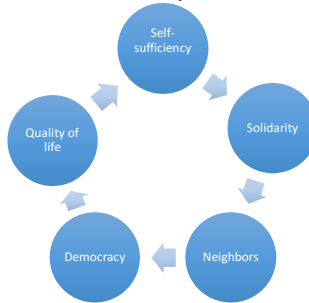
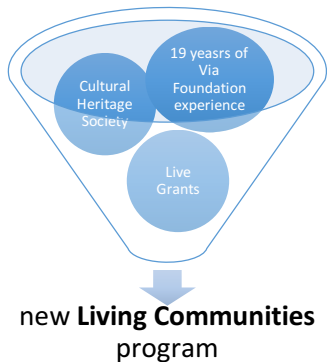


LIVING COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Via Foundation’s Living Communities program supports people who are engaging their neighbors in improving their communities together. By working to make their hometowns to work on and strengthen their resilience, shared identity and commitment to democratic values.



The “Living Communities “program builds on Via Foundation’s 20 years of experience working with people and non-profit organizations in the Czech Republic and continues our mission of **“building the future, one community at a time.”**



Via awards grants to project teams throughout the Czech Republic. Alongside grants, we will provide participants with workshops focusing on community engagement techniques and consultations with mentors who are experts in the field of community development. We have found that combining small grants with learning and mentoring make project impacts more lasting because project leaders take what they learn home and share it with others.

WHO IS THE “LIVING COMMUNITIES” PROGRAM INTENDED FOR?

This program is intended for people who:

- Have an interesting idea for improving the quality of life in their communities,
- Want to engage their neighbors in a useful community project.

Groups of at least three people or small non-profit associations run by volunteers are eligible to apply for program support.

HOW DOES THE “LIVING COMMUNITIES” PROGRAM WORK AND WHAT IS ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT?

Through the “Living Communities” program, Via Foundation supports a diverse range of projects in Czech communities that have the potential to initiate change and give people opportunities to work collaboratively for the betterment of their community (e.g. establishing a community center, holding a neighborhood celebration or improving a local park). We encourage and support program participants to use the assets in their own community, engage neighbors as volunteers, initiate a dialogue with other local partners such as the local government, associations, etc.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT

- Community events on streets and public squares, street festivals, guided walks and picnics,
- Neighborhood gatherings, community workshops and theatre performances,
- Volunteer-run cultural events,
- Community centers, gardens and parks,
- Renovation of neglected/unused/abandoned sites,
- Restoration of monuments and traditions, mapping local history and seniors’ memories,
- Public discussion forums, community planning and community vision processes,
- Renovation of the landscape, trails, wells and tree planting.

WHAT DOES OUR SUPPORT INCLUDE?



Grants + fundraising incentive grants + consultations + educational workshops + mentoring + networking = community improvement projects

We will award small grants of \$1,380 to \$4,600 to projects. We will also provide project teams with comprehensive and individualized non-financial assistance including:

- Consultations about project ideas and throughout implementation (with fundraising, community engagement specialists, etc.),
- Matching grants for local fundraising proceeds up to \$800
- Workshops and educational opportunities (on topics such as mapping community needs, community engagement, fundraising, etc.)
- Mentoring (by former community project leaders),
- Facilitation of interaction with other community leaders (meetings, helping organizations form regional networks).

HOW MUCH DOES THE PROGRAM COST?

Budget for 2018: \$200,000

LIVING COMMUNITIES SUPPORTS PROJECTS LIKE...

Cultural center in the Zauhlovačka Tower



This 100-year old tower in Vratislavice was finally opened to the public on June 12 after a local association called AvantgArt and many volunteers spent countless hours cleaning and restoring the cultural monument. Their vision is to set up a cultural center in the historic tower and host concerts, lectures and other community events. Via Foundation supported them with a grant

Art deco swimming pool building in Jablonec nad Nisou



Recy-flea market, the brainchild of students in Jablonec nad Nisou, is one of a series of community events held in this art deco swimming pool building, which has fallen into disrepair from 20 years of neglect. The students' goal is to spark interest in the faded but glorious building, build a local base of supporters and find an investor to help fund renovation of its exquisite interior. They are also broadening the spectrum of cultural venues in the town and bringing people together as a community.