

Downtown Development Board Grant Application

Row 4

Applicant / Primary Contact:	Blair Valentine
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Type of Grant Request	Special Event
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Name of Organization:	The Market Marie - The Market Culture LLC
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Street Address:	PO Box 2034
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City:	Clearwater
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State:	Florida
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Zip:	33757
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Cell Phone:	+1 (727) 667-3060
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Office Phone:	7276673060
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Email Address:	Blair@TheMarketMarie.com
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Website / Social Media Link(s):	Instagram: TheMarketMarie Facebook: TheMarketMarie Website: www.TheMarketMarie.com
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Description of Project:	<p>The Market Marie is a local, woman-owned, small business event company that coordinates open air markets for small businesses and artisans in the heart of Clearwater, FL. We host a monthly market on the 2nd Saturday in Coachman Park showcasing 130+ vendors. We are one of the most diverse markets in the area from products to makers. We have a detailed application process and carefully select makers to join our events. We ensure our businesses are locally owned small businesses. This allows our markets to truly stand out in quality, while supporting a vast number of small businesses in the community. All of our events are pet friendly, family friendly, and everyone is welcome! We are applying for funding in hopes to alleviate some of our recurring expenses. The Market Marie does not discriminate on account of race, age, color, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, or religion or otherwise as may be prohibited by federal and state law. We are applying for funding for 12 events. The Market Marie June 2026 through May 2027.</p>
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Total Project Cost (\$):	\$164,320 for 12 months
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Amount of Grant Funds	\$39,040.00
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Requested (\$):

**Applicant's
Financial
Contribution
(\$):** \$125,280.00

**Third-Party
Contributions
(\$):**

**When will the
event take
place?** Every 2nd Saturday of the month

**Who will
implement the
project?**

**Where will the
project occur?** Coachman Park

**Project
Attraction** The Market Marie plays a vital role in attracting businesses, residents, and visitors to downtown Clearwater by transforming Coachman Park into a vibrant, recurring destination that supports the city's "Live, Work, Play" vision. By hosting 130+ local small businesses and artisans each month, the market drives consistent foot traffic, keeps dollars circulating in the local economy, and provides entrepreneurs with a reliable platform to grow their customer base and brand visibility. As a free, family-friendly waterfront event, it fosters community connection through music, food, handmade goods, shopping local, and interactive experiences that encourage residents and visitors to spend more time downtown, explore nearby shops and restaurants, and return regularly. This steady activation of public space enhances Clearwater's appeal as a place to live, strengthens the small business ecosystem, and positions downtown as a welcoming, energetic destination for both locals and regional visitors.

**Applicant
Signature:**

Title of Event: The Market Marie

**Date(s) of
Event:** June 13, July 11, August 8, Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12 2026,
Jan 9, Feb 13, March 13, April 10, May 8 2027

**Description of
Special Event:** The Market Marie is a lively, family-friendly waterfront market held at Coachman Park that brings together over 130 local vendors for a full community experience. Shoppers can explore a wide mix of small businesses, artisans, and makers alongside fresh produce, handmade goods, and unique gifts, while enjoying a rotating selection of food trucks and sweet treats. The event goes beyond shopping with kid-friendly attractions like a bounce house, face painting, and interactive activities, plus special features such as pet adoptions that connect families with local rescues. Set against the scenic backdrop of Coachman Park, The Market Marie creates a welcoming, energetic atmosphere where residents and visitors can gather, support local businesses, and enjoy a fun, vibrant day by the water every 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 AM - 2 PM.

Intended Audience / Anticipated Attendance

The Market Marie is designed for everyone!! Our market is for community-focused audiences that includes downtown Clearwater residents, families, young professionals, and visitors from across the Tampa Bay region. The event appeals to shoppers who value supporting local small businesses, artisans, and makers, as well as families looking for a fun, affordable, and engaging weekend activity. With fresh produce, food trucks, kid-friendly attractions like bounce houses and face painting, and features such as pet adoptions, the market attracts a mix of local residents, tourists, and community members seeking a vibrant “live, work, play” experience in a welcoming waterfront setting. The Market Marie draws over 5,000 attendees each month, creating strong, consistent foot traffic that benefits downtown Clearwater, surrounding businesses, and the more than 130 local vendors who participate in each event.

Total Event Cost (\$):

Event Grant Funds Requested (\$)

Where will the event be held? Coachman Park: 300 Cleveland St. Clearwater, FL 33755

Contacted Special Events Department?

Additional Sponsors or Media Outlets for Event:

Funded by DDB Before? Yes

Applicant Signature Blair Valentine

Applied for: Special Event Permit

Current BTR: No

Is 501(c)(3)? No

Timeframe of Event: 10 AM - 2 PM

Free to Public? Yes

Agreement Checkbox

**Applied /
Awarded
Community
Sponsorship
Program?**

No