Media Contact:
Tara Heiser
858-775-5481
theiser@bridgmancga.org

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DOUBLE TRIUMPH: BRIDGMAN COURTYARD VIES FOR TOP STATE AWARD & CGA SECURES $25,000 GRANT

BRIDGMAN, MI – October 3, 2023 – The Bridgman Courtyard has been proudly selected as one of only four projects statewide competing for the Michigan Municipal League's (MML) prestigious Community Excellence Award. This remarkable achievement sets Bridgman alongside other top-tier community projects, emphasizing its commitment to community development and excellence.

Representatives from both the Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth & Advancement (CGA) and the City of Bridgman will be heading to the MML Conference in Traverse City on October 18 to showcase the Bridgman Courtyard project. With over 2,000 attendees, the conference is set to be a significant event where communities from across the state converge. The award winner will be announced on October 20, culminating in an eagerly anticipated moment for all involved.

Leveraging her expertise in marketing, CGA Secretary Tara Heiser took the lead in crafting a compelling narrative for the Bridgman Courtyard project. Her visionary theme, “Bridging our Community with the Bridgman Courtyard”, will be carried throughout the booth design, a meticulously planned presentation and a fun attendee engagement strategy to ensure that Bridgman's story of community collaboration is told with clarity and impact. Her dedication ensures that Bridgman's voice is not only heard but resonates powerfully among all attendees.

John Bonkoske, CGA President and Bridgman city council member, expressed his excitement: "Being shortlisted for the MML Community Excellence Award is a testament to Bridgman's dedication to community enhancement. Our Courtyard symbolizes the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and local pride. We look forward to sharing our journey with other municipalities and are hopeful for a favorable outcome."

In other exciting news, the Bridgman CGA has been awarded a substantial $25,000 operational grant from the Michigan Nonprofit Relief Fund, a combined effort of the Michigan Nonprofit Association and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

Long-time CGA Treasurer Bob Clark commented on the grant: "This grant ensures that the CGA can maintain its momentum in serving our community, especially during challenging times. We remain dedicated to the economic growth of the region and are grateful for this timely boost to our efforts."

Special recognition is due to CGA Vice President Julie Strating, whose dedication and effort have been instrumental in several key initiatives. Not only did she play a pivotal role in the Bridgman Courtyard project, but she was also the force behind the application for the MML Community Excellence Award and penned the grant application for the Michigan Nonprofit Relief Fund.

"Julie's contributions to our community and organization are invaluable. Her hard work and passion drive our mission forward, and we are immensely grateful for her leadership," added Bonkoske.

For more information on the Michigan Nonprofit Relief Fund, visit: https://www.mnaonline.org/policy/nonprofit-relief-fund

For more information on the MML Community Excellence Award, visit: https://cea.mml.org/

About the Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth & Advancement
The Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth & Advancement is a 501c3 organization with a mission to promote and grow the community through economic development in the City of Bridgman and Lake Charter Township. To learn more about the CGA, visit facebook.com/bridgmanarea.

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