



Grant Application

✔ Completed

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IP address : 107.4.201.24
User agent : Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_15_7) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/149.0.0.0 Safari/537.36
Response link : <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zsir/rzCCla/JqDFEdyM>
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Time taken : 18 hrs 21 mins
Collector : Grant Application

P1 : Business Grant Request

If you would like to apply for a grant, please complete the following questionnaire.

Q1. Is your business located in the Cumberland, Barronett, or Comstock, WI zip code (54829, 54813, or 54826)? If it is not, you are not eligible for this grant.

Yes

Q2. Are you the owner or authorized representative for the company?

Yes

P2 : Business Information

Please enter the following information about the business

Q3. Business Name

The Tower House

Q4.

Field label	Response
Address1	1445 2nd Avenue
Address2	
City	Cumberland
Zip Code	54829
State	WI
Phone	715-671-0024
Email	abby@thetowerhouse.com

Q5. Website

www.thetowerhouse.com

P3 : Applicant Information

Please enter the following applicant information

Q6.

Field label	Response
First Name	Abby
Last Name	Smoot

Q7. Phone Number

6512420834

Q8. Please enter your email if different from business email

abbysmoot@comcast.net

Q9. Please tell us about your business. Please be as specific as possible. If the form does not have enough space, please email additional pages to info@50peoplewhocare.org

Please include things like; type of business, number of employees, local suppliers used, what makes you unique or essential to our community.

Today, The Tower House is home to several complementary businesses and experiences that serve both residents and visitors. Lightning Bolt Coffee offers specialty coffee, organic and fair-trade espresso sourced from a Minneapolis roaster, smoothies, teas, dirty sodas, and other handcrafted beverages. Lightning Bolt Lounge features a full-service bar with signature cocktails, seasonal drink menus, and a welcoming atmosphere for gathering with friends and family.

The building also houses Advanced Sportswear, an extension of our custom apparel company based in Newport, Minnesota. Our retail space offers Cumberland and lake-themed apparel, Tower House and Lightning Bolt merchandise, customized gifts and accessories, and the opportunity for customers to special-order personalized apparel.

On the upper levels, The Tower House Suites provide four newly renovated short-term rental rooms, allowing guests to experience the charm and history of this iconic building while enjoying the convenience of on-site coffee, food, and beverages. In addition, Tower House Events hosts a variety of private and public gatherings, including bridal and baby showers, company meetings, holiday parties, family celebrations, reunions, and community events. Our patio has become an important gathering space where we now host live music, seasonal celebrations, and other community-focused programming throughout the summer.

We currently employ 15 team members and hired a full-time general manager as our business continues to grow. Since purchasing The Tower House, we have been committed to preserving the building's historic character while creating a vibrant and welcoming destination for the community. Our goal has always been to maximize the use of this remarkable property and ensure it remains a gathering place where people can connect, celebrate, and create memories.

The name Lightning Bolt Coffee & Lounge has personal significance to us. As longtime fans of Pearl Jam, the name was inspired by the band's song *Lightning Bolt* and reflects the energy, optimism, and sense of possibility that motivated us to pursue this dream. What began as a vision has become a reality thanks to the incredible support of the Cumberland community.

One question we often hear is whether The Tower House will eventually become a traditional full-service restaurant. The answer is no—and that decision was intentional. More than anything, we wanted to create a space centered on community, connection, and hospitality. We love seeing grandparents enjoying tea, parents sharing cocktails, children sipping specialty sodas, and friends gathering around a table to play games and spend time together.

Over the past year, we have welcomed visitors from throughout the region and hosted events such as Cookie Decorating with Santa, Valentine's Dinner experiences, a community Singles Mixer, Homecoming celebrations, Coffee Flight events, live music nights, and many other special gatherings. These events have not only brought people together but have also introduced new visitors to Cumberland and supported the vitality of our downtown.

As we approach our first anniversary, we remain grateful for the opportunity to steward this historic property and excited about its future. Our vision is simple: to ensure that The Tower House continues to be a welcoming, inclusive, and vibrant gathering place for people of all ages and backgrounds for years to come.

Q10. What is the plan for using the grant money (How will it be used)?

If we are fortunate enough to receive this grant, the funds would be used entirely toward the purchase of new patio furniture for The Tower House.

Over the past year, we have invested significant time and resources into restoring and revitalizing The Tower House, preserving one of Cumberland's most historic buildings while creating a welcoming gathering place for residents and visitors. As our Friday night summer live music series has grown in popularity, it has become increasingly clear that our outdoor seating is no longer adequate for the number of guests attending these community events.

Our current patio furniture was acquired from the previous owners and is now well beyond its useful life. Much of it is mismatched, weathered, and in poor condition, with issues including rust, chipped surfaces, and loose hardware that create both safety and appearance concerns. To accommodate larger crowds, we frequently supplement our seating with folding tables from our garage and dining chairs from inside the building, resulting in a setup that is neither attractive nor designed for outdoor use.

New patio furniture would allow us to create a safer, more comfortable, and more welcoming environment for community members attending live music performances, special events, fundraisers, and other gatherings hosted at The Tower House. As one of the few outdoor gathering spaces in downtown Cumberland, our patio has become a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together to relax, connect, and enjoy the community.

This investment would not only improve the guest experience but would also help complete the restoration efforts that have transformed The Tower House into a destination that reflects the pride, history, and character of Cumberland. Our goal is to provide an outdoor space that residents and visitors can enjoy for years to come while supporting the continued growth and vibrancy of our downtown community.

Q11. Projected benefit of plan execution (e.g. viability of business, growth/expansion of business, impact on the community, etc...)

The Tower House has quickly become a gathering place for residents and visitors in downtown Cumberland. During the summer months, we host free live music on our patio every Friday evening, creating opportunities for families, friends, and visitors to come together and enjoy community-centered entertainment.

Currently, our outdoor seating capacity is limited, requiring staff to move dining tables and chairs from inside the building to accommodate guests attending these events. This process is labor-intensive, reduces indoor seating availability, and limits our ability to comfortably host larger community gatherings. Grant funding would allow us to purchase dedicated outdoor patio furniture designed specifically for public use during concerts, community celebrations, fundraisers, civic gatherings, and seasonal events. Additional seating would improve accessibility and comfort for attendees while creating a more welcoming and professional event environment.

The investment would benefit the broader Cumberland community by expanding public gathering space, supporting free live entertainment, encouraging increased visitation to downtown businesses, and helping establish Cumberland as a vibrant destination for residents and tourists alike. Enhanced outdoor seating will allow The Tower House to continue offering community-focused programming while accommodating growing attendance at events that bring people together and contribute to the economic vitality of the downtown district.

By creating a comfortable and inviting outdoor space, this effort will support community engagement, local tourism, small business growth, and quality-of-life initiatives that align with Cumberland's goals of fostering a vibrant and connected downtown.