

# Your Voice Matters

## IDENTIFY

**Project**  
Gather on Aug. 15th to identify a project by consensus that benefits and enhances the entire community



## FUND

**Money**  
Approve use of funds for the selected project  
Funds may include individual donations and matching contributions



## SELECT

**Trustees**  
Select a group of people to administer funds in line with residents' desired priorities



## A New Way to Work: The Community Trust

Be part of an opportunity for Clarkston residents to participate in direct democracy and determine how to use funds from a Community Trust.

Everyone's voice matters. Attend if you want to be heard.

## PARTICIPATE AUGUST 15

ATLANTA AREA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

## INFO SESSIONS JULY 11 & 25

CDF OFFICES  
12:30 & 6:30 PM

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Who administers the fund itself?**

### **Where is the money held?**

Initially, the money will be held and administered by CDF. CDF hopes and expects that, eventually, the Trust will become an independent entity to administer the Trust fund in line with community-established priorities.

### **If I put money into the Trust, can I influence the decision of how it is used?**

Decisions concerning use of Trust funds are made through a consensus-based participatory process that you are welcome to participate in if you are a “resident” of the community as defined. Whether you have contributed, and how much you have contributed, to the fund does not affect how much you may influence the decision as all participants in the Trust annual meeting will have a voice in the decision-making process. The unique Trust benefit to donors lies in the donors’ ability to donate money for non-profit purposes and assist in determining exactly how those funds will be utilized.

### **Am I making a long term commitment to work on the Trust if I attend the initial meeting?**

No. Of course, the more who are involved, engaged, and committed, the more likely outcomes will be achieved for the betterment of the entire community, however, the process is a voluntary one for each stage of the process.

## **What is the defined community?**

### **What makes you a resident?**

A resident is anyone who resides in the 30021 zip code.

### **Can I still take part in the decision making even if I do not donate money?**

### **Can I donate money and not take part in the decision making?**

Yes. Donating money, or choosing not to, does not affect your ability to participate in the consensus-based participatory decision making process, provided you are a “resident” of the community. The use of Trust funds are decided in community meetings that are open to all community residents, whether or not they have donated money to the fund, however, all community residents are encouraged to donate as they would to any non-profit organization.

## **Where did the idea for the community Trust come from?**

In interacting with and listening to residents of Clarkston, the CDF staff noticed a community desire for increased collaboration among community residents and between community residents and organizations working locally. CDF borrowed from a variety of participatory movements, processes, and initiatives to create the concept of the Community Trust. Participatory budgeting (and other participatory) programs in Brazil and the United States, indigenous consensus-building processes around the world, and community land trust principles, as well as other models and processes, all informed the idea of the Community Trust.

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