

Building Common Ground: Fieldwork

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS 2026–2027

Rural and Tribal communities and cultural groups are invited to apply to Building Common Ground: Fieldwork, a new rural design program offering free design and planning support alongside small project grants for community-centered projects that amplify local history, culture, and identity.

Application open: January 27, 2026

Application deadline: March 27, 2026

Application webinar: **February 19, 3:00PM EST**

Application form: **APPLY NOW**

Questions? Contact: **howdy@bcg.studio**

Opportunity Description

Fieldwork, an initiative of Building Common Ground, supports rural community leaders and cultural organizations with design and development expertise. By directing resources to rural communities, we help amplify and celebrate the vibrant history and rich culture in these places.

Together, we work on projects that help communities and organizations tell meaningful stories, honor local identity, and strengthen places where people gather. Selected communities will collaborate with the Fieldwork team to:

- Plan and design cultural and civic spaces rooted in local context
- Engage residents and partners in shaping project direction
- Strengthen project readiness through planning activities, funding strategy, and leadership development
- Work alongside peer communities facing similar challenges and opportunities

From late Spring 2026 to December 2027, a national cohort of 20 rural and Tribal communities will participate in Fieldwork, receiving design assistance and technical support on their community-oriented, humanities-focused design project. Assistance is tailored to the specific needs of that project. Selected recipients are grouped into two tracks:

Design Workshop Track (8 communities)

The Workshop track is for communities further along in their project journey, that can identify a specific building, landscape, or shared space for their project and are ready to gather neighbors and partners for a hands-on design workshop to develop design solutions.

If selected for the workshop track, your community will receive:

- A 1-day site visit from the Fieldwork design team, To Be Done Studio
- A 3–4 day design workshop, hosted in your community
- A Design Book, tailored to your design project that includes:
 - ▶ Project narrative summary
 - ▶ Documentation of the community engagement process
 - ▶ Site maps, concept sketches, or simple design diagrams
 - ▶ Design strategies
 - ▶ 3D building or site renderings that illustrate design concepts
 - ▶ Schematic floorplans or program diagrams
 - ▶ Engagement insights and community themes
 - ▶ Funding-readiness milestones and implementable next steps
 - ▶ Workshop communities also participate in online peer learning sessions and in-person engagement opportunities with the Learning Cohort

Best-fit for this track if you:

- Have a site selected for your planned project
- Have started community conversations or engagement
- Have someone who can coordinate partners and drive project momentum
- Can share 3–5 milestones for the next 12 months

Learning Cohort Track (12 communities)

The Learning Cohort track is for communities at an earlier but promising stage, with strong ideas and a team ready to build capacity, refine project scope, and move closer to funding or early predevelopment readiness.

If selected for the Learning Cohort track, your community will receive:

- A 1-day site visit by Fieldwork staff
- Regular 1-on-1 coaching meetings to help you:
 - ▶ Clarify your project idea
 - ▶ Strengthen community engagement
 - ▶ Build confidence in project roles and coordination
 - ▶ Prepare for future funding or design steps
- Online peer learning sessions with rural and Tribal practitioners nationwide, focused on:
 - ▶ Shaping stories into spatial ideas
 - ▶ Planning for small grants or seed projects
 - ▶ Inclusive community engagement methods
 - ▶ Future fundraising confidence

What All Selected Applicants Receive Together

Every selected community—whether in the Design Workshop or Learning Cohort track—will also receive:

- Participation in a 3-day, in-person Summit, built around cultural exchange, storytelling, early design 1-on-1 support, and peer connection (tentatively scheduled for October 2026)
- Travel stipends to the Summit for up to two people per selected applicant organization
- Eligibility for Community Action Grants (\$5,000 – \$7,500) to support a near-term milestone activity that builds project momentum. These grants help communities create real progress markers that reviewers can observe, teams can share, and residents can feel part of—fueling momentum for what comes next. Community Action grants can support things like:
 - ▶ Commissioning a local photographer, oral historian, or filmmaker to build your visual narrative assets
 - ▶ Hosting a community engagement event
 - ▶ Hosting a public history gathering or planning day at your project site
 - ▶ Launching a small exhibit, mural, archive event, or short film

Applicants can apply to both tracks, or indicate on their application that they only want to participate in the Learning Cohort track (and not be considered for the Design Workshop track). Design Workshop and Learning Cohort communities are expected to participate together in the peer engagement activities and online learning sessions.

Both Fieldwork opportunities connect rural and Tribal communities with resources for developing locally driven ideas and solutions for important cultural and humanities-oriented projects. For more information on these opportunities, see the [Applicant Eligibility and Selection Criteria](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) sections below. You can also preview the [Sample Application Questions](#).

About Building Common Ground

Building Common Ground, or “BCG,” is a group of designers, leaders, and advocates working to strengthen the built environment of rural communities. We search for common ground and leverage learning, design, and construction processes to work across the differences that may divide us. We believe that small communities, particularly those that are rural, Tribal, and remote, can grow more resilient through enhanced social infrastructure: purpose-built, culturally and contextually specific spaces that offer opportunities for connection, celebration, and shelter in times of need.

Epicenter, a rural 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Green River, Utah (pop. 847), will serve as a co-lead for Building Common Ground: Fieldwork. For over 16 years, Epicenter has demonstrated what it means to do design with care—deeply rooted in place, built on trust, and sustained through creative persistence. Their award-winning work in housing, the arts, and community development has become a national model for what is possible in politically conservative, economically under-resourced rural communities.

To Be Done Studio (TBD), based in Washington, D.C., and co-lead for Building Common Ground: Fieldwork, is a mission-driven architecture and design firm with deep experience in participatory design across rural America. As the national design lead for the National Endowment for the Arts’ Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design, TBD supported dozens of communities in shaping inclusive, actionable strategies for public space, cultural projects, and housing.

A wide circle of BCG advisors amplifies the impact and capabilities of Building Common Ground’s core team members, programs, and communities. Composed of a hand-picked group of rural activists, advocates, artists, organizers, and technical specialists, advisors provide their unique expertise and experience to inform approach, business development, fundraising, governance, programming, or project strategy.

Learn more at bcg.studio

Applicant Eligibility and Selection Criteria

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY*

Who We Encourage to Apply:

- Tribal nations and entities
- Rural towns, counties, and regional governments with populations of 35,000 or less
- Local nonprofits: historical societies, arts organizations, libraries, preservation groups, cultural centers, and others
- Universities or extension offices with strong local partners
- Coalitions or grassroots groups working in shared community spaces

*Individuals are not eligible to apply

Apply if you:

- Have an idea rooted in an identified site, building, or landscape
- Have a small core team or coordinator in place
- Want design support that amplifies community storytelling and inclusion for a project that is community-oriented and elevates a humanities, historic, cultural, or heritage topic
- Are ready to learn with peers and share what works

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Project application should reflect the commitment, quality, and capacity of the applicant and partners to host a 3–4 day workshop (if applying for this part of the program) and engage their local community to address a humanities-oriented design project, including:

- Alignment with Fieldwork goals: how design, culture, and humanities strengthen community connection
- Community Engagement and Representation: depth of inclusion and participation
- Organizational Readiness and Capacity: ability to manage a design process and sustain results
- Commitment to partner and collaborate locally to address a design project
- Clarity of Vision and Impact: definition of project, coherence of goals and potential for meaningful change
- Collaborative Potential and Learning Mindset: willingness to engage peers and share insights
- Commitment to participate in the Fieldwork program
- Willingness and capacity to implement ideas that emerge from the program
- Evidence of the community's readiness and enthusiasm to tackle the design project
- Feasibility and follow-through: realistic timeline, leadership, and resource plan

Building Common Ground may provide special consideration to applications from specific geographies or those offering unique contributions to national rural design discussions.

PROGRAM GOALS FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

The Fieldwork program is successful when communities leave with:

- A clear project story and scope
- An identified site or space for their project
- Stronger community engagement confidence
- 1–2 milestones moved closer to implementation, such as:
 - ▶ Clarity on project feasibility
 - ▶ Preparedness to seek next-step funding
 - ▶ Community stakeholder commitment
 - ▶ Early design concepts or progress on permitting/predevelopment
 - ▶ A project milestone plan showing real momentum
 - ▶ A completed project, activity, or event supported by a Community Action Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

Building Common Ground: Fieldwork is a national initiative supporting rural and Tribal communities in strengthening their cultural spaces through design, storytelling, and humanities-rooted collaboration. Below, you'll find answers to the most common questions about participating, what support looks like, and how communities are selected and placed into program tracks.

GENERAL PROGRAM QUESTIONS

Q: Who should apply for Fieldwork?

Fieldwork is designed for rural communities and collaborative groups with vision and momentum, including organizations that may be small or earlier in their process but are able and willing to commit a core team to collaboration, learning, and follow-through. No two communities start in the same place—what matters most is clarity of purpose, trust-based engagement, and the readiness to learn with peers and move your project toward the next milestone. See the Applicant Eligibility and Selection Criteria section above for more details.

Q: When will the program cycle start?

A: The application will open January 27, 2026, with applicant selections announced in May 2026, followed by a virtual kickoff meeting in June 2026. The in-person Summit is planned for October 2026, with ongoing virtual learning and coaching continuing through December 2027. To Be considered for the program, applications must be submitted by **11:59 PM on March 27, 2026**.

Q: Is there an in-person component to the program?

A: Yes, each selected community is invited to bring up to two representatives to a mandatory 3-day Summit focused on learning, project coaching, and building peer connections. Travel stipends and Summit costs for invited attendees are covered by the program.

Q: What types of place-based, humanities-oriented design projects can communities address through the Fieldwork program?

A: We're interested in place-based projects where design and the humanities work together. Examples might include:

- Restoring or adapting existing community buildings into cultural centers, local archives, museums, or community gathering spaces
- Creating outdoor or public exhibits that interpret working landscapes, history, or cultural memory
- Early-stage planning or concept design for new museums, cultural centers, or heritage hubs
- Community-centered storytelling formats rooted in a space or place: murals, exhibits, installations, or archives-based events
- Projects that explore memory, heritage, culture, or shared civic space as a bridge across difference
- Design services for new museums, cultural centers, archive facilities, or other humanities-oriented uses
- Exhibition spaces and materials for public display
- Projects where cultural production happens in physical space

QUESTIONS ABOUT DESIGN WORKSHOPS

Q: How many communities will be selected to host a Design Workshop?

A: Eight (8) rural and/or Tribal communities will be selected to host an immersive, on-site Design Workshop. These communities will also participate in peer engagement and online learning sessions with the Learning Cohort.

Q: What is the purpose of the Design Workshop?

A: The workshop is an in-person, community engagement design process that brings together community leaders and members, and the Fieldwork design team, To Be Done Studio, to explore your site and project vision. The workshops are designed to help you strengthen local identity, align on shared goals through story and space, and translate early ideas into a practical, community-owned design roadmap. After the workshop, concepts are refined, and design strategies are integrated into a custom Design Book, a visual, hands-on resource you can use to guide predevelopment, next steps, and funding conversations. The process leaves your community with clearer design direction and thoughtful tools that also contribute to a broader national rural design story

Q: What is the format of the Design Workshop?

A: Selected communities will work closely with Fieldwork staff and the design team, along with other local or regional design partners, to develop workshop activities tailored to their specific project needs. Much of this is done virtually. However, workshop communities are asked to participate in and support a 1-day site visit, followed later by a 3-4 day on-site design and community engagement workshop.

Q: What makes a good Design Workshop project?

A: Strong workshop-fit characteristics include but are not limited to a defined project site, named partners, active engagement momentum, and a 12-month plan for next steps.

Q: Is funding provided for the workshop?

A: Yes. If selected for the workshop track, your community and project team receive an \$8,000 stipend to support local coordination, facilities use, host time, and other related workshop costs.

Q: What are the requirements for communities to participate in the Design Workshop?

A: Selected communities will need to:

- **Appoint a local coordinator:** This person will be the main point of contact with the Fieldwork team and may also manage expenses and logistics.
- **Commit a core team** to attend cohort sessions and the Summit
- **Work with the Fieldwork Team:** Collaborate on organizing the site visit, virtual meetings, and the on-site design workshop. This includes:
 - ▶ Defining the project goals and sharing key documents
 - ▶ Creating a community engagement plan and identifying the resources needed
 - ▶ Coordinating the site visit from Fieldwork's team
 - ▶ Hosting various meetings (kickoff, planning, public events) with community members
 - ▶ Giving feedback on design materials
 - ▶ Coordinating the 3-day in-person workshop
 - ▶ Completing final tasks, including providing feedback, submitting surveys
- **Engage in peer learning opportunities:** Participate in regular online activities and the Summit with the Learning Cohort, and connect with the broader Building Common Ground: Fieldwork network.

Q: How much time will be required of the local coordinator?

A: The time needed will depend on the community's needs and the workshop timeline. The local coordinator will organize meetings, coordinate with Fieldwork staff, and support the workshop process. The time commitment typically averages 4 hours per week over the program period.

Q: What other benefits do Design Workshop communities receive?

A: Design Workshop communities will receive the following:

- 1. Customized design assistance:** A tailored virtual and on-site design process, including goal-setting sessions with design experts to help advance the humanities project.
- 2. Site visit:** A pre-workshop site visit from the Fieldwork design team to assess the community's needs and prepare for the 3-4-day workshop.
- 3. Design Book and action plan:** A comprehensive Design Book and action plan with project-specific recommendations for design and actionable next steps, created by the Fieldwork design team.
- 4. Ongoing support:** Technical assistance related to the project through December 2027.
- 5. Access to additional opportunities:** Participation in all events and opportunities offered to the Learning Cohort (described below).

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LEARNING COHORT

Q: How many communities will be selected to participate in the Learning Cohort?

A: Twelve (12) rural and/or Tribal communities will be selected for a site visit, 1-on-1 coaching, and support to develop their project. These communities will also participate in online learning sessions and in-person peer engagement with the Design Workshop communities.

Q: Who is eligible to participate in the Learning Cohort?

A: Active residents and rural community leaders from local government, non-profits, local businesses, civic organizations, and arts and cultural groups are eligible to participate.

Q: How many people from a specific community can participate in the Learning Cohort?

A: Most community and project teams consist of 2-4 members; we encourage at least two people from each community to attend the scheduled cohort sessions, as well as two people to attend the in-person gathering in October 2026.

Q: How will communities and projects benefit from participating in the Learning Cohort?

A: Participants will have access to the following benefits:

- 1. In-person gathering:** Up to two people from each recipient group will be invited to attend a 3-day, in-person gathering with other cohort communities. The summit will offer a deep dive into the Fieldwork program, explorations into each community's design project, and an opportunity to connect with peers from other cohort communities and with Fieldwork resource team members and staff. A travel stipend will be provided for two participants per recipient group.

2. **Online learning sessions:** A series of virtual sessions led by nationally recognized cultural, design, and creative placemaking field leaders, focused on design, planning, and activating peer learning.
3. **Site visit:** An in-person site visit from a Fieldwork staff member to understand community context, assess the project's needs, and begin developing a project-specific support plan.
4. **Technical assistance:** Support through regularly scheduled one-on-one coaching, optional in-person meetings, and a variety of online resources.
5. **Peer networking:** Additional opportunities to engage with peers from rural and Tribal communities across the country, share best practices, and learn from others' experiences.
6. **Action grants for all program participants:** All 20 participant communities will be eligible to apply for a Community Action Grant between \$5,000–\$7,500 to carry out a specific placemaking, humanities, or arts and culture activity that supports their Fieldwork project or ongoing efforts.

Q: What are the expectations for participating in the Learning Cohort?

A: To be part of the Learning Cohort, communities must:

- **Attend Learning Sessions and Meetings:** Participate in online learning sessions and one-on-one meetings to advance the recipient's project
- **Demonstrate Progress:** Show progress on their humanities-oriented design project throughout the course of the program.
- **Complete the Fieldwork Exit Survey:** Submit the required Fieldwork exit survey at the end of the program to share feedback and insights.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND SELECTION

Q: How are communities selected and placed into program tracks?

A: Our process includes:

- Internal eligibility and alignment review
- External Panel Reviewers scoring applications independently using a shared rubric
- A brief discussion between reviewers and the Fieldwork team to establish ranked recommendations
- A final holistic review by the Building Common Ground team—balancing rurality, geography, project type, cultural context, cohort composition, and readiness for on-site workshops
- Final track placement: Design Workshop Track or Learning Cohort Track based on project readiness.
- The intent is not to find uniformity, but momentum. Fieldwork invests first in communities ready to make the most of a collaborative humanities-and-design journey.

PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION

Q: Do we need prior design or fundraising experience?

A: No. You only need a defined local design challenge, a place-based humanities anchor, and a capable team ready to learn and collaborate. Fieldwork support is tailored—you'll leave with stronger design, funding clarity, and civic confidence, no matter where you begin.

Q: Can small or grassroots organizations apply?

A: Yes—absolutely. This program is built for a range of applicant entity types, from lean teams with bold ideas who are ready for deeper partnership and cross-community support, to organizations experienced with fundraising, project planning, or community programs that want design support to move their vision closer to implementation.

Q: Can we apply for both the Design Workshop and the Learning Cohort?

A: Yes. You may select one or both. You can also mark “place us where we fit best” if you’re unsure—our review process will help identify the right track for this cycle.

Q: I have other questions. Can I contact you?

A: Yes! Email us at howdy@bcg.studio to ask questions or schedule a call.

SAMPLE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

We recommend that applicants prepare their answers before starting the application process, using a Word or text document, and then copying and pasting their responses into the Fieldwork **application form**.

SECTION A: ABOUT YOU

This section helps us understand who is leading or coordinating this project and how to contact you. Please share information about the primary project lead and the organization or group serving as the main point of contact and steward for this work.

1. Organization, Tribe, or community group name

(Example: Community Development Corporation (CDC))

2. Describe your organization's/group's mission and primary focus.

(300 characters max)

3. What type of organization or community group are you – multiple choice.

- Non-profit organization
- Tribal government or entity
- Coalition/Consortium
- Other

4. If you selected "Other: on the previous question, please elaborate.

Only organization or community group projects are eligible. (100 character max)

5. Primary contact name

6. Primary contact role

What is the primary contact's role in the project (150 character max)

7. Organization website

Please share your website address if you have one! We'd love to view your work.
(Optional)

8. Organization Address

SECTION B: PROJECT OVERVIEW

This program supports place-based projects in rural, Tribal, and remote communities.

1. Project location

(Town, county, Tribal land, or region) (100 character max)

2. Approximate population served by this project (not your entire community or organization)

3. Approximate population of your overall community

4. Please describe your design project or design challenge.

If your project is still forming, describe the opportunity, need, or question you are exploring.

SECTION C: YOUR COMMUNITY CHALLENGE AND PROJECT VISION

This section helps us understand the challenge your community is facing and the vision you are working toward. We're interested in what's not working today, what you hope could be different, and why this project matters to your community.

1. In one or two sentences, tell us about your place and the conditions shaping community life today.

Example: Our community is a rural high-desert place shaped by land-based livelihoods and a changing population, with limited infrastructure to support shared community life. (250 characters max)

2. Your challenge and project vision

What local challenge or opportunity are you focusing on—and why now? What's the story behind this effort? (500 characters max)

3. Who will benefit from this project and why?

(250 characters max)

4. How will this project help build common ground?

How will it bring people together across ethnic, cultural, generational, or economic differences through design and/or the humanities (such as storytelling, history, cultural practices, or interpretation)? (500 characters max)

5. Imagine one year after participating in the Fieldwork program, what's different in your community? Name 2–3 outcomes you hope to see (social, cultural, spatial). (500 characters max)

SECTION D: CORE PROJECT TEAM

This section helps us understand the people connected to your project. We're interested in who is part of your core project team and how key project decisions are made.

1. Who will coordinate the day-to-day tasks for this project? This may be a volunteer, staff member, or shared role, and member of your core project team. Name(s), role(s), and approximate time they can commit per week. (300 characters max)

2. How are decisions made for this project? Who has decision-making authority, and how will community voices be included? (300 characters)

3. Team Member 1

Who's on your core team, and who are your key partners? Please share the people and organizations currently involved in this work, including community leaders or partners. List up to 6 team members/key partners.
(Enter name, email, organization, their role)

3. Team Member 2

Who's on your core team, and who are your key partners? Please share the people and organizations currently involved in this work, including community leaders or partners . List up to 6 team members/key partners.
(Enter name, email, organization, and their role)

4. Team Member 3

Who's on your core team, and who are your key partners? Please share the people and organizations currently involved in this work, including community leaders or partners . List up to 6 team members/key partners.
(Enter name, email, organization, and their role)

5. Team Member 4

Who's on your core team, and who are your key partners? Please share the people and organizations currently involved in this work, including community leaders or partners . List up to 6 team members/key partners.
(Enter name, email, organization, and their role)

SECTION E: COMMUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT

This section helps us understand the community connected to your project. We're interested in how your community participates or will participate, and how local voices, history, and lived experience shape the work.

1. What community engagement has already happened (if any), and what did you learn? We're interested in how community voices shape this project, whether through formal engagement or everyday, relationship-based ways of working. "None yet" is an acceptable answer. (500 characters max)

2. Who else will be engaged in this project? Which residents, partners, or groups will be involved? How will you include voices that are often underrepresented? (300 characters)

SECTION F: CAPACITY AND READINESS

This section will help us understand your context. Fieldwork is designed to support Tribal, rural, and small or volunteer-led organizations.

1. What stage is your project currently in?

Select all that apply

- Early idea or exploration
- Defining vision and goals
- Site and general project scope are identified
- Pre-development or planning underway

2. What existing assets will support this work? Examples: site control, space, volunteers, local government support, historical society, local artists, small grants, community leadership, partnerships, cultural knowledge, and/or momentum. (200 characters max)

SECTION G: COHORT TYPE INTEREST

Building Common Ground: Fieldwork includes two participation tracks—the Design Workshop track and the Learning Cohort track—each designed to support communities at different stages of project readiness. Your selection does not affect eligibility; please choose the option that best reflects where your project is right now, or select “I don’t know” if you’d like support in determining the best fit.

Summary of Cohort Types

Design Workshop Track: An intensive, hands-on program track for communities with a defined project or site who are ready to engage in design. Participants receive a multi-day in-community design workshop, resulting in a community-owned Design Book that documents project vision, concepts, and next steps toward implementation. Best fit for this track if you have a specific place or project in mind and are ready to move from ideas toward drawings, planning, and funding readiness. Design Workshop participants are also expected to engage in the Learning Cohort program.

Learning Cohort Track: A peer-based track for communities that are early in their project journey or want time to clarify ideas before moving into design. Participants receive a custom technical assistance plan, engage in a guided virtual learning series, and cohort conversations focused on building capacity, strengthening vision, and identifying next steps. Best fit for this track if you are exploring possibilities, building alignment, or laying the groundwork for future design work.

1. Which opportunity are you most interested in? Select up to two options

2. If you are interested in participating in the Design Workshop Track: Do you have a defined site, building, and/or project scope? (Yes/No/Partially)

3. If you are interested in participating in the Design Workshop Track: Can your organization or community host a 3–4 day workshop within the next 15 months? (Yes/No/Unsure)

4. List any planning, design, or engagement work already done in support of your project. (500 character max)

5. What would you most want from the TA Learning Cohort? Examples: project scoping, community engagement tools, funding readiness, storytelling, peer learning. (150 characters max)

SECTION H: FEASIBILITY AND NEXT STEPS

This section helps us assess your project's feasibility over the next 12–15 months, including the clarity of your proposed milestones, leadership capacity, and understanding of what support is needed to move forward. Projects at any stage are welcome—please share realistic next steps, who will lead them, and the types of assistance that would most strengthen your path to implementation.

1. Outline your project's next 12-month milestones

Please share your best estimate of 3–5 realistic milestones for the coming year. These do not need to be final; clarity and feasibility matter more than detail, and early-stage projects are welcome. Milestones may include learning, relationship-building, or planning steps—not only physical outcomes. (You may include up to 5 milestones, maximum 300 characters)

Milestone 1:

What will happen

Target timeframe (month/year)

Lead person or group

Milestone 2:

What will happen

Target timeframe (month/year)

Lead person or group

2. What types of support would help your project in the next year?

Select up to three types of support that would be most useful as you move your project forward over the next year. Early-stage or volunteer-led projects are welcome—please choose the supports that would most help you make progress.

- Community engagement
- Funding readiness (budget, timelines, funding sources)
- Design concept development
- Collections/archives planning or exhibit design
- Storytelling, documentation, publication
- Governance/partnerships
- Other

3. What support would help you succeed?

If you answered "Other" for question 2 above, please describe below
(150 character max)

SECTION I: WHY FIELDWORK, WHY NOW

This section helps us understand how Building Common Ground: Fieldwork connects to your community's goals and where you are in your journey.

1. Which parts of the Fieldwork program would be most valuable to you?

(Select all that apply)

- Design workshops
- Peer learning with other communities
- Clarifying project vision and values
- Community engagement tools
- Pre-development or funding readiness support
- Documentation (Design Book)
- Other

2. Why do you want to participate in Building Common Ground: Fieldwork at this time? (500 characters max)

3. Anything else you would like the Fieldwork team to know?

(300 character max)

SECTION J: OPTIONAL SUPPORTING MATERIALS

If helpful, you may upload up to five materials that provide additional context for your project or community. These materials are optional and may include photos, brief documents, maps, draft plans, links to articles or videos, or letters of support.

Materials are meant to supplement—not replace—your written responses. Projects at all stages are welcome, and the absence of supporting materials will not affect eligibility or review.

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

This application takes about 60 minutes to complete. You don't need to complete the application in one sitting. You can start the form, close it, and come back later to finish it. As long as you return on the same device and browser (not in private/incognito mode), your responses will be saved for up to 15 days. When you reopen the form, you'll see your previous answers and can edit them before submitting.

Please complete and submit your application by **11:59 PM, March 27, 2026** to be considered for the Fieldwork program. Once submitted, applications cannot be edited.

To start your application now, please follow this link:
[Building Common Ground: Fieldwork Application](#)