

June 9, 2020



Dear Missouri Community Betterment members, friends, and partners,

This has been an unusual year for Missouri Community Betterment and the whole world. As we continue to showcase all the great things our communities have been doing, we will be making some small changes to our yearly project submissions and awards process. We appreciate your patience and flexibility while we navigate a lot of change this year, and hope you will continue to learn and grow with us as we work to improve how we serve our communities. The points below should help to explain the updates this year, but we are also hosting a Q&A session via Zoom on June 19 at 1pm to allow communities to ask questions about the process. Register in advance for the Zoom Q&A at:

<https://umsystem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJloduuurjwqHdUMHz5p8NmNBG1iyNQMVk1A>

1. **Project submission will be the same as before.** Many communities did not get to complete their planned projects due to the pandemic; we would like to encourage you to include them as continuing projects. In recognizing the resilience of our communities, we suggest that one of your projects include the ways your communities have rallied around its fellow citizens, schools, graduating seniors, church meetings, senior centers, etc., in responding to the COVID-19 challenges this year. We have added a line to the project submissions form to ask you to consider which section of the MAP Tool it fits in. We understand many of your communities have not had time to implement the new MAP tool, **so that is not a requirement this year**, but we ask you to consider which section of the tool your projects would fit to increase your familiarity with the tool (people; plans of action; financial, infrastructure, assets; quality of life). If you did not receive a copy of the MAP tool at the conference and plan to participate in the annual awards program this year, please email hultines@missouri.edu to receive a copy of the tool.
2. **Judging will be different during the week of Sept 14-18.** Each community should submit up to five projects for adults and two projects for youth by July 31. Judges will not travel to each town. They will visit with each community through a 40-minute Zoom meeting. During the Zoom meeting, each community should be ready to share brief comments, pictures, video, etc., similar to your community presentations to judges in the past. Judges will be asking questions about the project report forms submitted this year.
3. **The Community Awards will continue as usual** to highlight the top 3 communities in each size category, along with the Speichinger Community of the Year and J.C. Smith Youth Group of the Year awards.
4. **New! MAP of Excellence Awards** These awards are in addition to the community awards and can be given to any community of any size (no size categories used in this

award bracket). You do not need to do anything additional to be considered for these awards. Judges will award these based on the project report forms and Zoom community interviews. A certificate will be presented during the annual conference, and winners will receive additional recognition on the MCB Facebook page, website, and media releases. These awards are based on categories in the MAP Tool, but you do **not** have to have completed your MAP process to be eligible for these awards.

People Category: Best Youth-Led Project; Most Community Involvement; Best Use of Volunteers

Planning category: Best Planning Process; Most Engaged Community

Resources category: Best Project on a Budget; Most Creative Fundraising Effort; Best Use of Community Assets

Quality of Life Category: Most Heartfelt Project; Most Unique Community Activity

5. **NEW! People's Choice and Best Display Awards:** These awards will be voted on in-person by conference participants on the first night of the conference during the Town Square Fair event. Each community can select one of their project submissions to be entered in the People's Choice competition. Each conference participant will receive one vote, and cannot vote for their own community's project. Certificates for the winning project will be given out at the awards luncheon at the conference the following day. An evening mixer activity is being developed to have the participating communities in the town square fair provide a 3-5 minute "speed dating" style pitch to inform small groups about their chosen project. More details to come. Each conference participant will also receive one vote to choose the best town square fair display booth that evening.
6. **Our annual conference is planned for October 25 and 26 at State Technical School at Linn, Missouri.** More details to come.
7. **MCB membership, sponsorships, and donors are welcome!** As our economy shifts and creates both challenges and opportunities for our communities, businesses, and organizations, Missouri Community Betterment is adapting its operations to continue serving communities around the state. In December 2019, we ended our paid staff position, and our volunteer board took on the duties previously held by the executive director. While we adjust during this transition year, the board is confident that we will continue to accomplish our mission of "celebrating and connecting Missouri communities to each other and a network of resource providers to empower them to improve their quality of life." This year: we are hosting a series of monthly lunch and learn webinars to address current community issues; we have updated our awards program to better recognize the range of accomplishments in our communities; and we are building new partnerships around the state. We are looking forward to a fantastic fall conference in partnership with State Technical College in Linn, MO, and another opportunity to recognize your community's hard work this year. ***Your continued support, through memberships, sponsorships and donations, help us to continue to offer the annual conference, awards program, and ongoing educational opportunities.*** We appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to working with you! If you are

interested in additional sponsorship opportunities for the conference or awards program, please contact President Kat Morgan at katzfun39@gmail.com.

Thank you for your hard work in your communities, and for participating with Missouri Community Betterment! We look forward to hearing your accomplishments in your project submissions, and celebrating your success this fall.

Sincerely,

MCB Board of Directors

Attachments:

Participation forms due June 30, 2020:

2020 Project Report Guidelines
2020 MCB Permission Slip
2020 Community Entry Form
2020 Youth Group Entry Form

Project reports and leadership nominations due July 31, 2020:

2020 Community Project Summary Outline (one for each project, up to 5)
2020 Youth Group Project Summary Outline (one for each project, up to 2)
2020 Adult Leadership Nomination Form
2020 Youth Leadership Nomination Form