



Neighbourhood Connections Kickstart Fund



Small ideas can make a big difference.

This recipe book shares simple examples of community projects you can run with a microgrant.

Each “recipe” includes:

What the idea is

What you need

How to do it

Why it matters

RECIPES

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Community Gathering
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RECIPE 1

Community Gathering in the Park

What it is:

A relaxed get-together in a local park to meet neighbours and build connections.

What you need:

- » Picnic blankets or chairs
- » Simple food (shared or funded)
- » Games (e.g. frisbee, cards, chalk)
- » Flyers or social media invite

How to do it:

1. Pick a local park and date
2. Invite neighbours (flyers, word of mouth, Facebook groups)
3. Set up a welcoming space
4. Encourage people to bring something or just come along
5. Include simple activities to break the ice

Why it matters:

- » Helps neighbours meet each other
- » Strengthens local relationships
- » Creates a welcoming, inclusive space

Great for:

First-time applicants, low-cost ideas

Typical budget: \$50 – \$300



What it is:

A small, free book exchange box where people can take or leave books.

What you need:

- » A weatherproof box or repurposed cabinet
- » Books (donations)
- » Basic tools/materials
- » Permission if needed

How to do it:

1. Choose a visible, safe location
2. Build or install the library
3. Ask locals to donate books
4. Promote the library in your neighbourhood
5. Builds community ownership

Why it matters:

- » Encourages sharing and learning
- » Creates a local meeting point
- » Creates a welcoming, inclusive space

Great for:

Ongoing impact

Typical budget: \$150 – \$800

RECIPE 2

Neighbourhood Street Library





RECIPE 3

Community Garden or Planter Boxes

What it is:

Creating a shared space with plants, herbs, or flowers.

What you need:

- » Planter boxes or garden beds
- » Soil and plants
- » Basic tools
- » Volunteers

How to do it:

1. Identify a suitable space
2. Gather a small group to help
3. Build or install planters
4. Plant together as a group activity
5. Share responsibility for upkeep

Why it matters:

- » Improves local spaces
- » Encourages collaboration
- » Builds pride in place

Great for:

Placemaking

Typical budget: \$200 – \$1,500



What it is:

A creative activity in a public space (e.g. chalk art, murals, temporary installations).

What you need:

- » Chalk, art materials
- » A safe, public area
- » Volunteers or participants

How to do it:

1. Choose a space (paths, parks, community areas)
2. Promote the activity
3. Set up a start point and invite participation
4. Encourage creativity and interaction
5. Take photos and share outcomes

Why it matters:

- » Activates public space
- » Encourages creativity
- » Draws people together

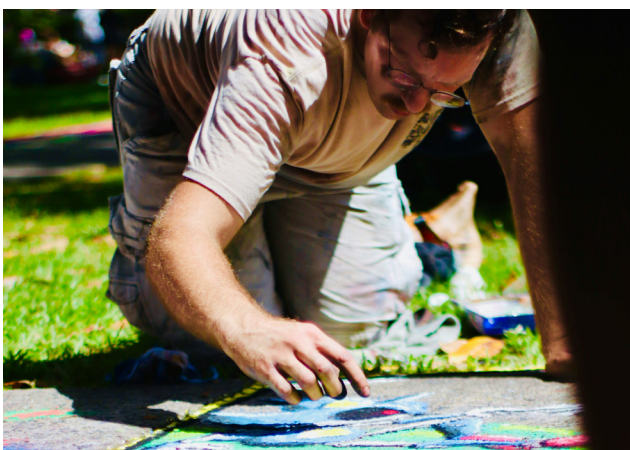
Great for:

Quick, fun engagement

Typical budget: \$50 – \$300

RECIPE 4

Chalk Art Trail or Creative Pop-Up





RECIPE 5

Community Morning Tea or Cultural Gathering

What it is:

A small event where people come together over food to connect and share.

What you need:

- » Tea, coffee, snacks or cultural dishes
- » Tables/chairs (if needed)
- » Invitations

How to do it:

1. Choose a location (hall, park, home space)
2. Invite your community
3. Encourage people to bring food or stories
4. Create a warm, welcoming environment
5. Facilitate introductions or conversations

Why it matters:

- » Builds inclusion and belonging
- » Celebrates diversity
- » Encourages conversation

Great for:

Inclusive community building

Typical budget: \$100 – \$500



What it is:

A local effort to clean up streets, parks, or shared spaces.

What you need:

- » Gloves, bags, basic equipment
- » Volunteers
- » Waste disposal plan

How to do it:

1. Pick a location
2. Promote the clean-up
3. Provide materials and basic safety info
4. Work together as a group
5. Celebrate with a small gathering afterward

Why it matters:

- » Improves local environment
- » Builds teamwork
- » Encourages community pride

Great for:

Visible impact

Typical budget: \$50 – \$300

RECIPE 6

Neighbourhood Clean-Up Day





RECIPE 7

Games in the Park

What it is:

A casual outdoor games event for all ages.

What you need:

- » Lawn games (giant Jenga, soccer ball, etc.)
- » Open space
- » Simple promotion

How to do it:

1. Choose a time and place
2. Bring games or equipment
3. Invite community members
4. Encourage participation
5. Keep it relaxed and informal

Why it matters:

- » Encourages active participation
- » Easy for people to join
- » Builds connections across ages

Great for:

Family-friendly engagement

Typical budget: \$50 – \$200



What it is:

A small workshop where people share skills (e.g. knitting, cooking, repair skills).

What you need:

- » Materials or equipment
- » A space
- » A volunteer facilitator

How to do it:

1. Identify a skill to share
2. Invite a facilitator (can be a community member)
3. Promote the session
4. Provide materials
5. Encourage participation and conversation

Why it matters:

- » Builds confidence and skills
- » Encourages knowledge sharing
- » Strengthens relationships

Great for:

Capacity building

Typical budget: \$100 – \$600

RECIPE 8

Skill-Share or Craft Session





RECIPE 9

Pop-Up Seating or Gathering Space

What it is:

Temporary seating or small installations to encourage people to stop and connect.

What you need:

- » Benches, chairs, pallets, or crates
- » Decorations (optional)
- » Safe public space

How to do it:

1. Identify an underused space
2. Set up simple seating
3. Invite people to use the space
4. Add small activities (plants, books, games)
5. Observe and gather feedback

Why it matters:

- » Activates underused areas
- » Encourages spontaneous connection
- » Makes spaces more welcoming

Great for:
Placemaking

Typical budget: \$100 – \$1,000

Tips for Success

- » Keep it simple and achievable
- » Focus on bringing people together
- » Start small – you don't need a big plan
- » Ask for help if you need it
- » Make it welcoming and inclusive

These ideas reflect the program's goal to support low-cost, community-led activities that build connection and activate spaces.

"You don't need to be an expert to make a difference. If you have a simple idea that brings people together, we'd love to support you".