

# Germantown BlockBuilders

FOOD & FRIENDSHIP!



Friends are people in life that make you laugh a little louder, smile a little brighter, and live a little better.



## I LIVE IN GERMANTOWN!

When Germantown was founded, people were less mobile; they lived, worked, and played in their community. Social interactions took place on front porches or in neighborhood churches. People's sense of pride for their community emerged naturally. Everyone knew everyone and neighbors looked out for one another.

During the heyday of its urban renewal, Germantown's residents banded together out of necessity. Shared concerns provided the foundation for rebuilding and revitalizing homes and attracting new businesses. Respect, cooperation, open and frequent communication, and community pride were the bonds that turned the tide for this neighborhood.

Today, Germantown is a vibrant and flourishing urban center. Yet, the need for a strong and shared sense of community may well be more critical than ever. Why? Because, people feel most happy and safe when they live in a place where neighbors know each other by name and share a common love for the area they all call home. Regrettably, the experience of living in the 21st century often runs counter to building a sense of community as people are pushed towards individualism and interpersonal relationships that can be fleeting.



## A CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM


The Historic Germantown Neighborhood Association (HGN) believes that *Germantown BlockBuilders* is a step that our organization can take to help folks gain pride in their community and develop a sense that they are integral to its fabric. This initiative consists of a series of social gatherings in which good food and great conversation serve as catalysts for building stronger and deeper associations among neighbors.

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## HOW DOES BLOCKBUILDERS WORK?

HGN's mission is to build a community which "embraces a vision that cherishes, protects, and preserves the neighborhood's core values." One core value is promoting a quality of life that addresses the physical, social, and emotional well-being of all of Germantown's residents.

Since public safety is so closely allied with the extent that neighbors know each other, in 2019, HGN's *BlockBuilders* program will provide **\$200 grants** to support social gatherings among residents from defined "blocks." **We define a block as a limited geographic area in which neighbors have a natural affinity because of some shared boundary.** Examples of "blocks" could include a condo association, the 1200 block bounded by 4th and 5th Avenues and their common alley, an apartment complex, a named cottage community such as Germantown Station, etc.



Food is the common denominator that brings people together.

- JAMES BEARD



## HOW TO APPLY

Participating in the *Germantown BlockBuilders* program is simple. The person who volunteers to serve as the *BlockBuilders* “captain” just needs to complete the application below and send it to [president@historicgermantown.org](mailto:president@historicgermantown.org). We’ll turn your request around quickly so that you can stage your Germantown BlockBuilder gathering in a timely manner. After we receive a review of your event, a few pictures, and all receipts, HGN will reimburse the captain for expenses up to \$200.

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<b>Germantown BlockBuilders Application</b>	
Name of <i>BlockBuilders</i> Captain	
Date and Time	
Description of your “block”	
Brief overview of the event (cookout, potluck, breakfast, hoedown, whatever)	
Number of expected neighbors	
<b>Captain’s contact information</b>	
Address	
Email	
Telephone	