

**It is that time of year again! Bank of America's Neighborhood Excellence Initiative applications are due by June 30.**

Bank of America has announced the fifth year of its Neighborhood Excellence Initiative here in Philadelphia. Working with community partners, Bank of America developed the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative which combines leadership development with mission based funding to organizations addressing the most pressing needs of their communities across the country. The Bank's three local market priorities are Community Development, Education and Arts & Culture. Currently we are accepting applications in the following two categories:

- **Neighborhood Builders:** \$200,000 in grant funding and leadership training over the course of two years to two local nonprofit organizations working to promote vibrant neighborhoods. These grants are "unrestricted funds" and can be used by the organization to cover operating expenses and build program capacity. Two Neighborhood Builders are chosen in each market.
- **Local Heroes:** recognition of five community heroes whose achievements and leadership on local issues contributes significantly to neighborhood vitality. Recipients will direct a \$5,000 contribution to an eligible nonprofit of their choice and will be honored at a public ceremony. Five Local Heroes are chosen in each market.

Award recipients will be chosen from a large, competitive pool of applicants by a local selection committee comprised of private, public and nonprofit sector leaders and chaired by the bank's local president and other bank associates.

Applications and nominations for the awards can be found on at [www.bankofamerica.com/foundation](http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation), click on ***Neighborhood Excellence Initiative***. The deadline for applications is June 30, 2009. Applicants are encouraged to submit as early as possible. Please help spread the word!

If you have any questions, please contact Deborah O'Brien at [deborah.e.o'brien@bankofamerica.com](mailto:deborah.e.o'brien@bankofamerica.com) or 267-675-0333.

Thank you.