

Investing in Bellevue's Future



At a Glance

It's been a busy year for Bona Fide Bellevue, with several initiatives moving from planning to action. From advancing our Main Street Program and historic preservation work to investing in organizational capacity and launching new projects, we continue to invest in Bellevue and build for its future.

What's New

This summer, we established a **Main Street Committee** made up of business owners, nonprofits, community members, and other stakeholders to help guide revitalization efforts in Bellevue's business district. This builds on our goal of bringing businesses and other community stakeholders directly into the Main Street effort.

We're grateful to the members who have stepped forward to help guide this work: Leann Chaney (Bona Fide Bellevue), Chris and Karen Fitting (Beechtree Realty), La Shanna Humphries (HSBL), Jason Kascak (Diehl Automotive), Sophia Lardo (Northgate School District student), Denise O'Connor (Mid-Atlantic Mothers' Milk Bank), Aldrea Reese-Brown (Shepherd's Door), Betty Wu (Lucky Bites), and Jodi and Jason Zema (Kuhn's).

We hosted **business roundtables** to hear directly from local businesses about their needs, challenges, and opportunities and also worked with a cohort of veterans participating in Leadership Pittsburgh's Community Leadership Course for Veterans, who analyzed our **market data** to help us identify opportunities and inform the development of a revitalization strategy for Bellevue's business district.

Help Shape Bellevue's Future



[TAKE THE
COMMUNITY SURVEY](#)

Responses are due
September 18

Community Input

We want to know what you think about Bellevue's business district. What do you love? What could be better? What would you like to see in the future? Take our Community Perception Survey by September 18. Combined with our market assessment, your feedback will help shape the revitalization strategy and priorities for our Main Street Program.

Increasing Our Capacity

Strengthening Bona Fide Bellevue itself is an important part of strengthening the community we serve. Earlier this year, we brought on Bryan Davidson as our **part-time Main Street Manager**, providing dedicated capacity to coordinate our Main Street efforts and serve as a resource for Bellevue businesses. We also brought on Logan Robins as our **Social Media Marketing Consultant** to strengthen our communications, promote our events and initiatives, and help tell the story of Bona Fide Bellevue's impact in the community. Additionally, we partnered with Bellevue Borough through the Local Government Academy Municipal Intern Program, sharing a **paid intern** who supported projects benefiting both the Borough and Bona Fide Bellevue. **These investments may happen behind the scenes, but they are helping us take on larger projects, strengthen our programs, and create lasting impact.**



Leann Chaney, Bona Fide Bellevue; Abriana Bensch, Summer Intern, Jim Kelly, Bellevue Borough



Where Your Support Goes

This year's Rhythm & Brews was our largest fundraiser of the year, with more than 1,000 tickets sold. **Together, Rhythm & Brews and Bellevue UnWined brought approximately 1,400 ticketed attendees into the heart of Bellevue, plus additional visitors who came to enjoy the business district and event activities.** These events generate foot traffic and support local businesses while showcasing our business district to visitors from throughout the region.

In 2026, your support has helped us expand our capacity, strengthen our programs, and invest directly in our community. We've supported graduating Northgate seniors through our **Beacon Scholarship and Ember Award**, contributed to local organizations and community activities, and continued investing in initiatives that benefit Bellevue.

And there's more to come. We're developing a new community micro-grant program, made possible through the generosity of community donors and support from Bona Fide Bellevue. The program will provide **small grants to give promising community projects the boost they need.**

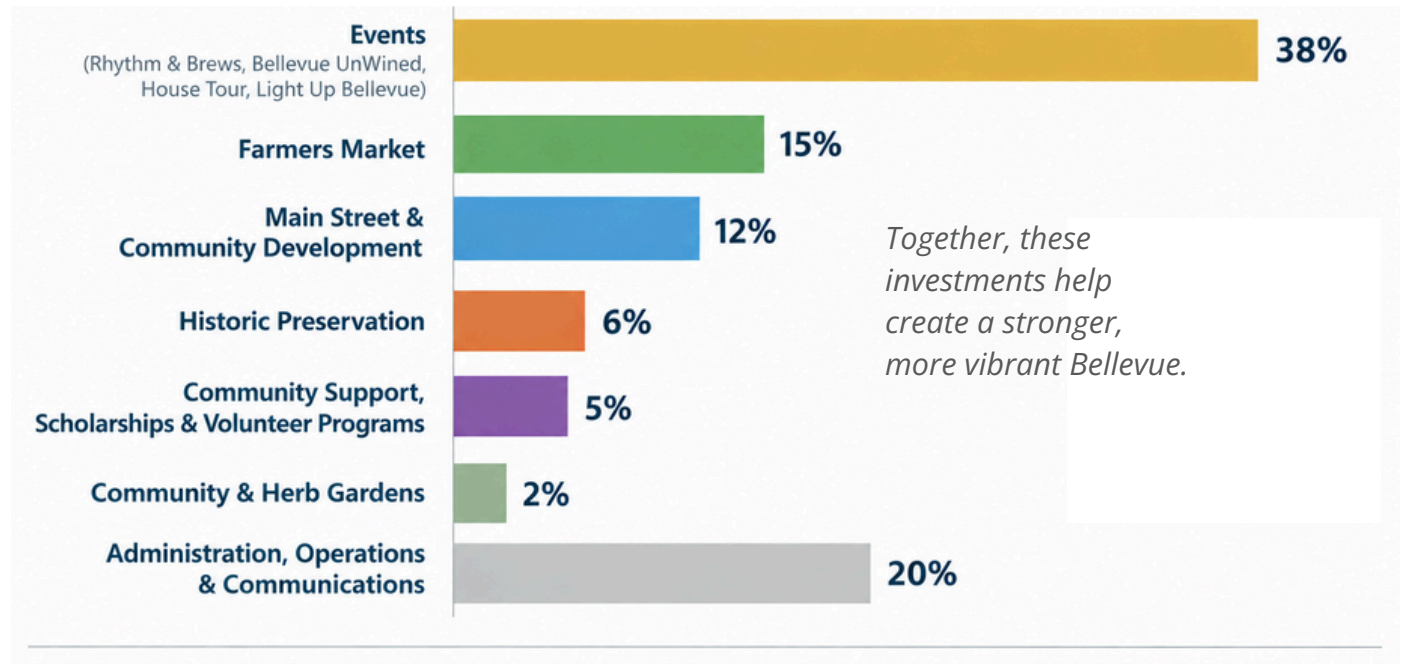
We're also bringing new resources into Bellevue. This year, Bona Fide Bellevue was awarded a **\$9,980 Main Streets Allegheny Event Grant to help support Light Up Bellevue in 2026 and 2027.** Combined with the continued support of local businesses and community sponsors, this funding will help us enhance one of Bellevue's beloved holiday traditions.



When you attend one of our events, become a sponsor, or make a donation, you're supporting much more than a single event. **You're helping us reinvest in Bellevue throughout the year.**

How We're Investing in Bellevue

Expenditures through September 9, 2026



Percentages are rounded and may not total 100%

Total Expenditures (YTD): \$96,246



Historic Preservation

Bona Fide Bellevue was awarded a **\$10,150 Keystone Historic Preservation Planning Grant to support the nomination of the Bellevue Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places** in collaboration with the Borough. Bona Fide Bellevue will provide an additional \$10,150 in matching funds, bringing the total investment in the project to \$20,300. Michael Baker International and Clio Consulting, LLC have been selected as the consultant team to prepare the historic district nomination, moving this important project into its next phase. **Building on our historic home plaque program, first offered in 2016, we brought the program back this year and received a tremendous response, with 48 Bellevue property owners purchasing plaques** recognizing the history of their homes and buildings. Together, these efforts are helping document, preserve, and celebrate the historic character that makes Bellevue unique.

Introducing the Heritage Bellevue Project

Bona Fide Bellevue is launching the Heritage Bellevue Project, a community-based initiative to collect, preserve, and share Bellevue's history. **The first phase will focus on developing a digital archive of historic photographs, postcards, maps, documents, and other materials.** Over time, the project could expand to include oral histories with longtime residents, business owners, and community leaders; community collection days where residents can have historic materials scanned while retaining their originals; an interactive history map; exhibits; talks; walking tours; and educational resources. The project will emphasize the long-term preservation of these materials through sound archival practices, including digital storage, documentation, metadata, and backups. **We look forward to sharing more and inviting the community to participate as the Heritage Bellevue Project takes shape.**

Our work to preserve Bellevue's history is also growing in a new direction.



Bellevue in the Spotlight

Bellevue is getting noticed beyond the borough!

In July, Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato and other regional leaders convened in Bellevue for a Main Streets Allegheny celebration, highlighting investments being made in business districts throughout Allegheny County and Bellevue's continued revitalization. Bellevue Borough and Bona Fide Bellevue were also recognized at the Local Government Academy's 2026 Municipal Intern Program Recognition Luncheon, where our Community Planning & Revitalization project was selected as the program's Featured Intern Project. Our summer intern, Abriana Besch, worked with both Bellevue Borough and Bona Fide Bellevue on projects ranging from community development to historic preservation.

Bellevue's progress has also been making news. Over the past year, regional media have highlighted our growing business district, community events, new investment, and the people and organizations contributing to Bellevue's vitality.

Bellevue in the News

- NEXTpittsburgh: *Bellevue's booming business district is drawing new residents and visitors*
- TribLive: *Dry no more: Wave of new businesses, community events reinvigorate Bellevue*
- KDKA/CBS Pittsburgh: *Bellevue says Allegheny County's economic development program will bolster borough*

We're proud to see Bellevue receiving regional attention, and even more proud of the businesses, residents, volunteers, community organizations, partners, and local leaders whose individual and collective efforts are contributing to Bellevue's continued progress.



Save the Dates

Join us at one of our upcoming events.

- October 3 – Redd Up Bellevue (final litter pick-up for 2026)
- October 17 – Live Worship Shop House Tour
- October 28 – Final Bellevue Farmers Market of the season
- December 5 – Light Up Bellevue

[VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



Interested in Volunteering?

Whether you have a few hours to give or want to get more involved, we'd love to have you join us.

There are lots of ways to get involved with Bona Fide Bellevue, from community events and cleanups to gardens, Main Street initiatives, historic preservation, and other projects.

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER](#)



Thank You for Being a Part of It!

Our work is powered by people who care about this community.

Our volunteers, businesses, partners, donors, neighbors, and friends make this work possible. As we head into fall, we're excited about what has already been accomplished this year and about the opportunities and initiatives taking shape for the months ahead.

