety of useful tools and objects – like backpacks, drills, toolboxes, guitars, tents, etc. - available to the public. The idea is to provide access to things people don’t use very often, which can be rented rather than owned. LOT wants to be more than just a rental shop, though – it seeks to develop a community center for customers, a place where they will want to spend time and will have opportunities to learn new things and meet new people. To date LOT has held 4 workshops which was attended by students and young people (not from the neighborhood). LOT seeks to use this grant to focus on the neighborhood community and attract local residents. A new set of workshops will offer them DIY (Do-it-yourself) project learning and give them opportunities to get to know each other.

We supported the project with a grant of CZK 37,500.