Hughes Investments Elevate Upstate
Community Vibrancy Grants

Ten at the Top

Nonprofit that promotes collaboration in the ten county Upstate to positively impact quality of life and economic vitality.

Five Driver Areas
Community Vibrancy, Economic & Entrepreneurial Vitality, Human Potential, Natural Beauty & Resources, and Sustainable Growth
Grant History & Background

In partnership with an urban policy & planning class at USC Upstate, Ten at the Top’s Community Vibrancy Task Force created the Great Ideas for Community Vibrancy booklet to inspire similar projects in the Upstate.

Community Vibrancy Workshops featuring speakers from across the United States

Phil Hughes served as a student mentor
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- 2 grants awarded annually
- 24 grants have been awarded to date
- The grant program began in 2013
- Each grant is for up to $5,000
- $80,000 has been awarded in total
The grants are intended to fund projects that are:
Projects should be publically accessible and easily visible.
Projects should be a new to the community. Grants are not intended to support or grow existing efforts.
Impactful

Projects should address a community need, have a positive impact on community vibrancy, and help create a sense of place.
Sustainable

Projects should permanent and/or renewable.
Interactive

Projects should be engaging.
Beautiful

Projects should be enticing and exciting.
Implementable

Winners of the grants have twelve (12) months to implement the project.

A six month extension, creating an 18 month implementation window, can be granted at the judging panel’s discretion if deemed necessary.
Replicable

Could this project be duplicated by another community?
FUN!

Projects should be engaging and inspire excitement within the community.
Examples of Grant Recipients
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Applicant Eligibility

Must be located and do work within the 10 county Upstate
(Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, & Union Counties)

- Neighborhood associations
- Civic & community organizations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Local governments

Past grant winners ARE eligible to apply for future grants, but the project must be new and different than one previously funded.
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- **JUNE 1st**
  Grant Applications Live on Ten at the Top Website

- **AUG 1st**
  Completed Grant Interest Forms Due

- **SEPT 16th**
  Completed Grant Applicants Due

- **NOV 20th**
  Five Finalists Present at Celebrating Successes Forum
Initial Interest Forms

Requested from those considering applying for the grant

Non-binding
Those who submit an interest form are not required to submit an application
Changes to the project can be made on the actual application

Those who do NOT submit an interest form ARE still eligible to apply for the grant.
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Applications and Interest Forms are available on the Ten at the Top website:

www.tenatthetop.org/elevate-upstate-grants
Application Supporting Documents

Project timeline & task list

Letters of support from partners

Brief bios of those who will oversee the project

Project budget
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Judging Panel

Phil Hughes
President, Hughes Investments &
Founder of the Elevate Upstate Grants

Ingo Angermeier
Ten at the Top Board Member

Terence Roberts
Mayor, City of Anderson &
Ten at the Top Board Member
Phil Hughes
President, Hughes Investments
Founder of the Elevate Upstate Grants
Past Grant Recipients
Panel Discussion
The Ninety Six Mill Village Association (MVNA), in collaboration with the Town of Ninety Six and local residents, sought to build a sense of pride in the community by offering a series of free outdoor events. Assistance was asked for to help fund the purchase of equipment and supplies to host a regular Movie Night at the Park.
The Environmental Art and Music Festival was a runner up and received a matching grant—and those matched funds helped get the support needed to launch a year ahead of schedule.
Audience

Q & A