

Mildred Miller Fort Foundation

Agency Information

(To be included with grant request letters):

Application Date: April 7th, 2024 – *submitted via email.*

Organization Name: MidTown, Inc.

Mailing Address: 1236 Wildwood Avenue
Columbus, Georgia 31906

Contact Person & Title: Julio A. Portillo, Jr. | Executive Director

Daytime Phone Number: Office (706) 494-1663 Cell (706) 987-4768

Email Address: jportillo@midtowncolumbusga.org

Quarterly Submissions Deadlines: January 7, **April 7**, July 7, and October 7

All grant request submission letters can be both emailed and mailed.

Email: fortfoundation@bellsouth.net

Mail: Mildred Miller Fort Foundation

Post Office Box 2665 Columbus, GA 31902



April 5th, 2024

RE: Letter of Intent from MidTown, Inc.

Dear Mildred Miller Fort Foundation Trustees:

MidTown, Inc. has worked steadily for nineteen years to initiate and implement projects and programs that *sustain and enhance the neighborhoods and businesses within MidTown Columbus*. In 2019 we completed the long-anticipated Wynnton Streetscape Enhancement Project. Intensive grant-funded projects from previous years—Minimum Grid and Incremental Development—amplified each other and elevated quality of life and economic development together in our civic conversation. MidTown, Inc. has earned a place as a respected community change agent and has evolved into a catalytic entity at the forefront of major civic improvements. Our five strategic focus areas for the organization’s work include: Neighborhood Enhancement/Sense of Place; Economic Development; Business Support; Active Transportation and Connections; and Organizational Capacity.

MidTown Matters is a Comprehensive Campaign to better capitalize our organization and expand our scope and impact, allowing us to improve MidTown’s safety, vibrancy and beauty. Investments in this campaign will launch what started as a community project into a visionary and purposeful organization with the capacity to develop and implement innovative new projects and programs, and create an unparalleled opportunity in the young life of MidTown, Inc. This campaign will advance long-term elements of current initiatives, maintain project-related public art and recreation, support business growth, establish a visioning fund to support on-call expert consultation (often enhancing public and private development projects when opportunities arise), and to expand our community outreach into neighborhoods via a series of social, educational and neighborhood programs.

It is my privilege, on behalf of the Board of MidTown, Inc., to **submit this request for the Mildred Miller Fort Foundation’s consideration of a \$500,000 investment** (payable over three years) in the MidTown Matters Campaign. The Foundation’s investment in our core community will help us realize several of the campaign’s signature projects. We are grateful for the Foundation’s bedrock support, and we invite you to consider supporting our first Comprehensive Campaign as follows:

Project	Total Project Cost	Funds Raised YTD	Funds being Requested
Children’s Bicycle Park	\$587,500	\$140,000	\$150,000
Economic Revitalization Revolving Fund	\$600,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Public Art and Community Beautification	\$750,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
End Blight Fund	\$400,000	\$0	\$100,000
Transformation Fund	1,000,000	\$350,000	\$100,000
Sub-total		\$590,000	\$500,000
Comprehensive Campaign	\$4,350,000	\$675,000	\$500,000

The Mildred Miller Fort Foundation has been an invaluable champion of MidTown, Inc. in the past, and we look forward to building upon this partnership to meet Columbus’s potential as a vibrant, beautiful city in which to live, to work, or to visit.

With appreciation for your consideration and hopeful of your support,

Cameron P. Bean
President 2022-2024

Jack Jay Pease III
Pease Family Campaign Chair

Julio A. Portillo, Jr.
Executive Director