



**E.C.G.R.A.**  
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
NOVEMBER  
2019**



October 31, 2019

James Sparber  
Finance Director  
Erie County Courthouse  
140 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 111  
Erie, PA 16501-1011

Dear Mr. Sparber:

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act 42 of 2017, the Department is required to distribute quarterly the Local Share Assessment collected for slots to the municipalities in which a licensed gaming entity is located. This distribution is based on the local share assessment amount collected plus the slot machine license operation fee amount collected over Summit Township's budget limitation.

An ACH for the third quarter of 2019 payment in the amount of \$3,091,426.24 should be deposited in your bank account within 3 - 5 business days. This payment includes the slots local share assessment of \$591,426.24 and the slot machine license operation fee of \$2,500,000.00. Any reductions to the Gross Terminal Revenue (GTR) for promotional items is the result of the Gaming Bulletin 2015-01 and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's April 28, 2014 decision in Greenwood Gaming and Entertainment Incorporated v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue (90 A.3d 699 (Pa. 2014)).

If you have any questions, please contact me at 717-346-4004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Heckert'.

Jennifer Heckert, Gaming Division Chief  
Bureau of Fiscal Management

Erie County 067-021010-042100

$3,091,426.24 \times .55 = \$1,700,284.43$

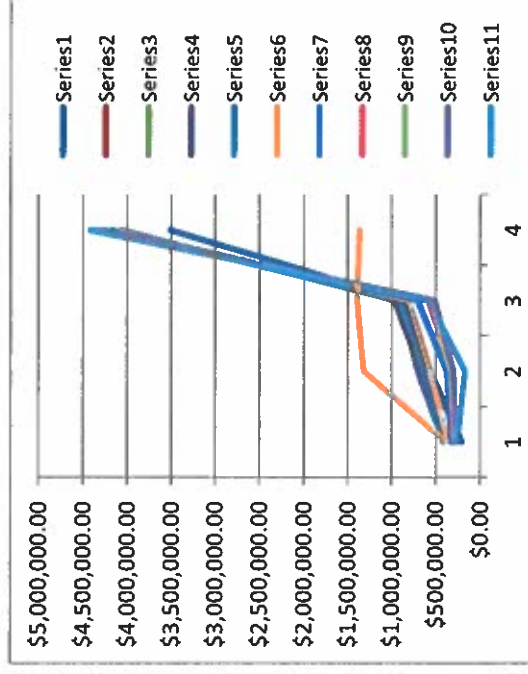
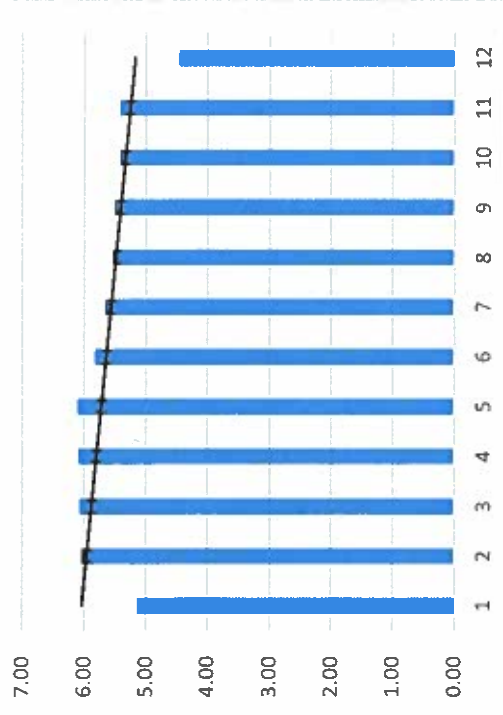
ECGRA 067-021050-042100

$3,091,426.24 \times .45 = \$1,391,141.81$

**Revenue Dashboard  
by Quarter  
2007 - 2018 YTD**



| Year | 1st Qtr      | 2nd Qtr      | 3rd Qtr       | 4th Qtr       | Total         |
|------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2007 | 201,418.07   | 562,082.72   | 867,508.44    | 3,507,952.54  | 5,138,961.77  |
| 2008 | 366,211.37   | 672,936.98   | 941,125.00    | 4,063,561.53  | 6,043,834.88  |
| 2009 | 407,507.87   | 701,525.21   | 898,525.69    | 4,060,932.24  | 6,068,491.01  |
| 2010 | 385,476.85   | 665,559.96   | 962,909.94    | 4,073,449.24  | 6,087,395.99  |
| 2011 | 393,440.61   | 636,302.96   | 903,421.25    | 4,166,222.13  | 6,099,386.95  |
| 2012 | 356,241.99   | 554,752.50   | 794,443.73    | 4,114,583.35  | 5,820,021.57  |
| 2013 | 318,869.71   | 374,557.04   | 701,478.54    | 4,261,932.00  | 5,656,837.29  |
| 2014 | 281,934.65   | 315,628.24   | 584,126.03    | 4,350,692.65  | 5,532,381.57  |
| 2015 | 264,934.67   | 308,566.19   | 541,749.43    | 4,390,710.21  | 5,505,960.50  |
| 2016 | 271,003.84   | 300,719.61   | 507,757.83    | 4,332,642.04  | 5,412,123.32  |
| 2017 | 254,570.93   | 172,041.71   | 578,894.78    | 4,412,495.64  | 5,418,003.06  |
| 2018 | 375,769.51   | 1,317,928.22 | 1,394,780.33  | 1,362,089.40  | 4,450,567.46  |
| 2019 | 373,319.64   | 1,314,153.08 | 1,391,141.81  |               |               |
|      | 4,250,699.71 | 7,896,754.42 | 11,067,862.80 | 47,097,262.97 | 70,312,579.90 |





# Ridge Policy Group Activity

## ECGRA October 15 – November 15 Report

### Relevant Activity

- RPG has been working directly with the North East Borough to identify funding opportunities for their Sustain NE concept. This has included:
  - Coordinating a meeting between North East officials, Perry, Senator Laughlin, and Rep. Sonney in support of RACP funding
  - Facilitating the passage through the Senate of two authorizations in RACP funding for Sustain NE
  - Finding funding opportunities at the state and federal level and connecting North East officials with appropriate lawmakers and officials to obtain said funding
  - Having bi-weekly calls set up to help support these activities.
- RPG was contacted directly by the Executive Director of DCED about how PA has been selected to host an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) POWER workshop in support of the forthcoming POWER 2020 RFP. The event will be held at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA on Wednesday, December 11th. We shared this event with Perry Wood and are looking for opportunities to highlight Erie projects as consideration for ARC POWER.
- On October 22, we had a call with Perry Wood to discuss plans related to North East and any other items we should be prioritizing.
- Mark Holman and Mark Campbell have had informal calls with Perry throughout the month to discuss other priorities.

### Grant Opportunities

#### **Economic Development Administration**

**Overview:** Under this NOFO, EDA solicits applications from applicants in rural and urban areas to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works and EAA programs. Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities. EDA provides strategic investments on a competitive- merit-basis to support economic development, foster job creation, and attract private investment in economically distressed areas of the United States.

EDA's Public Works and EAA programs provide economically distressed communities and regions with comprehensive and flexible resources to address a wide variety of economic needs. Projects funded by these programs will support the DOC Strategic Plan (2018-2022) by, among other things, advancing innovation, enhancing the manufacturing and export capacities of regions, providing

workforce development opportunities, and growing ecosystems that attract foreign direct investment. Through these programs, EDA supports bottom-up strategies that build on regional assets to spur economic growth and resiliency. EDA encourages its grantees throughout the country to develop initiatives that present new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities.

There are a few different funding opportunities under this investment:

*Public Works:* Through the Public Works program, EDA provides catalytic investments to help distressed communities build, design, or engineer critical infrastructure and facilities that will help implement regional development strategies and advance bottom-up economic development goals to promote regional prosperity. The Public Works program provides resources to meet the construction and/or infrastructure design needs of communities to enable them to become more economically competitive. Prior examples of investments EDA has supported through the Public Works program include projects supporting water and sewer system improvements, industrial parks, high-tech shipping and logistics facilities, workforce training facilities, business incubators and accelerators, brownfield redevelopment, technology-based facilities, wet labs, multi-tenant manufacturing facilities, science and research parks, and telecommunications infrastructure and development facilities.

*Economic Adjustment Assistance:* Through the EAA program, EDA provides investments that support a wide range of construction and non-construction activities (including infrastructure, design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategies, and capitalization or re-capitalization of Revolving Loan Funds (RLF)) in regions experiencing severe economic dislocations that may occur suddenly or over time. EDA utilizes EAA investments to provide resources that help communities experiencing or anticipating economic dislocations to plan and implement specific solutions to leverage their existing regional economic advantages to support economic development and job creation. Like Public Works investments, EAA investments are designed to help communities catalyze public-private partnerships to foster collaboration, attract investment, create jobs, and foster economic resiliency and prosperity. For example, EDA might provide funding to a university or community college to create and launch an economic diversification strategy to promote and enhance the growth of emerging industries in a region facing job losses due to declines in regionally important industries. As another example, EDA might provide funding to a city to support the construction of a publicly-owned multi-tenant business and industrial facility to house early-stage businesses.

**Eligible Entities:**

- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education
- State governments
- County governments
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Special district governments
- Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education

- City or township governments
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)

**Cost Sharing:** Cost sharing is an essential element of any EDA project, and the availability and committed nature of matching funds is a competitiveness factor in evaluating applications against each other. Generally, the amount of an EDA award may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project.

**Deadline:** There are no submission deadlines under this opportunity. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new PWEAA NOFO.

**Application/ more information:** <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=321695>

## **ARC**

Join ARC staff and other experts to learn how to develop a strong application for POWER 2020 in response to the POWER 2020 Request for Proposals (RFP available in early December).

All workshops will run from 9am–3pm and are free to attend.  
Pre-registration required. Lunch provided.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019  
Champion, Pennsylvania

## **POWER in Appalachia**

In October 2019, ARC announced 54 POWER investments, totaling \$44.4 million. These investments are projected to create or retain over 5,700 jobs, and leverage more than \$39 million in private investment and prepare tens of thousands of workers and students for opportunities in entrepreneurship, broadband development, tourism, and other industry sectors in 232 coal-impacted counties. POWER investments are also supporting workforce-to-recovery and other comprehensive strategies to strengthen the Region's Recovery Ecosystem

Since 2015, ARC has invested over \$190 million in 239 projects touching 326 counties across Appalachia through the POWER Initiative. Together, these investments are projected to create or retain more than 23,000 jobs, and leverage more than \$811 million in additional private investment into Appalachia's economy.

Read ARC's POWER project summaries to learn how these investments are growing Appalachia's economy.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for POWER 2020 funding will be available later this fall.

For questions about the POWER Initiative, please email [power@arc.gov](mailto:power@arc.gov).



| Funding Opportunities   | Awards       |
|---|--------------|
| Erie School District/Mercyhurst University – PAsmart Award                  | \$ 500,000   |
| Greater Erie Community Action Committee – pre-apprenticeship program        | \$ 49,995    |
| ARC Grant – Investing in Appalachia’s Future: ARC 5-year Strategic Plan     | \$ 200,000   |
| EDA – Regional Innovation Strategies Assistance to Coal Communities Program | \$ 1,000,000 |
| Millcreek School District Foundation – tax credit                           | \$ 20,000    |
| City of Erie/Erie Innovation District (ARC POWER grant)                     | \$ 500,000   |
| Erie Innovation District (EDA grant)  | \$ 2,000,000 |
| <hr/>   |              |
| TOTAL:  | \$ 4,269,995 |



GREATER ERIE COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

*Helping People. Changing Lives.*

## 2019 Summer Jobs and More (JAM) Program

Agenda for October 17, 2019

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| <u>Topic</u>               | <u>Time</u> | <u>Description</u>   |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|
| Greeting & Opening Remarks | 2:00        | Welcome given to attendees and a brief history of the Summer JAM program – Mr. Gary N. Lee |
| Student Testimonials       | 2:10        | Impact of participation in Summer JAM<br>Dominique Booker & Alexa Pierce                   |
| Employer Feedback          | 2:20        | Employers voice their thoughts about the program, successes, and concerns                  |
| Program Highlights         | 2:30        | 2019 statistics, changes implemented, & challenges - Benjamin Wilson & Silvana Lavor       |
| Role of the Evaluator      | 2:35        | What is the role of the Evaluator? What data is collected? - Keystone Research Corporation |
| Q&A                        | 2:40        | Opportunity for Key Investors & Employers to ask questions to Evaluator or Program Staff   |
| Remarks from Key Investors | 2:45        | Erie County, ECGRA, and The Erie Community Foundation                                      |
| Closing Remarks            | 2:55        | Thank you from GECAC – Ms. Georgia DelFreo   |

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**The Erie County Summer Jobs and More Program is a collaboration, which is mainly funded by Erie County, ECGRA, and The Erie Community Foundation.**





# Summer JAM 2019 Program Highlights



| Youth at a Glance               | 2019 |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Total # Youth Enrolled          | 190  |
| Total # Youth Employed          | 148  |
| Total # Youth Released          | 2    |
| Total # Youth Re-Assigned       | 2    |
| Total # Youth Resigned          | 3    |
| Employers at a Glance           | 2019 |
| Total # Participating Employers | 52   |
| Total # 2018 Returning Emp.     | 33   |
| Total # 2019 New Employers      | 19   |
| Total # City of Erie Employers  | 28   |
| Total # Erie County Employers   | 24   |
| Total # Non Profit Employers    | 25   |
| Total # For Profit Employers    | 27   |

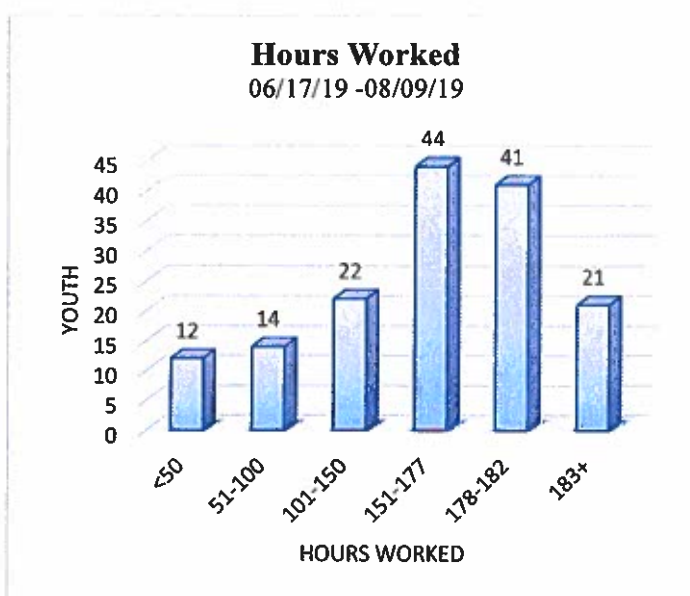
Recruitment and orientation efforts took place at 10 locations over an 8-week period throughout Erie County. Locations included City Hall, high schools, and community centers.

Over 80 employers were contacted. New employers providing employment opportunities include Knox Law Firm, LECOM, Whole Foods Coop, and Concourse of Union Station.

## Programmatic Changes

Summer JAM 2019 implemented several programmatic changes in an effort for efficiency and contextualize the JAM experience for participants and employers. Some changes are listed below:

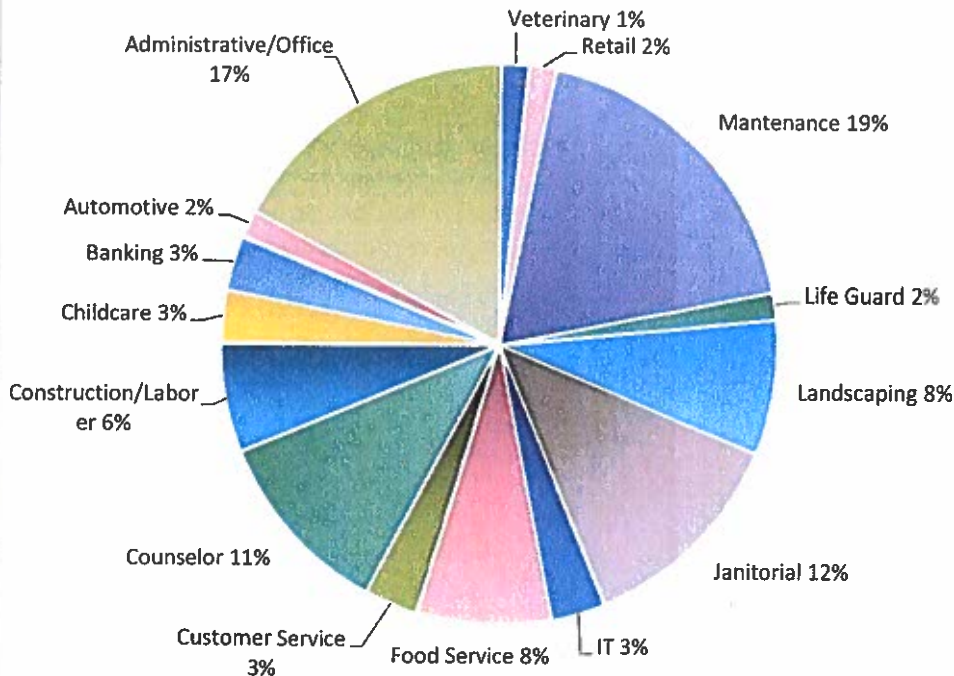
- Orientation Week included a dynamic and interactive schedule. Guest speakers included representatives from various government offices, financial institutions, human resources directors, community college, participant testimonials, and career services professionals. Ice breaker activities were developed to encourage all participants to interact and network. Transportation and bussing was coordinated to ensure all participants, both city and county-wide, were able to attend orientation week.
- GECAC implemented an electronic timecard tracking and direct deposit. The use of a single platform allows participants to enter their time electronically, from any device. Site supervisors are able to review and approve time cards electronically. Payroll is processed on a bi-weekly basis and participants are paid via direct deposit.



As of the final pay period:

- 68% of youth worked 151+ hours
- 32% of youth worked less than 150 hours Reasons include: a late start in the program, minimally scheduled hours, conflicting personal schedules (family vacations), and early exit from the program either due to resignation or termination.
- Several youth worked over the allotted 180-hours due to work schedules. For example, rather than end a work week mid-day or mid-week youth were allowed to finish out the week based on their regular schedule.

## Job Opportunities by Type



Summer JAM 2019 provided a variety of job opportunities. These jobs can be bucketed into 15 general categories.

### Top 3 Job Types:

- Maintenance
- Administrative/Office
- Janitorial

### New categories include:

- Food Service
- Retail

### Beyond Summer JAM 2019

Several employers offered flexible schedules and weekend hours accommodating back-to-school requirements and schedules. Ten youth participants were offered and accepted positions with their Summer JAM employer. Employers hiring youth include:

- Corry YMCA
- Concourse at Union Station
- Edinboro University (Work Study)
- Erie Housing Authority
- LECOM
- Magnolia Run Kennels
- Mayor's Office
- MCRC
- Original Breakfast Place



**ADVISORY\*\*\*ADVISORY\*\*\*ADVISORY\*\*\*ADVISORY\*\*\*ADVISORY**

## **ECGRA to Announce City of Erie Mission Main Street Grants at Mayor's Weekly Press Conference**

**CONTACT:** Kate Philips  
[philips@parkerphilips.com](mailto:philips@parkerphilips.com)  
215.850.4647 | mobile

**ERIE, PA** (October 23, 2019) The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) will join **Erie Mayor Joe Schember** and **Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper** at the Mayor's weekly press conference to present several grant awards that will support an ongoing reinvestment in the City of Erie.

On **Thursday, October 24 at 10:00 a.m.** ECGRA will present \$750,000 in Mission Main Street Grants to benefit organizations in the City of Erie.

This latest investment is part of a strategic investment strategy by ECGRA to invest in and reinvigorate towns and cities across Erie County through local share gaming revenue.

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>WHAT:</b>  | <b>City of Erie Mission Main Street Grant Awards</b>                                   |
| <b>WHEN:</b>  | <b>Thursday, October 24</b>  |
| <b>TIME:</b>  | <b>10:00 a.m.</b>  |
| <b>WHERE:</b> | <b>Mayor's Chambers</b><br><b>5<sup>th</sup> Floor of City Hall</b><br><b>Erie, PA</b> |

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## **ABOUT MISSION MAIN STREET GRANTS**

Studies show that improving main streets can drive job creation and promote tourism—two critical economic growth components. With [Mission Main Street Grants](#), launched in 2013, ECGRA targets revitalization along countywide commercial corridors that are home to small businesses, historic structures, and special events.

Municipalities and nonprofit organizations with plans to renew historic commercial corridors can apply for Mission Main Street Grants. A 1:1 cash match is required for all applicants. Projects may include overhauled streetscapes, revamped landscapes, and restored façades. See current grant guidelines for further details.

Mission Main Street grantees are required to match ECGRA's \$1.2 million of local share gaming revenue investments, extending the reach of these valuable economic development dollars to \$2.4 million revitalizing main streets across Erie County in the past six years.

Up to \$10,000 awarded per planning grant; up to \$250,000 per implementation grant; a maximum of \$2,500,000 to be granted in the 2018 - 2021 funding.

####



## **ECGRA Mission Main Street Investments Supporting Economic Revitalization, Building Local Capacity**

*City of Erie Organizations Receive Grants through Mission Main Street*

**CONTACT:** Kate Philips  
[philips@parkerphilips.com](mailto:philips@parkerphilips.com)  
215.850.4647 | mobile

**ERIE, PA (October 24, 2019)** The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) announced \$750,000 to support revitalization projects within the City of Erie as part of their 2019 Mission Main Street Grant Program.

During the event, ECGRA presented \$250,000 to Erie Downtown Partnership for “Designing a Better Downtown Experience,” a project that focuses on strengthening the appearance and appeal of downtown Erie’s core by strategically aligning and allocating programs that address placemaking, the built environment, streetscaping, safety, and business attraction.

“ECGRA’s Mission Main Street Grants have, for years, made a lasting impact on the City of Erie. Through these grants, our downtown has become more vibrant, more welcoming, and a better place to live, visit, and do business,” said Erie Mayor Joe Schember.

The Erie Downtown Partnership is a nonprofit serving over 400 businesses in downtown Erie over a 70-block Downtown Improvement District and is a statewide and nationally accredited Main Street organization. The mission of the organization is to revitalize the Erie, PA downtown by improving its image, business climate, physical environment, and design.

Mayor Schember was joined by Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, along with other city, county, and ECGRA officials to celebrate the ongoing reinvestment in the region.

“Projects across Erie County being funded through Mission Main Street Grants further the purpose of revitalizing Erie’s main streets as an economic and community development strategy that creates jobs, promotes tourism, and impacts the region’s economy,” said Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper.

“Once thriving commercial districts, many of the areas of focus for today’s grant recipients, have suffered from disinvestment and neglect in recent decades,” said Perry Wood, Executive Director,

ECGRA. “Each area retains anchor businesses, manufacturers, and tourist destinations. They are hubs of economic activity that will continue to grow with these new Mission Main Street Grants.”

As towns and communities across the region reinvest in local businesses, infrastructure, and neighborhoods, this new round of investments by ECGRA includes a \$250,000 Mission Main Street grant to both Our West Bayfront as well as Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network.

Our West Bayfront’s Re-Store West 8<sup>th</sup> project will accelerate a comeback of the West 8th Street Commercial Corridor in the City of Erie’s West Bayfront by implementing a simultaneous set of neighborhood interventions including property repairs, vacant lot enhancements, traffic and security improvements.

Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network will be focusing their revitalizing efforts on improving gateway anchors and two significant business corridors: Erie’s historic Federal Hill area and South Parade Street.

Mission Main Street grants that were announced today:

| Organization                               | Project  | Amount Received |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Erie Downtown Partnership                  | Placemaking & Elevation of Built Environment   | \$250,000.00    |
| Our West Bayfront                          | Re-Store West 8th Street                       | \$250,000.00    |
| Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network | 2019 SSJNN Neighborhood Corridors and Gateways | \$250,000.00    |

**TOTAL**

**\$750,000.00**

Using national best practices as models for grant making and impact investing since 2008, ECGRA has made and reported on 1,075 grants and loans to 248 nonprofits and municipalities totaling over \$58 million of investments of local share gaming revenue.

ECGRA has set aside \$2.5 million in grants over the next three years for Main Street revitalization. Mission Main Street grantees are required to match ECGRA’s \$1.2 million of local share gaming revenue investments, extending the reach of these valuable economic development dollars to \$2.4 million revitalizing main streets across Erie County in the past six years.

#### **ABOUT MISSION MAIN STREET**

ECGRA’s Mission Main Street Grants is one of three *IMPACT: Neighborhoods & Communities* initiatives invested in and measured by the ECGRA board of directors with the purpose of reinvigorating neighborhoods and main corridors, boosting buy-local efforts, and combating blight.

Mission Main Street Grants were established in 2013 by the ECGRA board of directors to buttress any area recognized as a “main street” — a distinct geographic area host to small businesses, special events, historic structures, green spaces, and parks.

Mission Main Street grant guidelines, available at [www.ECGRA.org](http://www.ECGRA.org), were originally written in collaboration with a volunteer committee made up of 19 municipal, nonprofit, and business leaders from across the county.

Applicants can apply for up to \$250,000 over three years for an implementation project, and up to \$10,000 for a one-year planning project. All projects require a 1:1 cash match.

###



## Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 7, 2019  
11:30am – 1:00pm  
5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510

### AGENDA

- I. Review of Lead Asset Distribution
- II. Anchor Building Review



## Perry Wood

**From:** Patrick Fisher <patrick@erieartsandculture.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2019 9:05 AM  
**To:** Perry Wood  
**Subject:** 2019 Distribution Recommendations

Perry,

Below you will find our agreed upon recommended distribution for 2019. Please let me know if you have any questions.

|                                 | 2015-2016              | 2016-2017              | 2017-2018              | Three Year<br>Average  | % of<br>Total  | Recommended<br>Award |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Erie County Historical Society  | \$818,265.00           | \$819,956.00           | \$972,033.00           | \$870,084.67           | 6.73%          | \$31,559.17          |
| Erie Philharmonic               | \$1,304,144.00         | \$1,437,306.00         | \$1,814,453.00         | \$1,518,634.33         | 11.75%         | \$55,082.97          |
| expERIENCE<br>Children's Museum | \$462,860.00           | \$580,573.00           | \$676,671.00           | \$573,368.00           | 4.44%          | \$20,796.85          |
| Erie Playhouse                  | \$1,313,578.00         | \$1,349,668.00         | \$1,375,509.00         | \$1,346,251.67         | 10.41%         | \$48,830.41          |
| Flagship Niagara<br>League      | \$1,356,272.00         | \$1,576,733.00         | \$1,476,957.00         | \$1,469,987.33         | 11.37%         | \$53,318.47          |
| MIAC                            | \$753,973.00           | \$714,856.00           | \$894,521.00           | \$787,783.33           | 6.09%          | \$28,573.99          |
| Erie Zoo                        | \$3,861,854.00         | \$4,230,991.00         | \$4,016,869.00         | \$4,036,571.33         | 31.22%         | \$146,412.03         |
| Erie Art Museum                 | \$1,255,683.00         | \$1,200,649.00         | \$1,469,100.00         | \$1,308,477.33         | 10.12%         | \$47,460.28          |
| Erie Arts & Culture             | \$1,011,447.00         | \$982,046.00           | \$1,055,259.00         | \$1,016,250.67         | 7.86%          | \$36,860.82          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                   | <b>\$12,138,076.00</b> | <b>\$12,892,778.00</b> | <b>\$13,751,372.00</b> | <b>\$12,927,408.67</b> | <b>100.00%</b> | <b>\$468,895.00</b>  |
| <b>Funds for Distribution</b>   | <b>\$468,895.00</b>    |                        |                        |                        |                |                      |



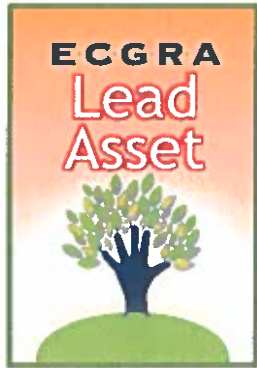
**Patrick Fisher**  
Executive Director



**Erie Arts & Culture | 814-452-3427**

[erieartsandculture.org](http://erieartsandculture.org)





# 2019 LEAD ASSET DISTRIBUTION

| Organization                   | 2015-2016              | 2016-2017              | 2017-2018              | Three Year<br>Average  | % of Total     | Recommended<br>Award |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Erie County Historical Society | \$818,265.00           | \$819,956.00           | \$972,033.00           | \$870,084.67           | 6.73%          | \$31,559.17          |
| Erie Philharmonic              | \$1,304,144.00         | \$1,437,306.00         | \$1,814,453.00         | \$1,518,634.33         | 11.75%         | \$55,082.97          |
| expERIEncE Children's Museum   | \$462,860.00           | \$580,573.00           | \$676,671.00           | \$573,368.00           | 4.44%          | \$20,796.85          |
| Erie Playhouse                 | \$1,313,578.00         | \$1,349,668.00         | \$1,375,509.00         | \$1,346,251.67         | 10.41%         | \$48,830.41          |
| Flagship Niagara League        | \$1,356,272.00         | \$1,576,733.00         | \$1,476,957.00         | \$1,469,987.33         | 11.37%         | \$53,318.47          |
| MIAC                           | \$753,973.00           | \$714,856.00           | \$894,521.00           | \$787,783.33           | 6.09%          | \$28,573.99          |
| Erie Zoo                       | \$3,861,854.00         | \$4,230,991.00         | \$4,016,869.00         | \$4,036,571.33         | 31.22%         | \$146,412.03         |
| Erie Art Museum                | \$1,255,683.00         | \$1,200,649.00         | \$1,469,100.00         | \$1,308,477.33         | 10.12%         | \$47,460.28          |
| Erie Arts & Culture            | \$1,011,447.00         | \$982,046.00           | \$1,055,259.00         | \$1,016,250.67         | 7.86%          | \$36,860.82          |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                  | <b>\$12,138,076.00</b> | <b>\$12,892,778.00</b> | <b>\$13,751,372.00</b> | <b>\$12,927,408.67</b> | <b>100.00%</b> | <b>\$468,895.00</b>  |
| <b>Funds for Distribution</b>  | <b>\$468,895.00</b>    |                        |                        |                        |                |                      |

**2019 Anchor Building Grant Program  
Proposal Summaries**

**Total applications: 8**

**Total grant request: \$629,000**

**Project Name:** Steam Boiler Replacement/St. Benedict Community Center

**Project Sponsor:** Benedictine Sisters of Erie, Inc.

**Grant Request:** \$ 42,000

**Project Total:** \$ 94,075

**Previous Grants:** \$21,298, Human Services - 2014

**Match Status:** \$20,000 – Erie Community Foundation; \$32,075 – Sponsor cash

**Cost Estimates:** Based on proposal by W. T. Spaeder

**Heritage Building:** Yes

**Project Summary:** The Benedictine Sisters of Erie own the former St. Mary's School auditorium building located at 320 East 10th St. in Erie. The building was renamed the St. Benedict Community Center (SBCC) in August of 2000. The steam boiler system that heats the building is no longer in working order. Upon the recommendation of the Wm. T. Spaeder Company the installation of a completely new steam boiler system is necessary as parts needed for repair of the system are no longer available.

The St. Benedict Community Center provides a recreational facility inclusive of people of all ages, races, and physical and emotional challenges. Without heat in the building, the St. Benedict Community Center would close resulting in the termination of therapeutic and recreational programs offered. The project needs to be completed before the onset of the 2019 winter season.

The building houses the recreational and therapeutic adapted sports programs offered to Erie's inner-city youth, and those with physical challenges. During the school year underprivileged youth from the Emmaus Ministries Kids Café play basketball, flag football and kick ball during the after-school hours. A&K Skill Development, a business owned by 2 former Gannon University Basketball players rent space at the SBCC. They work with individuals and small groups on basketball fundamentals and skill development for a nominal fee paid by the participants. The St. Mary's Club (St. Mary's Auditorium Assn.) is located in the ground level of the building. The social club was established March 28, 1938 and membership remains strong today. The St. Mary's Club has an annual contract with the Benedictine Sisters/St. Benedict Community Center. The club pays a monthly user fee and the SBCC receives a monthly donation from them. The auditorium has a large kitchen that is not utilized. The outdated appliances have been taken out of the area. In the past, the kitchen was used to prepare school lunches and food for when bingo took place many years ago. The building has a balcony and upstairs bathrooms that are currently not being utilized.

Improvements to the building will enable additional income and allow the Benedictines to further their mission.

## 2019 ANCHOR BUILDING PROGRAM SUMMARIES



St. Benedict Community Center (SBCC)

**Project Name:** Union City Borough Hall Building ADA Access Improvements

**Project Sponsor:** Union City Borough

**Grant Request:** \$ 37,500

**Project Total:** \$ 75,000

**Previous Grants:** \$196,493, Mission Main Street, Renaissance Block, Community Assets, Special Events – 2017-2019.

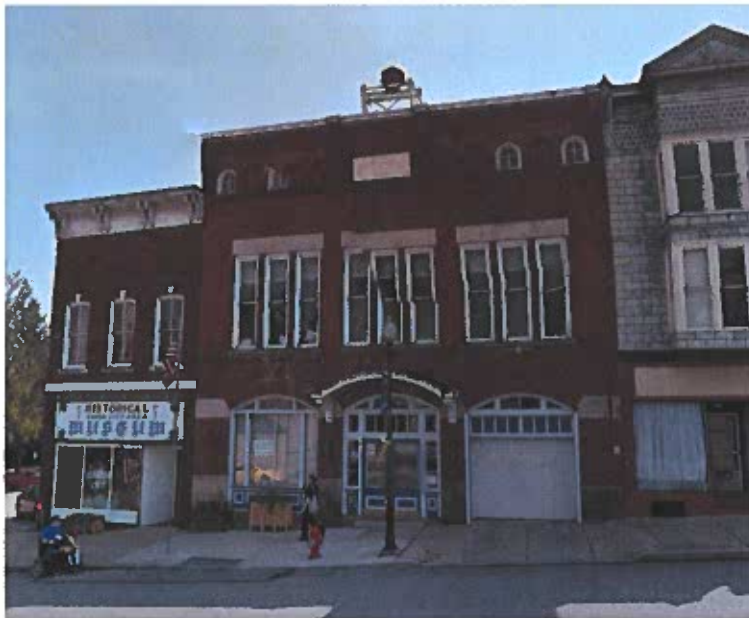
**Match Status:** None in hand

**Cost Estimates:** Based on Porter Consulting Engineers estimate

**Heritage Building:** Yes, within National Register Historic District

**Project Summary:** The Borough will implement accessibility improvements, as proposed by Porter Consulting Engineers, for the 135-year-old City Building. The work will include the installation of an entrance ramp, sidewalk improvements, installation of a public service window/counter, and restroom improvements. The City Building is a contributing resource of the National Register listed Union City Historic District, and it houses the municipal offices and police department.

Investment in the building will allow the borough to use a vacant upper floor social hall for events and ensure that the building remains an anchor in the downtown business district.



Union City Borough Hall



|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b><u>Project Name:</u></b>      | Wayne School Reimagined                     |
| <b><u>Project Sponsor:</u></b>   | Erie Center for Arts and Technology (ECAT)  |
| <b><u>Grant Request:</u></b>     | \$ 100,000                                  |
| <b><u>Project Total:</u></b>     | \$ 8,685,000                                |
| <b><u>Previous Grants:</u></b>   | None  |
| <b><u>Match Status:</u></b>      | \$1,000,000 in cash in hand from UPMC Hamot |
| <b><u>Cost Estimates:</u></b>    | Based architect's estimates                 |
| <b><u>Heritage Building:</u></b> | Yes   |

**Project Summary:** The newly established Erie Center for Arts and Technology (ECAT) is inspired by the Empowering Education model, created in the 1960's by Bill Strickland at the Pittsburgh-based Manchester Bidwell Corporation. Strickland's message of hope and his mission to "make the impossible possible" is based on a personal and professional philosophy that has grown out of his work fighting poverty for more than half a century. This philosophy is: 1. Environment shapes behavior; 2. All people are assets; and 3. Creativity fuels enterprise. Building on this simple framework, ECAT seeks to create the Wayne Opportunity Center as a world-class facility— a place of light, beauty, openness, inclusion and respect and transforms an historic educational asset into a modern mecca for opportunity and growth. With its full-size gymnasium, community space for art displays and events/meetings, medical suite and ample tenant space, the Wayne Opportunity Center will transform a 100+ year old educational landmark into a new home for healthcare, education, art and investment on Erie's East Side.

Plans for full renovation and buildout of the former Wayne School include:

- 10,000 square foot expansion for Primary Health Network including expanded primary services at Wayne Primary Care, additional specialty offices and a pharmacy, bringing the total healthcare footprint to roughly 17,800 square feet.
- Gym space and gallery space for community events, art exhibits and rentals
- 16,000 square feet for ECAT programming, which will initially include photography and digital arts classes for high school students, as well a certified Medical Assistant with Phlebotomy adult training program— all offered at no cost. Additional programs are being explored in Pharmacy Tech and Medical Billing/Coding/Claims
- 16,000 square feet available for commercial lease (tenant relationships to be informed by data collected through the 2019 Community Health Census project currently underway in this neighborhood with priority given to social service/nonprofit organizations in need of incubator space)

Funds would be used to defray the cost of architectural and engineering services. Asbestos removal is currently underway.

## 2019 ANCHOR BUILDING PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Wayne School





**Project Name:** Masonic Temple Building Sidewalk Vault Rehabilitation

**Project Sponsor:** Erie Masonic Temple Preservation Foundation

**Grant Request:** \$ 100,000

**Project Total:** \$ 205,000

**Previous Grants:** None

**Match Status:** \$105,000 cash from sponsor

**Cost Estimates:** Based engineer's estimates

**Heritage Building:** Yes

**Project Summary:** The Erie Masonic Temple Preservation Foundation is seeking support for a sidewalk vault shoring and water abatement project. This project has several main goals: securing the sidewalk structures on Peach Street and West 8<sup>th</sup> to keep it safe for pedestrian and light equipment; ensuring the building is structurally safe both at the basement level and above; and preventing any future water intrusion and future damage.

The Masonic Temple has already completed work to move several major building systems (heating and electrical). This has drastically reduced any potential for water damage to those systems as they are now out of the way of any water intrusion. Temporary shoring plans are underway and expected to be put in place where needed to prevent any further deterioration of the structure, and to strengthen any areas that are of immediate concern. The owners have invested \$150,000 in the building within the past year: air conditioning (new system and refurbishments), elevator electrical upgrades, steam line replacement, and electrical service and panel upgrades.

The Masonic Temple hopes to be able to repurpose these basement spaces once they are secure and dry. Uses currently under consideration are: an expanded kitchen to support the basement banquet facility known as the Camelot Room, event storage, and future home for a new steam boiler.

Phase I: Structural and Water Intrusion Correction - \$140,000.

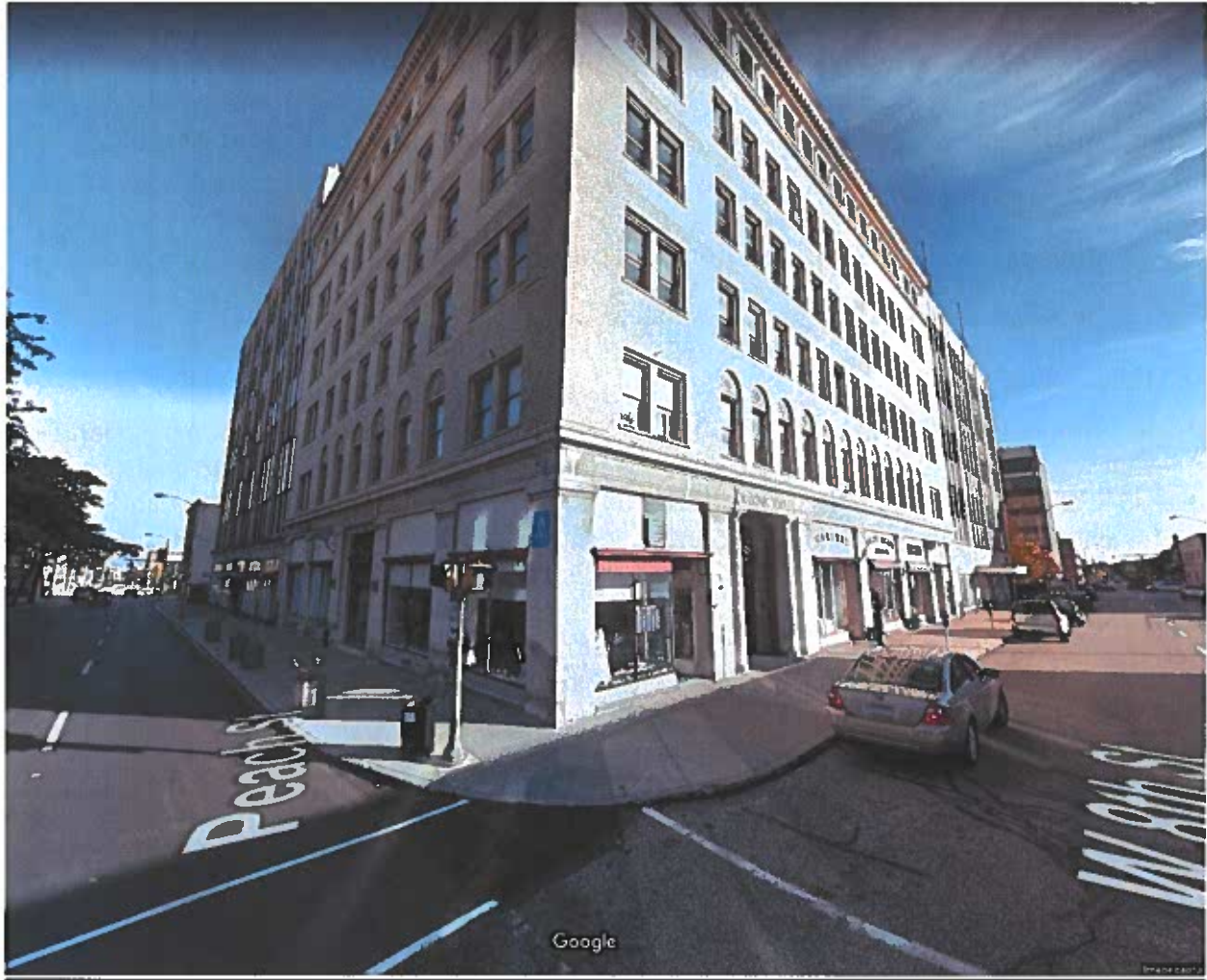
Phase II: Expanded kitchen space and event space, and a future home for a new steam boiler - \$65,000. (match work)

Annual tax bill is over \$13,000

Current occupancy rate as reported by owner is 85%.

## 2019 ANCHOR BUILDING PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Masonic Building



|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b><u>Project Name:</u></b>      | Boston Store Place Improvements  |
| <b><u>Project Sponsor:</u></b>   | Housing and Neighborhood Development Service (HANDS)   |
| <b><u>Grant Request:</u></b>     | \$ 50,000  |
| <b><u>Project Total:</u></b>     | \$ 505,000   |
| <b><u>Previous Grants:</u></b>   | 2012 Human Service Grant - \$15,000  |
| <b><u>Match Status:</u></b>      | \$ 455,000 - \$100,000 private donation for clock repairs and \$ 355,000 in HUD HOME funds for HVAC, masonry, and roof repairs |
| <b><u>Cost Estimates:</u></b>    | Based on contractors' cost proposals   |
| <b><u>Heritage Building:</u></b> | Yes. On the National Register of Historic Places   |

**Project Summary:** Housing and Neighborhood Development Service (HANDS) recently acquired the historic Boston Store in downtown Erie from a Kansas-based owner. The building came with great potential, but also many challenges, including higher than acceptable vacancy rates and deferred maintenance of critical needs. With ECGRA funding, HANDS plans to make improvements to a damaged portion of the exterior building envelope on the northern elevation. The goal is to improve the aesthetic look of the exterior building environment, which will in turn enhance marketing efforts currently underway to increase awareness of underutilized vacant commercial spaces. HANDS feels the proposed exterior wall improvement is a critical component in attracting new commercial tenants who desire a prime downtown location.

The work needed to improve the long-term marketability and sustainability of the building has already begun. HANDS, with the backing of a private donations, has completed a full restoration of the historic Boston Store interior and exterior clocks. Additionally, City of Erie HOME funds are being utilized to perform other critical needs including masonry and roof repairs, mechanical systems upgrades including new high efficiency boilers and cooling tower upgrades, environmental remediation, and residential lobby/elevator finish updates.

Annual tax bill is over \$119,000.



Boston Store

## 2019 ANCHOR BUILDING PROGRAM SUMMARIES



**Project Name:** Railway Express Office Rehabilitation

**Project Sponsor:** Impact Corry

**Grant Request:** \$ 100,000

**Project Total:** \$ 239,090

**Previous Grants:** \$ 272,362 Mission Main Street, Special Events – 2012-2019.

**Match Status:** \$ 139,000 from RACP grant in hand.

**Cost Estimates:** Based on contractors' cost proposals

**Heritage Building:** Yes. Built in 1951.

**Project Summary:** Impact Corry is proposing to rehabilitate the Railway Express Office as part of the ongoing development of Green Junction Park. Green Junction Park is located on 1.7 acres of underutilized rail property in the heart of the City of Corry that is now owned by the Corry Industrial Benefit Association and being targeted for redevelopment as it is the point of convergence for three separate potential rails-to-trails.

The depot is one of two historic structures that remain on the property and reflect the city's 150+ year rail history, and, due to the building's high degree of integrity (very few alterations have been made to the property), it is a "contributing" building to the proposed Corry Historic District.

The scope of work for the rehabilitation includes interior and exterior building renovations, as well as the installation of a new parking area. The intent of the project is to sensitively transform the Railway Express Office into a "white box" space suitable for a future retail tenant, such as a restaurant or specialty shop.



**Project Name:** Maggie Knox Western Contemporary Art Center  
**Project Sponsor:** Maggie Knox Western  
**Grant Request:** \$ 99,570  
**Project Total:** \$ 1,131,150  
**Previous Grants:** None  
**Match Status:** None in hand  
**Cost Estimates:** Based architect's estimates and contractors' proposals  
**Heritage Building:** Yes. Built in 1918.

### **Project Summary**

Maggie Knox Western (MKW), a non-profit arts organization, is proposing to acquire, revitalize, reuse and renovate the former Knox Western manufacturing plant (located in the city of Erie's Little Italy neighborhood at 550 Huron Street) into a contemporary art center which will offer space and facilities for artists in the region to create and exhibit their works in a blossoming wholesome arts community. Uses of the building will include large scale, open warehouse exhibition and event space, workspace, space to rent, to program. There is a phased plan so it can operate in part of the building while work on the rest of the building progresses.

Applicant does not yet own the building.

Property is tax delinquent.

An environmental assessment of the property should be made available to potential funders.



**Project Name:** Holy Rosary Building Development Project  
**Project Sponsor:** Mercy Center for Women  
**Grant Request:** \$ 100,000  
**Project Total:** \$ 2,433,755  
**Previous Grants:** \$ 42,267 Community Assets, Special Events – 2012-2019.  
**Match Status:** From capital campaign  
**Cost Estimates:** Based on proposal from Frontier Construction  
**Heritage Building:** Yes

### **Project Summary**

Mercy Center for Women (MCW), headquartered at the former Holy Rosary convent, recently purchased the former Holy Rosary Elementary School Building and adjacent property (located on the same block) to expand the MCW campus and redevelop the empty building and space to further the MCW mission. The interior classrooms will be converted into 15 permanent loft-style apartments for families and individuals enrolled in the MCW program. The basement level will house a childcare center, and the offices will be remodeled into usable spaces for community services, which will include the following new and existing programs: Dress for Success Erie, Our Daily Threads Thrift Store, a childcare center, a food pantry, an education and resource center, a social enterprise, and a wellness and healthcare program.

The building has been maintained and the costs involve asbestos removal and the conversion of classrooms to residential.

A capital campaign has begun and matching funds have been donated according to MCW executive director.





## ANCHOR BUILDING RECIPIENTS

| AL | Organization                                  | Representative    | Project Title  | Amount Requested | Amount Awarded | C/O |
|----|---|-------------------|--|------------------|----------------|-----|
|    | Benedictine Sisters of Erie                   | Patti Eichen      | Steam Boiler Installation/St. Benedict Community Center (SBCC) | \$42,000.00      | \$42,000.00    |     |
|    | Borough of Union City                         | Cindy Wells       | Union City Borough Building ADA Access                         | \$37,500.00      | -              |     |
|    | Erie Center for Arts & Technology             | Daria Devlin      | Wayne School Reimagined  | \$100,000.00     | \$75,000.00    |     |
|    | Erie Masonic Temple Preservation              | Ethan Sykes       | Erie Masonic Temple Sidewalk Vault Rehabilitation              | \$100,000.00     | \$70,000.00    |     |
|    | Housing and Neighborhood Development Services | Cameron Kobielski | Boston Store Place   | \$50,000.00      | \$50,000.00    |     |
|    | Impact Corry                                  | Charles Gray      | Rehabilitation of Railway Express Office                       | \$100,000.00     | \$75,000.00    |     |
|    | Maggie Knox Western                           | Sarah Moody       | Maggie Knox Western Contemporary Art Center                    | \$99,570.00      | -              |     |
|    | Mercy Center for Women                        | Holly Nowak       | Holy Rosary Building Development Project                       | \$100,000.00     | \$100,000.00   |     |
|    |   |                   |  |                  |                |     |
|    |   |                   | Totals   | \$629,070.00     | \$412,000.00   |     |





# LOCAL SHARE GAMING REVENUE: A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

June 2019  
(2009-2018)



Prepared by:  
*Parker Phillips*  
assess analyze assist

## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) has made a lasting impact across Erie County by investing wisely and with a strategic mission that reflects the intent of the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act. The act was designed to greatly benefit Pennsylvanians by ensuring gaming jobs and gaming revenue aid local nonprofits, municipalities, economic development projects, and residents.

In 2011, ECGRA designated and made its first investment in the Erie County Lead Assets: Erie Art Museum, Erie Arts & Culture, Erie County Historical Society, Erie Philharmonic, Erie Playhouse, Erie Zoological Society, expERIENCE Children's Museum, Flagship Niagara League, and the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture. These place-shaping culture-, heritage-, and entertainment-based nonprofits are essential to the continued vitality of our region, each of them anchoring and elevating our quality of place. Erie's vitality depends on the sustainability of these core organizations, and they are secured for future generations. By investing in an endowment these anchor institutions will benefit our community in perpetuity.

Following the lead of respected foundations across the U.S., including The Rockefeller, George Gund, and F.B. Heron Foundations, ECGRA has practiced Impact Investing since 2014, driving social, cultural, and environmental change. By investing in our main streets, financing multi-municipal cooperation projects, joining in the efforts to prevent blight, being a catalyst for entrepreneurialism, and investing in local community events that shape our Erie heritage, ECGRA dollars are working.

With ten years of investing behind us, Erie County can be proud of the continued impact ECGRA dollars are making on our region. Through these dollars, Erie County has leveraged local share gaming revenue to fuel progress and economic development. From Union City to North East, and Corry to Girard, local share gaming revenue has reached every corner of the County, while ECGRA remains laser focused on making it work on behalf of our citizens.

I'm proud to be the chairman of the ECGRA board of directors. My colleagues take stewardship of these dollars seriously and strive toward creative solutions to address community problems. This economic impact study shows that a thoughtful, creative and impactful process has gone into turning gaming revenue into a multiplier for #OurErie. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our staff. For more information or to contact our staff, visit us online at [www.ecgra.org](http://www.ecgra.org).

Michael J. Paris  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ECGRA's investments of more than \$56 million over the course of a little more than ten years throughout Erie County have been transformative from an economic and community perspective. As a funder of community events and activities and an influencer of new and innovative programs to stimulate Erie County's economy, ECGRA has made an impact. Its 990 strategic investments in 244 Erie County organizations have generated an economic impact of \$128.4 million, supported 838 jobs, and created \$4.6 million in state and local tax revenue.



### Economic Impact of Ten Years of Local Share Gaming Revenue

**E.C.G.R.A.**  
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

generated  
**\$128.4M**  
in Economic Impact



supported and sustained  
**838 Jobs**



supported  
**\$4.6M**  
in State and Local Tax Revenue



### Combined Impact

ECGRA, Erie County Government, and Summit Township

generated  
**\$258.3M**  
in Economic Impact

supported and sustained  
**1282 Jobs**

supported  
**\$10.0M**  
in State and Local Tax Revenue



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# INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

In December 2018, Parker Philips was retained to complete a comprehensive economic impact study for ECGRA to demonstrate the economic, employment, and tax revenue impacts associated with the investment of local share gaming revenue distributed through ECGRA's grant making initiatives and loans.



The goal of this analysis is to exhibit the aggregate financial and community benefits garnered by Summit Township, Erie County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a result of innovative investments of local share gaming revenues.

Since its formation in 2008, ECGRA has built a model for how local share gaming revenue can be used to benefit local communities. By strategically channeling the tax dollars generated by Presque Isle Downs & Casino through its Impact Investing model, ECGRA has established a nationally-respected legacy of transparent grant making that is making a sustained impact on Erie County.

## About the Study

### Data Utilized

Primary data from 2009 to 2018 obtained from ECGRA and key partner organizations

### Geography

Summit Township, Erie County, and Pennsylvania

### Methodology

IMPLAN, 2016 Data Set

## About Local Share Gaming Revenue

Local share gaming revenue continues to help deliver on the legislative promise made when lawmakers enacted Pennsylvania's Racehorse Development and Gaming Act in 2004.

When the gaming law was drafted, the goals of its authors included generating additional state revenue, offering property tax relief for PA residents, and providing host municipalities with funds to meet needs generated by casino development. The authors also intended for local share gaming revenue to afford economic and community development initiatives that would otherwise be left unfunded.

In 2016, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority played an integral role in securing local control of Erie County's \$11 million per year in local share gaming revenue, which continues to deliver on its legislative intent today.

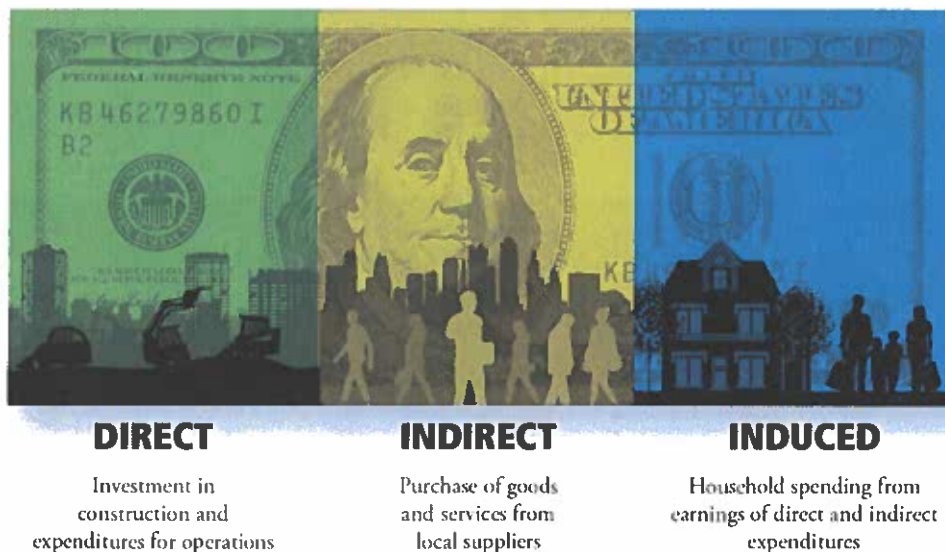
# ECGRA's IMPACT

## ECGRA Works

In 2011, ECGRA designated and made its first investment in the Erie County Lead Assets. These nine place-shaping culture-, heritage-, and entertainment-based nonprofits, essential to the continued vitality of the region, are: **Erie Art Museum, Erie Arts & Culture, Erie County Historical Society, Erie Philharmonic, Erie Playhouse, Erie Zoological Society, expERIENCE Children's Museum, Flagship Niagara League, and the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture.**

In 2012, ECGRA committed to sustain Lead Assets in perpetuity and created the Erie County Lead Assets Endowment, now valued at \$13.2 million, held in trust at The Erie Community Foundation. In grant and endowment funding, **ECGRA has invested a total of \$16,313,896 in the Erie County Lead Assets representing more than 29% of the more than \$50 million ECGRA has distributed since 2009.** Each Lead Asset uses its ECGRA funding differently, but all of the organizations attest to the power of the ECGRA investment to extend their reach and leverage the dollars to enhance programming and access to all.

## ECGRA Precipitates Change and Spurs Growth



ECGRA strategically invests gaming revenue into key areas to achieve community development and promote stability and strength in the region. ECGRA has methodically invested in Erie County small business lenders, nonprofit organizations, and educational entities. The Authority has transformed Erie County's local share gaming revenue into an integral component for the region's economic transformation and ongoing resurgence.

ECGRA's strategic investment has targeted key sectors of what makes a prosperous and well-rounded community. Their ten year commitment to transforming Erie County has been impressive.

- Over the past 10 years, ECGRA has generated **\$128.4 million** in economic impact for the state and local economy (\$59.9 million in direct impact and \$68.4 million in indirect and induced impact).
- Over the past 10 years, ECGRA has supported and sustained **838 jobs** in the state and local economy. Each year, nearly **84 jobs** were supported or sustained by ECGRA's strategic investments throughout Erie County.
- Over the past 10 years, ECGRA's investments in Erie County initiatives has generated **\$4.6 million** in state and local taxes. Specific types of taxes generated include: employment tax, property tax, sales and use, and licenses, fines, and fees.



# LOCAL SHARE GAMING REVENUE'S IMPACT ON THE ZOO

**Here's what the impact of local share gaming revenue looks like in terms of economic impact when given to the Erie Zoo:**

The Erie Zoo uses strategically invested local share gaming revenue to stay open later on Wednesdays in July, to buy veterinary supplies, and to address capital projects such as the hanging flower baskets along West 38th Street and the new scoreboard at the JMC Ice Arena, which is operated by the Erie Zoo.

ECGRA funding helps the Erie Zoo provide access for all residents of Erie County every Sunday for two hours when admission is free. ECGRA funding helps to pay for the staff and extra security needed during these peak attendance times.

## DIRECT

### Operational Expenditures:

- Pay for Staff Salaries
- Pay for Security Staff
- Purchase Veterinary Supplies

### Capital Expenditures:

- Purchase and Install Scoreboard at JMC Ice Arena
- Purchase and Install Flower Baskets on West 38th Street

## INDIRECT

- Veterinary Suppliers
- Scoreboard at JMC Arena
- Flower Baskets

## INDUCED

- Zoo employees, employees of the scoreboard company/installer, and flower/garden store employees spend their money on housing, cars, groceries, gasoline, clothes, and other household items creating an even greater impact in the local and state economy.



## ECGRA'S IMPACT

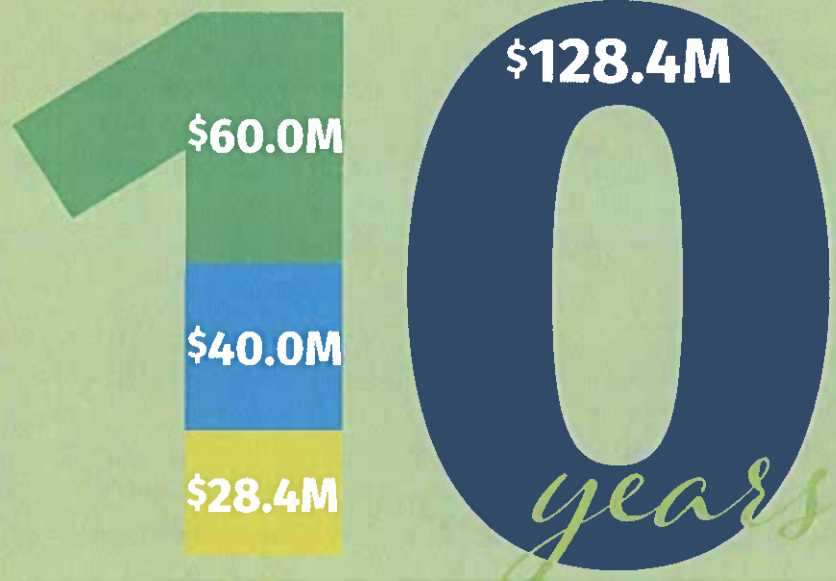
Direct Effect

Induced Effect

Indirect Effect

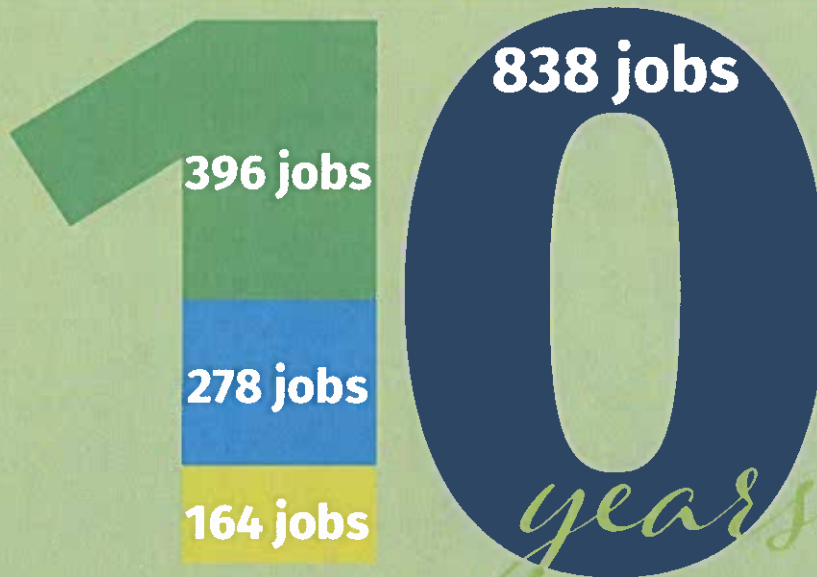
Total  
Effect

Cumulative Economic Impact Generated by ECGRA over 10 Years (Millions)



**ECGRA Precipitates Change and Spurs Growth**

Cumulative Impact of Jobs Supported and Sustained By ECGRA Over 10 Years (jobs)



**ECGRA Funds Create and Sustain Jobs**

"For years, local governments have strived independently from their neighboring communities. They've worked to build infrastructure and separate communities with invisible lines. Today we take a step toward blurring those dividing lines."

—Denise McCumber  
North East Borough  
Council Vice President



# INDIVIDUAL AREA IMPACTS

## Economic and Employment Impact

ECGRA's mission is to elevate Erie County by empowering nonprofits and small businesses toward economic and community development. Recognizing the inherent limitations of grant making, ECGRA adopted an impact investing strategy in 2014.

ECGRA incorporates job creation, regional competitiveness, needs of disadvantaged citizens, and development of at-risk youth and under served communities into the investment decision-making process.<sup>1</sup> ECGRA works to effect change and analyzes outcomes in five areas: Small Business, Youth & Education, Quality of Place, Neighborhoods & Communities, and Municipalities.

## Economic Impact of ECGRA's Strategic Investment Over 10 Years

| IMPACT | IMPACT | IMPACT | IMPACT | IMPACT | ECONOMIC IMPACT |                |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|----------------|
|        |        |        |        |        | JOB             |                |
|        |        |        |        |        | 184             | \$26.2 million |
|        |        |        |        |        | 60              | \$8.0 million  |
|        |        |        |        |        | 359             | \$41.9 million |
|        |        |        |        |        | 9               | \$1.9 million  |
|        |        |        |        |        | 202             | \$43.0 million |

<sup>1</sup>ECGRA strictly adheres to the intent of gaming legislation, which earmarked local share gaming revenue to act as a catalyst for transformational projects in host communities. Independent funding sources, such as gaming funds, provide the agility and flexibility to address the growing needs of a community, like Erie.

## SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT

ECGRA works to catalyze Erie County's private sector and to develop Erie's entrepreneurial ecosystem by spurring small business development, building collaborations for business acceleration, and offering a broader spectrum of gap financing products for starting, growing, and reinventing small business. Programs supported include Beehive Network, Erie Innovation District, TechCelerator, Erie Inclusive Fund, and Ignite Erie.

In December 2018, ECGRA invested \$1 million of additional funding into a new innovation network known as the Beehives — \$200,000 to each Beehive. **Since launching, the Beehives have seen more than 100 clients, employed 50 students, helped with the formation of two businesses, developed 15 business plans, seven intelligence studies and 21 marketing concepts, and designed three prototypes.**

ECGRA's strategic decision to prioritize investing local share gaming revenue in small business has created a significant ripple effect. These investments have empowered organizations in multiple sectors from healthcare to manufacturing to leverage additional financing, attracting more dollars to the region and increasing the positive effects on Erie's economy. ECGRA's small business investments have attracted \$24.2 million in additional funds resulting in an impact of \$50.4 million.

"Profits from a big gambling casino in Erie County are funneled partly to 'innovation spaces' at four local campuses—the right answer for Rust Belt towns where the old manufacturing base has disappeared."

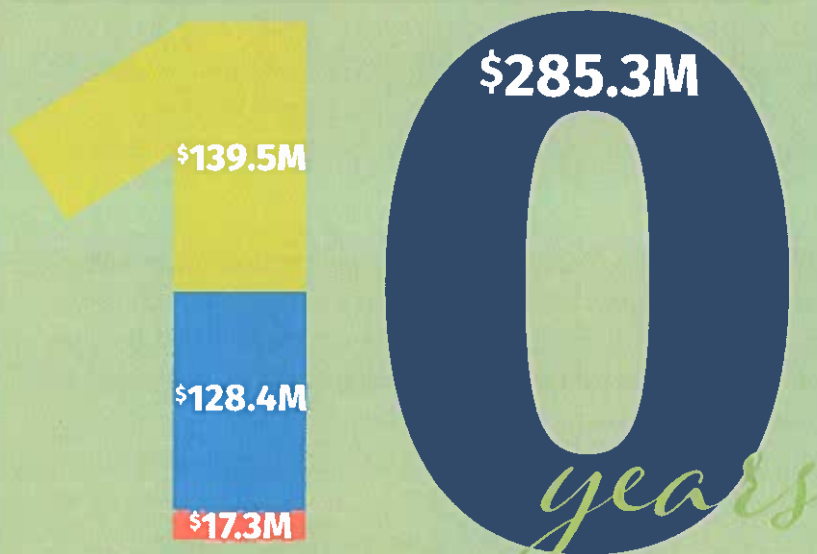
—David Ignatius  
Washington Post columnist

"The Erie Innovation Fund provided our company the necessary resources to launch and execute new product lines in billion dollar markets, based right here in Erie, PA. That wouldn't have happened without ECGRA's foresight to help technology-based companies."

—Aaron Lewis  
Sphere Brakes

# COMBINED IMPACT OF ALL LOCAL SHARE GAMING REVENUE

Combined Economic Impact of Local Share Gaming Revenue Over 10 Years (Millions)



Transforming the Erie Economy



"These strategic investments allow for the renewal of a marquee building, while supporting the communities they 'anchor'. I continue to be impressed with ECGRA's approach to investing our gaming dollars."

—Dan Laughlin  
State Senator  
R-49th District

Combined Economic Impact of Local Share Gaming Revenue Over 10 Years (jobs)



Supporting and Sustaining jobs in Erie County

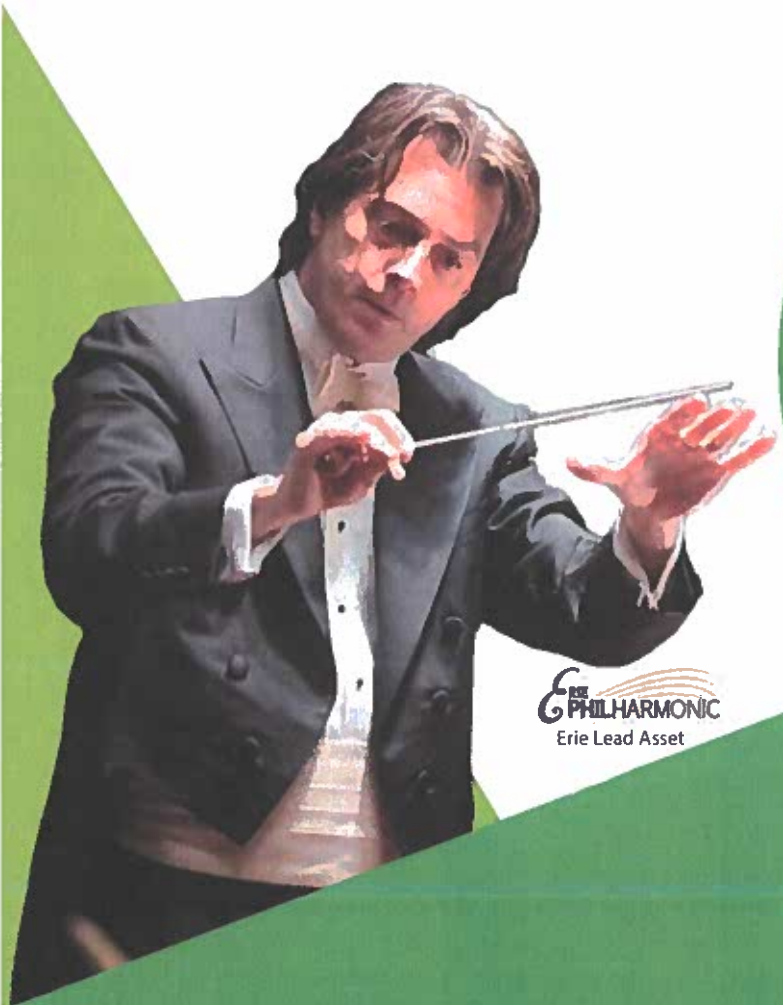


## CONCLUSION

Local share gaming revenue is helping to transform the Erie County region. ECGRA's strategic investment strategy has worked to strengthen and support a new Erie economy. The combined impacts of local share gaming revenue have been integral in supporting Erie's transformation.

ECGRA has been an excellent steward of Erie County's local share gaming revenue funds. Local share gaming revenue is helping to transform Erie County and the region through ECGRA's strategic investment strategy that is based on proven methods successfully implemented in communities across the nation. ECGRA is paying attention, and the programs it is tailoring to suit Erie County's needs are attracting national attention.

ECGRA's impact investment strategy has also built a bedrock of core assets that will continue to provide structural benefits to the economic and community infrastructure for decades, as well as playing an immediate vital role in supporting a new Erie economy still taking form. ECGRA's mission "to elevate Erie County by galvanizing nonprofits and small businesses toward economic and community development" is used as a North Star, ensuring that its investments are effective, transparent, and impactful.

A photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shirt, playing a violin. He is looking down at the instrument. The background is a solid green color.

"The Minority-owned Business Accelerator and the Erie Inclusive Fund are purposeful efforts to ensure all Erie residents benefit from future economic improvements.

ECGRA and Bridgeway deserve kudos for having the vision to pursue them."

—Editorial Board  
Erie Times News  
4/19/2019

The logo for the Erie Philharmonic, featuring the text "ERIE PHILHARMONIC" in a stylized font with a graphic of musical notes above it, and "Erie Lead Asset" in a smaller font below it.

ERIE PHILHARMONIC  
Erie Lead Asset

## APPENDIX A: TECHNICAL APPENDICES

Primary financial data used in this study was obtained from ECGRA, Erie County government, Summit Township, and small businesses receiving funding from ECGRA grants/loans. The analysis in this report is a cumulative impact showing ten years of gaming revenue's impact.

### Overview and the IMPLAN Model

The most common and widely accepted methodology for measuring the economic impacts of economic sectors is input-output (I-O) analysis. At its core, an I-O analysis is a table that records the flow of resources to and from companies/organizations and individuals within a region at a given time. For a specified region like a state or the nation, the input-output table accounts for all dollar flows between different sectors of the economy in a given time period. With this information, a model can then follow how a dollar added into one sector is spent and re-spent in other sectors of the economy, generating outgoing ripples of subsequent economic activity. This chain of economic activity generated by one event is called the “economic multiplier” effect.

# APPENDIX A: TECHNICAL APPENDICES

## IMPLAN Methodology

The model uses national production functions derived from U.S. Census Department data for over 536 industries to determine how an industry spends its operating receipts to produce its commodities and IMPLAN couples these with county-level economic data to determine the impacts at a state and congressional district level. To estimate these regional impacts, IMPLAN combines national industry production functions with county-level economic data. IMPLAN collects data from a variety of economic data sources to generate average output, employment and productivity for each industry in a given county. IMPLAN combines this data to generate a series of economic multipliers for the study area. The multiplier measures the amount of total economic activity generated by a specific industry's spending an additional dollar in the study area. Based on these multipliers, IMPLAN generates a series of tables to show the economic event's direct, indirect, and induced impacts to gross receipts, or output, within each of the model's more than 536 industries.

## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

### What is an economic impact study?

Technically, this study is a contribution analysis, but is most commonly referred to as an economic impact study. The study quantifies the economic contribution of gaming revenue in terms of jobs, economic impact, and local and state tax revenue. The study calculates the impact of gaming revenue dollars invested and spent by ECGRA, Erie County government, and Summit Township. It examines how expenditures and investments create additional impact in the economy to produce an economic impact.

### What should you remember about the study when you read it?

- It is a point-in-time calculation of impact of local share gaming revenue.
- It quantifies the amount of impact that local share gaming revenue has generated in the statewide and local economy.

### What methodology was used to complete this study?

Impact analysis for PLANning (IMPLAN) data and software were used to conduct this study. The IMPLAN database is built utilizing county, state, ZIP code, and federal economic statistics that are specialized by region, not estimated from national averages to measure the contribution or impact of an organization economy's activity.

### What were the multipliers for this study?

The multipliers used in this study range from 1.8 to 2.1. The multipliers are derived through the input-output models created through the IMPLAN software based upon industries selected during the modeling process.

### What data does this study utilize to calculate the economic impact?

Primary data utilized in this analysis includes:

- Expenditure data from ECGRA, Erie County government, Summit Township
- Expenditure and investment data by ECGRA program type
- Expenditure data for small businesses and their leverage dollars

### Why did ECGRA commission a study?

ECGRA commissioned the analysis to quantify the ten-year impact of its strategic investments of local share gaming revenue, Erie County government expenditures, and Summit Township. This independent study is one way to try to explain the importance of local share gaming revenue.



## APPENDIX B: TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Study Year</b>   | January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2018.   |
| <b>Dollar Year</b>  | Presented in 2019 dollars.   |
| <b>Total Economic Output/<br/>Economic Impact</b>         | Includes organizational spending on operations, capital expenditures, labor income expenditures, and value-added to the economy as a result of expenditures made by an organization. It is the combined impact of direct, indirect, and induced impacts.   |
| <b>Direct Economic Impact</b>                             | All direct expenditures made by an organization due to an organization's operating expenditures. These include operating expenditures, capital expenditures, and pay and benefits for expenditures.  |
| <b>Indirect Economic Impact</b>                           | The indirect impact includes the impact of local industries buying goods and services from other local industries. The cycle of spending works its way backward through the supply chain until all money is spent outside of the local economy, either through imports or by payments to value added (multiplier effect).  |
| <b>Induced Economic Impact</b>                            | The response by an economy to an initial change (direct effect) that occurs through re-spending of income received by a component of value added. IMPLAN's default multiplier recognizes that labor income (employee compensation and proprietor income components of value added) is not lost to the regional economy. This money is recirculated through the household spending patterns causing further local economic activity (multiplier effect).        |
| <b>Multiplier Effect</b>                                  | The multiplier effect is the additional economic impact created as a result of the organization's direct economic impact. Local companies that provide goods and services to an organization increase their purchasing by creating a multiplier (indirect/supply chain impacts). Household spending generated by employees of the organization and the organization's suppliers create a third wave of multiplier impact (induced/household spending impacts). |
| <b>Government Revenue/<br/>State and Local Tax Impact</b> | Government revenue or tax revenue that is collected by governmental units at the state and local level in addition to those paid directly by an organization. This impact includes taxes paid directly by the organization itself, employees of the organization, and vendors who sell products to the organization and at the household level.  |
| <b>Direct Employment</b>                                  | Total number of employees, both full-time and part-time, at the organization based on total jobs, not FTEs.  |
| <b>Indirect Employment</b>                                | Additional jobs created as a result of an organization's economic impact. Local companies or vendors that provide goods and services to an organization increase their number of employees as purchasing increases, thus creating an employment multiplier.  |
| <b>Induced Employment</b>                                 | Additional jobs created as a result of household spending by employees of an organization and the employees of vendors. This is another wave of the employment multiplier.   |



web: [ECGRA.org](http://ECGRA.org)

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email: [info@ECGRA.org](mailto:info@ECGRA.org)

 [@ECGRA814](https://twitter.com/ECGRA814)

ECGRA's work in community and economic development is funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through an assessment levied on Presque Isle Downs and Casino.



## BOROUGH OF UNION CITY

13 South Main Street • Union City, Pennsylvania 16438  
Phone (814) 438 - 2331 • Fax (814) 438 - 7115

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November 1, 2019

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
5340 Fryling Road, Suite 201  
Erie, PA 16510

Dear ECGRA Board of Directors:


I am writing on behalf of the Borough of Union City and would like to thank you for the grant funding that we have been provided over the past few years.

Perry and Tom contacted me back 2017. I was new to my position in the Borough and was just getting started. They presented information about ECGRA and encouraged me to apply for grants. That one meeting has been one of the biggest steps toward change in Union City and I can't thank them enough. It is a pleasure dealing with Perry, Tom, and Tammi!

We have seen so many benefits and changes because of the ECGRA funding. One of the most noticeable benefits is the physical improvements, whether it be to a personal residence or a business. The property improvements for some have been astounding. Another benefit is the interest it has created with both property and business owners. Signs have been placed at the project locations that say "ECGRA Grant Money Works". I have received so many phone calls asking about the programs. The Borough has also seen a change in the way groups such as the Union City Community Foundation, Union City Pride/Downtown Development, and the Borough work together. We all have a vision and know that it will take time, but it will also take everyone working together.

Again, I want to thank all of you for the time and effort and ECGRA Grant Money truly does work!

Sincerely,



Cindy Wells  
Borough Secretary-Treasurer



## Community Development projects outlined for Redevelopment Authority

BY SARA JUKES

sara@thecorryjournal.com

A Wednesday Corry Redevelopment Authority meeting ended with a visit from Impact Corry Community Development Director Chuck Gray, who outlined the many projects that she is working on for the benefit of the community.

"Essentially, we're pursuing community development and economic development," Gray said.

Projects that are ready to be implemented are an ECGRA funded Mission Main Street grant for facade renovation of historic downtown Corry, an Impact Corry website with a calendar of events with registration availability and product sales, classes for business and building owners on how to receive historic tax

credits and work with Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

A class at Edinboro is currently developing a logo, tagline and marketing campaign for downtown Corry.

"They've invited us to stay on through the spring, and they will develop a strategic marketing campaign to roll out afterwards," Gray said.

Upcoming projects include pursuit of a four-year grant through Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

"We're hopefully minutes away from being funded by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts," Gray said.

Also being developed is a blight plan for submission to the city for possible adoption as a first step toward getting grants for housing improvement.

◀ See Authority, P.2

"We're also about to roll out Hiram and Hill, which is a play on Hiram Cory and Mr. Hill from the railroad, who made a great deal with one another, and we got the Corry Junction," Gray said.

Gray was referring to how the city of Corry was founded by Hiram Cory and was built in the area surrounding the Atlantic and Erie Junction, made in 1861 when the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad Company purchased a small piece of land from Cory, on which the junction was located. AGWRC General Manager Hill named the station for Cory, but his last name was misspelled as Corry.

Hiram and Hill will be made up of people who volunteer to go out and clean up blight throughout the Corry Area School District. Through this program, courses will be offered for home projects like winterizing a home, how to use a driver drill and fiscal management of a home.

A tool loaning library is planned to be developed through the Hiram and Hill program, to encourage people to improve their homes with tool availability at no



Sara Jukes/The Corry Journal

**Impact Corry Community Development Director Chuck Gray attended Wednesday's Corry Redevelopment Authority meeting and spoke about the many projects she has been working on since starting in her position in June.**

cost.

Examples of the biggest tools that could be available through this program are post hole diggers and pressure washers, Gray said.

A program named Corry Pride Certified is in the works, to give out placards to encourage people to take pride in residences and continued property maintenance.

This program would get neighbors together to

decide what it means to be Corry Pride Certified before any placards would be placed in lawns.

A paint the town initiative is being looked at for buildings that are structurally sound but need a coat of paint.

"There are three organizations across the nation who do stuff like this, so we've been getting more and more information from them," Gray said. "We've identified

the difficulties in getting this project rolled out, but we think the business community will come to the table and get this done."

Work with PennDOT is continuing toward creation of gateways for bicycles and snowmobiles to get downtown.

Gray continued to say Impact Corry is looking for community leaders or groups to lead these projects.

# EUP's Beehive to build a website for the community

By Rick Chernicky  
Reporter

EDINBORO – Edinboro University's Center for Branding and Strategic Communication began serving clients during the 2018 spring semester, and now it's working with members of the Edinboro community to improve its downtown.

The center is part of the NWPA Innovation Beehive Network, a collaborative effort between Edinboro, Penn State Behrend, Gannon and Mercyhurst universities. The network's goal is to help business development in northwest Pennsylvania.

Dr. Tony Peyronel, executive director for Entrepreneurial Development Center for Branding and Strategic Communication, said his organization is working on a major project with the Edinboro Com-

munity Economic Development (ECED) organization.

"ECED is a consortium of many of the Edinboro businesses, and they came to us last spring with hopes of promoting the community," Peyronel said.

Peyronel said the purpose of the website is to showcase the town as a place to visit, and that students from Edinboro have been sent to businesses in the downtown to gather basic information.

The goal is to transfer that information to a website, which is expected to be finished by December, Peyronel said.

Through their coursework, students are able to facilitate businesses with assignments that coincide with the motives of the Beehive. Deadlines for the assignments are measured in semesters, like that of the

project with ECED.

Peyronel said his organization only takes on one or two web design clients per semester, and part of the reason it agreed to work with ECED was because it would help the area.

"We knew it was going to be an incredible amount of work, but in terms of promoting the region as a whole, we thought it was a good use of our time," Peyronel said.

The new initiative at Edinboro is funded by grants from Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), Ignite Erie (Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority), the Appalachian Regional Commission (Department of Community and Economic Development) and the Economic Development Administration (Department of Commerce).

Erie Times-News | GoErie.com | Saturday, October 26, 2019

## Waterford to expand facade incentive program

By Valerie Myers  
vmyers@timesnews.com

WATERFORD – Waterford Borough will continue and expand its downtown facade improvement program.

The borough will provide grants of up to \$10,000 for facade improvements to eligible commercial buildings.

"The purpose of the program is to stimulate private investment in the downtown and create a compelling place for businesses to exist and residents and visitors to spend time," Waterford Borough Council President Tim LaFlamme said in a statement.

Property or business owners must match the borough investment in the project.

To be eligible for funding, buildings must be located within prescribed boundaries – from the center line of 5th Street to the south borough line, and from the center line of Walnut Street to the center line of Cherry Street.

LaFlamme encourages property and business owners to apply for grants for projects large or small.

"Even simple changes

such as the removal of non-historic materials or a new paint job that calls attention to a building's original architectural details signal positive change and often stimulates similar improvements in neighboring buildings," he said.

The borough will fund its investments in the program over the next three years with a \$25,000 annual grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

Applications for funding will be accepted until Nov. 21. Applications are available on the borough website at [www.waterfordboro.net](http://www.waterfordboro.net).

The borough's 2018 Facade Improvement Grant Program provided \$13,000 for six projects. Improvements totaled \$26,890.

Waterford Borough additionally received ECGRA funding for an interior improvements grant program, to expand its existing sidewalk grant program and to improve Waterford Library.

Valerie Myers can be reached at 878-1913 or by email. Follow her on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/ETNmyers](https://twitter.com/ETNmyers).



## College application decision soon

**State Board of Education expected to take it up Nov. 13-14**

By Matthew Rink  
matthew.rink@timesnews.com

After more than two years of waiting, Erie County will finally get an answer from the state about its community college application, according to an email from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to Erie County officials obtained by the Erie Times-News.

A special subcommittee of the state Board of Education will meet to review

### More online

- View the Updated Erie County community college application: [bit.ly/28IG5Wk](http://bit.ly/28IG5Wk)
- Follow developments in Erie County's attempt to secure a community college: [www.GoErie.com/topics/community-college](http://www.GoErie.com/topics/community-college)

the county's 2017 application Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. In anticipation of providing a recommendation to the full board when it meets Nov. 13-14 in Harrisburg. The board will act on the application at that time, according to the email from Angela Fitterer, director of government relations for the Department of Education.

"It's great news," said Ron DiNicola, a member of Empower Erie, the nonprofit that was established to push for a community college. "It's a step in the right direction. Hopefully, it bodes well for the governor's designation of making Erie County the 15th community college."

See COLLEGE, A5



Erie County Councilman Andre Horton, left, and Empower Erie board member Ron DiNicola, center, listen as Erie Community Foundation President Mike Batchelor announces a \$300,000 grant to help push Erie County's community college application "over the finish line" Tuesday at the Susan B. Hirt Hagen Foundation for Transformational Philanthropy. (MATTHEW RINK/ERIE TIMES-NEWS)

## COLLEGE

From Page A1

"We're just thrilled and excited it's moving forward," said Gary Lee, Erie County director of administration for County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper.

"The administration has been in the trenches fighting for this for months, for years, and we continue to be," Dahlkemper said. "We never stopped."

The announcement from the state comes just hours after the Erie Community Foundation and the Susan B. Hirt Hagen Foundation for Transformational Philanthropy on Tuesday awarded a \$300,000 grant to Empower Erie to advance the county's application both in Harrisburg and at home. The money will be used for a marketing campaign to mobilize the support of business, industry, philanthropic, labor, education, social advocacy and African-American leaders, as well as the community at large.

It also comes weeks after an alternative proposal to partner with the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College for community college education failed to materialize.

DiNicola called the announcement from the state a "prompt and positive development" considering that talks between the county and NPRC ended in late August.

"This is a very timely development," he said. "We haven't been in this current iteration for very long."

State Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, D-3rd Dist., said Erie's state delegation, working with Gov. Tom Wolf and the state Board of Education, "was able to advance this vote, which will rise or fall on the

strength of the application."

"The local case has been made for a community college in Erie County," Bizzarro said. "We applaud our local elected officials, business and education leaders and the community college advocates for their hard work."

"I will continue to work with Governor Wolf and my colleagues to ensure Erie County's education needs are fully considered," he added. "Erie County deserves this vote, one way or the other."

In June 2017, following years of discussions and failed attempts, Erie County Council voted to sponsor a community college, a requirement of the state. Dahlkemper sent the county's application to the state Board of Education days later.

The application has been idling in Harrisburg ever since. The county has twice provided supplemental information to the state, including a new budget that, at the urging of state officials, reduced the first-year enrollment and course offerings from the county's original projections.

"We were always hopeful that we would receive feedback from the state Board of Education," Lee said. "It has taken longer than anticipated. At the beginning, the state Board of Education had shared with the administration that the timeline would be approximately 12 to 18 months. But we were aware that they had not reviewed an application since back in 1993. We anticipated it might take the full 18 months, but we did not think it was going to take nearly two and a half years."

In July, the state board told Lee that it needed a report from the Department of Education and a commitment about community college

funding from Wolf before it could proceed. Lee said Wednesday that the Department of Education's report will be presented to the special subcommittee when it meets Oct. 29.

Wolf has expressed support for Erie's community college bid. In a statement to the Erie Times-News in September, Wolf spokesman J.J. Abbott said, "Governor Wolf supports a community college in Erie and appreciates greatly the varying perspectives shared by those serving the community. The Governor knows that all involved want to get this right, and looks forward to identifying a solution that will best serve the needs of Erie County."

Empower Erie and the Erie County Community College Committee — which includes Dahlkemper, Lee, DiNicola, and County Council members Carl Anderson and Andre Horton, among others — want Wolf to designate Erie County the state's 15th community college location and the first in more than 25 years.

In a letter sent to Wolf this week, Dahlkemper asked the governor to do "all in (his) power" to advance a vote on the application.

"The need has been fully articulated and supported," Dahlkemper wrote. "Erie County has indicated strong support for the application as many entities sent letters of support. Our workforce constraints continue to hinder our region's economic success. I believe it is long past time for the Commonwealth to grant to Erie County residents the same benefits afforded to many Pennsylvanians for decades — a community college education."

Dahlkemper said she is glad that Wolf read her letter.

Anderson, aware at the time that an announcement

from the state was forthcoming, said at council's Tuesday night meeting that "much progress has been made since we passed the resolution," referring to a resolution passed by council in September that urged the state board to act on the application at its November meeting, and that he felt "very confident and strong" about the county's prospects.

He added, "We need to enlist the powerful support of Governor Wolf. Governor Wolf has stepped forward in making a statement that he supports community college education and I believe that Governor Wolf will make even stronger statements as we continue to move forward."

Lee said he's confident because of the "strength" of the county's application.

The application calls for 10 associate-degree majors in the first year: accounting; associate of arts; associate of science; automation engineering technology; computer-aided design; machining and manufacturing; management; information services; management and entrepreneurship; network systems; surgical technology; medical assistant; and welding. Additional majors would be added in the third year and phased in over the fourth and fifth years.

Tuition would start at \$125 a credit, or \$3,528 for tuition and fees for the first year. Per-credit tuition would increase to \$155 per credit by the fifth year.

The plan projects initial enrollment at 500 full-time-equivalent students, with 17 to 19 additional students enrolling each year.

The county's revised application projects more than \$5.7 million for operating costs in the first year.

Those costs would increase to \$7.8 million by the fifth year.

To cover both operating and capital costs, the application projects that the community college would be funded with \$26.3 million of state money for the first 10 years. The county would provide a local match of \$15.7 million in that same span. It would use casino gaming revenue and other sources to fund its share. Dahlkemper and other county officials have said that they don't anticipate having to rely on taxpayer funds for the college outside of gaming revenue, but that other local sources, including grants and donations, would be needed.

The county's application also calls for a scholarship fund of \$2.25 million over the first five years.

Still available to the county is \$3.33 million pledged by the Erie Community Foundation, the Susan B. Hirt Hagen Foundation for Transformational Philanthropy and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

Proponents believe a community college would help address generational poverty by affording students who want to advance their education with the opportunity to do so at a low cost, and that it would strengthen the area's workforce and help fill the in-demand jobs of local businesses and industries.

"It's an outstanding application," Lee said. "We feel the supporting data is fair to solidify the need and demand for a community college in Erie County. So, we're hopeful and optimistic it will receive a positive vote."

Matthew Rink can be reached at 870-1884 or by email. Follow him on Twitter at [www.Twitter.com/ETNrink](https://twitter.com/ETNrink).



### Workshop to focus on building bayfront connection

The challenge of connecting Erle to its bayfront will be posed to Kent State University graduate students in urban design, architecture and landscape architecture who are visiting Erle through a three-day event sponsored by the Jefferson Educational Society.

The design workshop, which is supported by the Erie Community Foundation and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, begins Thursday with an introductory presentation from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Russian Community Center at 109 German St. A second community event will be held Friday from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at Boetwick Design Partnership, 4000 Lovell Place. A design presentation will be held Saturday from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Jefferson Education Educational Society at 3207 State St. A final public presentation will be scheduled later in the fall.

Times-News staff

The Corry Journal, Friday, November 1, 2019

## Climax recovery planning steams ahead during Alaska trip

BY SARA JUKES  
sara@thecorryjournal.com

Two Corry Railroad and Industrial Legacy Society members, Vice Chairman Carl Wassink and Chairman Tom VanTassel, recently returned from a trip to Alaska in pursuit of the mission to bring an A313 Climax locomotive home to Corry, where it was built.

There were two main goals for this trip — to begin to tie together transportation for shipping the locomotive from Palmer, Alaska, back to Corry and to research acquiring additional Climax pieces and parts.

With ground transportation for the locomotive's shipping container set for the Cleveland to Corry portion of the trip, transportation from Palmer to Cleveland still needed to be worked out.

Wassink and VanTassel met with Jim Jansen, chairman of Lynden Transportation, and secured transportation from Anchorage to Seattle, a dona-

tion that saves Corry R.A.I.L.S. about \$4,000.

They met with Charles Reader whose father, also named Charles Reader, owned the Curly Q Line Railroad that operated as a rail tour company.

The senior Reader was the owner of the Climax A313 before it was sold to Keith Christenson, whose family is selling the A313 to Corry R.A.I.L.S.

The land previously occupied by the Curly Q rail company still held many railroad and locomotive remains, including Climax locomotive and flatcar pieces and parts.

On it still sits a small building named Little Creek Station, an abandoned train depot from around the early and mid 1900s during the Curly Q Line Railroad's active times.

Climax parts and cars were found including Climax flatcars, a bent drive shaft with transmission gears, a metal Climax wheel, two nearly complete Climax geared trucks and more nearly complete Climax engines,



Contributed photos

Corry Railroad and Industrial Legacy Society Vice Chairman Carl Wassink stands at the Little Creek Station in Nome, Alaska, where many more Climax pieces and parts were found.

Wassink said. "We're hopeful that we can get them either purchased from or donated by the guy that owns them and get it ready to ship back here," VanTassel said.

Another accomplishment was meeting people in the Nome area with key knowledge of the Climax in Nome history.

One was "Cussy" Reader,

daughter of Charles Reader. She had documents, pictures and a memory full of Climax history that can contribute to a documentary that Corry R.A.I.L.S. would like to put together during a return visit in the spring to pack up the A313.

A large equipment rental company offered use of a forklift to move the locomotive into the shipping con-

tainer in the spring. This donation will save Corry R.A.I.L.S. around \$1,000.

In the spring, Corry R.A.I.L.S. members will return to Alaska to pack the A313 for shipment and during the next seven months plans for transportation will be finalized, fundraising will continue and remaining details will get ironed out for additional acquisitions.

The Corry Journal, Monday, November 4, 2019

## Residents visit new Blue Zone office during First Fridays



BY SARA JUKES  
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November's First Fridays event, Hometown Holidays, including Corry Blue Zones Project open house, had many visitors despite the 30-degree temperatures.

People were arriving at the new Corry Blue Zones headquarters, 26 N. First Ave., before the open house started, said Shannon Wohlford, Corry Blue Zones Project engagement lead.

"I think people didn't want to miss the opportunity to see the space," Wohlford said.

Visitors saw the interior still incomplete, with the electric having been just turned on earlier that day.

Quite a bit of work still needs to be done, including the installation of bathrooms, but Wohlford estimates the building will be complete by the end of this month.

There are still two ticket windows in place, reminiscent of when it was a train terminal, that Blue Zones team members have dubbed the Welcome Window.

A small tree with bare branches was set up with paper leaves available for visitors to write what they are thankful for in Corry, and then hang the leaves on the tree.

After visiting the Corry Blue Zones space, many visitors continued a trek to downtown businesses to enjoy the Hometown Holidays event, greeted by many storefronts decorated with seasonal flair.

"It was a lighter attendance than our normal First Fridays but it went well," DCBA Chairman Wendy Neckers said. "We think the weather may have been a factor as it was quite a chilly night."

See Office, P.2

Sara Jukes/The Corry Journal  
Ashley Lawson, Corry Blue Zones Project policy advocate, speaks to Corry's Snap Fitness owner Bob Brown through the newly nicknamed Welcome Window at an open house during First Fridays. The open house invited residents to visit the Corry Blue Zones Project headquarters — a recently renovated former train terminal downtown.

## Facade renovation grant available for downtown Corry businesses

BY SARA JUKES  
sara@thecorryjournal.com

A Façade Renovation Matching Grant Program was announced at a Downtown Corry Business Association meeting Monday, for non-residential buildings located in the downtown Corry business district.

The grants give eligible parties a matching grant for every dollar spent, up to \$12,400, to make upgrades and renovations to the outside of businesses and commercial structures in the downtown Corry area.

"Restored and improved storefronts are essential to the vitality of our local communities," Impact Corry

Community Development Director Chuck Gray said. "They revitalize the pedestrian environment, attract customers, improve property values and encourage neighborhood economic development and investment."

A planned façade renovation project must have a minimum project cost of \$1,000 to be eligible.

The grant is being offered by Impact Corry, and is funded by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority through its Mission Main Street Program.

"Corry business leaders have been moving mountains in the revitalization of our city," Gray said. "We are excited to help these leaders advance their efforts

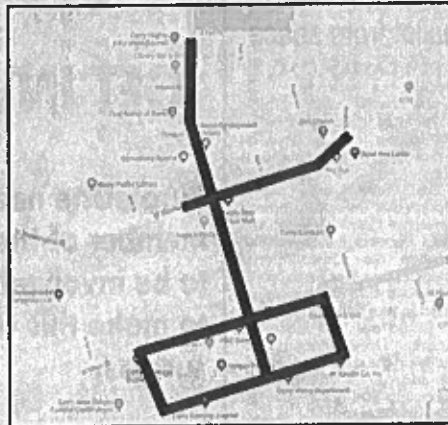
including façade renovation, collaborative marketing efforts, online presence and business development sessions."

The total funding for the Corry façade project is \$100,000, available for distribution over three years. If that amount is exceeded, Impact Corry will move to secure additional grant money to cover all projects, Gray said.

The grant program is to help make exterior building improvements more affordable for the owners of buildings and business in the following areas:

- Center Street between Park Place and South Street

◀ See Façade, P.2



Contributed graphic

A grant to improve the façades of commercial buildings and businesses was announced Monday at a Downtown Corry Business Association meeting. A map shows what streets are eligible to apply for this grant, which will provide matching funds for external upgrades and renovations.

## Facade

(Continued from front page)

- Washington Street between Allen Street and Wright Street
- Main Street between First Avenue and Maple Avenue
- South Street between First Avenue and Mill Street
- First Avenue between West Main Street and West South Street

To be eligible to participate, building property taxes must be paid up to date. Buildings must all comply with all building code regulations.

Gray said that there are Impact Corry members available to help applicants through the process. Initial applications do not require architect drawing, but should describe a basic idea of renovation work and an estimate of costs. After reviews are done of each project, applicants will get assistance.

"They get assistance through a design consultant, who will do an electronic mock up on a picture of their façade," Gray said.

There is an application fee of \$250, half of which would be reimbursed.

Letters will be sent out to

all who are eligible to take advantage of this grant to inform them of the opportunity.

Multiple business/property owners can apply for each owned business or structure.

Applications will be available online at [www.impactcorry.com](http://www.impactcorry.com) or may be picked up at the Corry Area Chamber of Commerce office, at 221 N. Center St., or The Painted Finch Gallery, 32 N. Center St.

Applications must be submitted to Impact Corry by Feb. 7. Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

## UC development spurred by Erie foundation, ECGRA funding

BY STEVE BISHOP  
Contributing writer

An unprecedented collaboration between Union City and two Erie-based grantmaking organizations has the borough poised to make significant investments in its downtown and public parks.

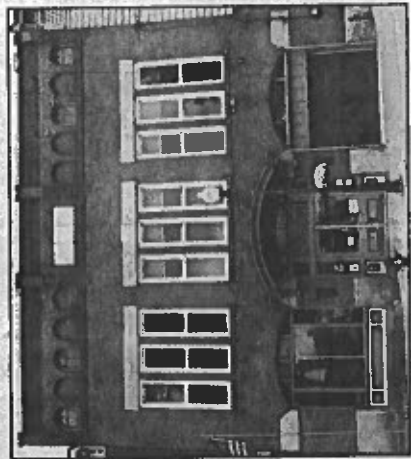
The Erie Community Foundation (ECF) is granting community-development nonprofit Union City Pride a \$258,000 grant from the foundation's Shaping Tomorrow program.

That funding joins \$250,000 granted from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) to Union City Borough in recent months, plus \$30,000 from the Union City Community Foundation, and \$1,500 from the borough itself.

Combined with up to \$85,000 that downtown building owners have the opportunity to invest next year to receive matching funds for building improvements, the investment in the downtown and parks will total \$624,500 if fully utilized.

The Erie Community Foundation challenged the Union City Community Foundation to think bigger," said ECF President Mike Batchelor. "We hoped it would move beyond traditional, day-to-day, grantmaking and assume a stronger community leadership role, and we are proud the community rose to this challenge."

The Union City



Journal file photo

Improvements to the Union City Borough building, 13 S. Main St., were made possible this year because of ECGRA's Mission Main Street Grant. The continued collaborative efforts of Union City Borough, Union City Community Foundation, Union City Pride, the Erie Community Foundation, and Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority are driving the revitalization of downtown.

Community Foundation since early 2019 has been actively collaborating with Union City Pride and Union City Borough to identify projects that would "move the dial" in the community, said UCCF Board Chairman Steve Jones.

Those projects were packaged into a Shaping Tomorrow grant application to ECF, and included a live presentation to the ECF board of directors by representatives of the borough, Union City Pride, and the Union City Community Foundation.

"We all love our hometown Union City," Jones said. "The idea is to be a more vibrant and progressive community."

The first tangible outcome of the initiative was the recent purchase by Union City Pride of the long-vacant former Union City Dinor building, and an adjacent brick building. Purchasing the adjacent building from its local owners gives Union City Pride greater flexibility in whatever next steps are ultimately identified to improve the gateway to the downtown.

"We made a very positive step with the revitalization of downtown Union City through the facade programs and the revitalization design

guidelines being developed," said Union City Pride board President Dave Nothum, about separate downtown historic preservation efforts that have been ongoing in recent months. "The diner initiative will ensure this momentum continues."

Determining what could happen with the diner and adjacent building, as well as the small, borough-owned "Industrial Park" green space across West High Street from the diner, and the overall look of the downtown entrance, is also part of the collaborative project.

"It will be exciting to witness the changes as they develop, and see where this transformation can take us all," Steve Jones said.

The third local partner in the initiative is Union City Borough itself.

"We are seeing so many property improvements in Union City it only makes sense for improvements to this intersection," said Borough Secretary Cindy Wells. "This is the crossroads of Union City."

"It's exciting to be part of the process that will have people traveling through downtown Union City thinking that the community looks great," Nothum added.

At the other end of the downtown, tangible change will come in the form of a new public parking lot on the west side of Main Street, across from Union City Public Library.

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## Funding

(Continued from front page)

"We believe that if we help create the necessary environment, and help restore an economic model that makes sense, private entrepreneurs will see the opportunity and take it from there," said Jones of Union City's downtown.

In addition to the downtown initiatives, ECGRA, ECF and borough funds will be used to make improvements to the borough's Cadfish Park. Enhancing the borough's parks is part of the community's strategic effort to attract families.

A total of \$101,500 is targeted to improvements that make Cadfish Park more compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as other changes. That work is also expected to

take place next year, and dovetails with Union City's recent award of a separate \$50,000 state grant to create a master development plan for all four of the borough's parks.

"The strong collaboration between Union City Borough, Union City Pride, the Union City Community Foundation, Erie Community Foundation, and ECGRA is empowering a key revitalization effort in one of Erie County's finest towns," said Perry Wood, ECGRA executive director.

Union City Pride's Dave Nothum agrees. "By working closely together, we have been able to focus our efforts toward our combined goal for the revitalization of Union City," he said.