



**CITY OF
LAKE GENEVA
TOURISM COMMISSION**



TOURISM PROMOTION GRANT

I. INTRODUCTION:

In 2017, the City of Lake Geneva Common Council passed Ordinance 17-03, creating and amending Chapter 70, Sec. 70-55, establishing a Tourism Commission to be responsible for the coordination of tourism promotion and tourism development within the City and for ensuring that all room tax dollars are spent on tourism promotion and development as defined in Wisconsin State Statute 66.0615. As part of the duties, this Commission has established the Tourism Promotion Grant Program to fulfill its obligation to support marketing projects, including advertising media buys, creation of printed or electronic promotional tourist materials, or efforts to recruit conventions, sporting events, or motor coach groups.

The Grants are intended to be provided to applicants that can clearly show their event is reasonably likely to generate paid overnight stays by transient tourists at more than one establishment on which a room tax is imposed, that are owned by different persons and located within the City of Lake Geneva. The Commission intent is to focus on those applicants that can demonstrate that likeliness primarily seven days a week during non-peak periods and Sunday to Thursday nights during peak periods (Peak periods being Memorial Day through Labor Day, non-peak Labor Day through Memorial Day).

II. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

Eligible applicants for the Grant are businesses, non-profits, civic groups, downtown promotional entities, and tourism promotion entities who can convey to the Commissions' consensus that their event is reasonably likely to generate paid overnight stays by transient tourists within the City. Applicants must demonstrate that their event or promotion opportunity has fulfilled the State Statute requirements for the grant expenditures, and if funds are advanced, a follow up submission summarizing the deployment of the funds and evidence as to its successful deployment will be required for future grant consideration. Tourism Commission members shall not be eligible to participate in the program.

Administration of the Grant Fund will be reviewed by the Tourism Commission with final approval given by a simple majority of those voting. The City Comptroller, or designee, shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Grant Program after Commission approval. All approvals are contingent upon City Attorney review to ensure compliance with State Statutes.

III. APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

The Commission will consider applications twice annually, with application deadlines of October 1st and May 1st (for weekends and holidays, the next business day) for events expected to be held within one year of application.

Businesses that are interested in applying for Grant Funds can download the application from the City of Lake Geneva website and submit by deadline to the Lake Geneva City Administrator via

email at cityadmin@cityoflakegeneva.com or received by deadline at the Lake Geneva City Hall, 626 Geneva Street, Lake Geneva WI 53147. Applications along with applicable backup are to be marked as “Promotional Tourism Grant”.

Following submittal of an application to the Commission by the deadline, the Commission will examine the application, approve or deny the application and level of financial support to be granted, and contact the applicant to relay the status of the application and if the application conformed to the Grant Program standards and State Statutes. As part of the application, the commission expects to see samples of marketing materials for the proposed event.

Once the Commission has completed its review of the application, the applicant may be informed of any deficiencies and be requested to amend the application, if necessary. Upon receipt of the completed application it will be presented to the Commission for consideration.

As part of the grant approval, the Commission may require room block rental contracts with City of Lake Geneva hotels (for applicable events).

IV. APPROVAL PROCEDURES:

Interviews with applicants and the Tourism Commission may take place after application submission. The City will notify applicants of the status of their application within two months of submission date. The City/Tourism Commission reserves the right to reject all applications or to accept any application which will best serve the interests of the City of Lake Geneva and the Tourism Commission.

V. EVENT EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES:

Businesses that have been approved for Grant Funds should request reimbursements for their approved expenses after the event by submitting invoices to the City of Lake Geneva electronically at comptroller@cityoflakegeneva.com. The City of Lake Geneva will follow their internal policies in regards to reimbursement and documentation needed for reimbursement up to the approved amount. Any disputes arising from submission will be reviewed for State law compliance by the Lake Geneva City Attorney and the Lake Geneva City Administrator.

Once the complete submittal for reimbursement has been received with all required documentation, the City of Lake Geneva expects reimbursements to be processed within three weeks.