



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

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
APRIL  
2022**

NEWS

## Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Awards 2022 Special Events Grants

Friday, March 18th 2022, 3:39 PM EDT



The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) awarded \$166,524.80 for their 2022 Special Events Grants, which will be distributed to 37 Erie County nonprofits and municipalities.

“Events are a driving factor that help to promote a strong sense of community, and if we’ve learned anything over the past couple of years, it’s to never take that for granted,” said Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA. “Each and every one of these organizations play a crucial role in bringing not only our Erie together, but also attracting and retaining residents, helping to strengthen our economy.”

The Special Event Grants Program, which funds up to 5% of events that take place within Erie County, promote the region economically and culturally. They drive tourism, attract talent to the region, and help sustain Erie traditions that make Erie County a special place to visit and call home.

Below is a breakdown of the 2022 Special Events Grants approved:

Organization	Event	Amount Awarded
Albion Area Fair	Albion Area Fair	\$9,560.40
AmeriMasala	The AmeriMasala	\$1,427.55
Asbury Woods Partnership	2022 Events	\$1,855.16

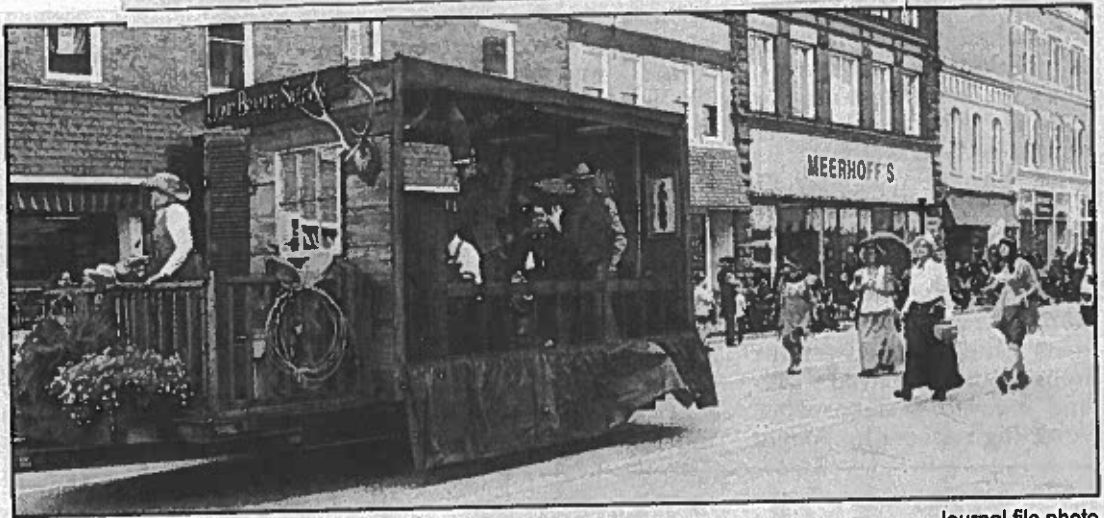
Borough of Edinboro	Boro with the Works	\$1,315.95
Borough of Wesleyville	Wesleyville Community Day	\$781.53
CAFE	Celebrate Erie/Lights Over Lake Erie	\$16,507.50
Crime Victim Center of Erie County	2022 Series of Events	\$2,504.22
Downtown North East	Wine Fest/ North East Wine Country Harvest Festival	\$2,979.26
Edinboro Arts & Music Festival	Downtown Edinboro Art & Music Fest	\$3,022.50
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre	The Nutcracker	\$5,068.04
Erie Downtown Partnership	EDP 2022 Events Calendar	\$6,300.75
Erie Homes for Children & Adults	Victory Ride 2022	\$930.70
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership	Erie Homecoming 2022	\$4,650.00
Erie-Western PA Port Authority	ErieBank 8 Great Tuesdays	\$6,165.46
Film Society of NWPA	Eerie Horror and Gaming Festival	\$6,863.40
Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society	Washington Statue Centennial and Rededication	\$841.65
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	2022 Program of Events	\$1,655.40
Harborcreek Township	Concert in the Park, Light up Night	\$1,162.50
Holy Trinity RC Church	29th Annual Zabawa Polish Heritage Festival	\$6,347.25
Humane Society of NWPA	Rock & Rescue Charity Concert	\$4,650.00
Impact Corry	Corry Fest 2022	\$1,148.55
Iroquois School District Foundation	Erie Food Truck Festival	\$1,962.30

Jefferson Educational Society	JES Programming/Global Summit	\$20,000.00
Lake Erie Fanfare	39th Annual Drum Corps; 26th Annual German Heritage Festival	\$4,394.25
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	Annual Greek Festival (Panegyri)	\$7,440.00
Mercy Center for Women	Women Making History, Butterfly Effect, Pedal for Mercy	\$910.24
Nonprofit Partnership	Keystone Nonprofit Conference	\$3,514.24
Presque Isle Light Station	2022 Series of Events	\$576.60
Presque Isle Partnership	PIP 2022 Special Events	\$4,008.30
Saint Patrick's Church	Erie Irish Festival	\$6,783.19
SSJ Neighborhood Network	St. Paul's Italian Festival	\$4,726.61
Union City Pride	French Creek Festival	\$1,209.00
Waterford Community Fair Association	2022 Waterford Community Fair	\$7,851.76
Wattsburg Agricultural Society Inc.	Erie County Fair at Wattsburg	\$10,481.57
YMCA of Greater Erie	Highmark QUAD Games	\$1,422.90
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	2022 Events	\$4,201.74
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	Global Youth Service Day	\$1,304.33



Tuesday, March 29, 2022

The Corry Journal • [www.thecorryjournal.com](http://www.thecorryjournal.com)



Journal file photo

## ECGRA supports local event

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority recently awarded \$1,148.55 to Impact Corry for this year's CorryFest event. The money is part of ECGRA's Special Events Grants whose funds will help 37 different nonprofits throughout the county this year. Above, members of Corry Area High School's class of 1969 head down Center Street with their first-place float during the 2019 CorryFest parade.

## **Corry site earns historic status on National Register**

Honor provides 'amazing opportunity' for district

**Valerie Myers**

Erie Times-News USA TODAY NETWORK

Corry has a new ace in its deck for economic development.

The city's downtown historic district, including more than 200 buildings and properties, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

"This designation is an important step in celebrating our heritage and attracting visitors to our region," said Impact Corry Executive Director Chuck Gray. "Historic designation also is an amazing opportunity for owners of revenue-generating buildings to renovate and preserve those buildings with the help of historic preservation tax credits."

Impact Corry coordinated community efforts for the National Register designation.

The National Park Service announced the National Register designation on Friday. The Corry historic district was officially added to the National Register on Monday, according to the announcement. The National Park Service oversees the National Register of Historic Places, which is a listing of historic places worthy of preservation.

The Corry historic district encompasses almost 83 acres and 272 buildings and other properties, including City Park, the U.S. Post Office building and the former state armory on Washington Street, the only individual Corry building already included on the National Register. The district extends roughly from Smith Street to Church Street and for a block or two blocks on either side of Center Street.

Homes in the historic district include Queen Anne, craftsman and bungalow styles built in the 1880s and 1890s.

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Italianate-style commercial buildings are also included in the district.

A number of buildings and homes in the historic district were designed by architect A.P. Mount, including the Ottaway Inn, originally Mount's home, as well as the Elks Club, Corry municipal building and the former Carnegie library.

### **History fueled by industry and transportation**

Corry traces its roots to the drilling of the first commercial oil well in nearby Titusville in 1859 and the later convergence of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad and the Sunbury and Erie Railroad in what today is the city's downtown. The railroads were built to carry oil to markets along the East Coast.

Railroad agents named the junction for Hiram Cory, who sold land for the railroads, according to the historic survey for the project.

The National Register listing recognizes that early history, Gray said.

“The historic designation is not just for the quality of housing and buildings downtown but also for the boomtown experience of many cities in the region,” Gray said.

The historic district also shows how the city grew and changed over the years, said Laura Ricketts, the consultant who prepared the National Register nomination.

“The historic district demonstrates the evolution of the city from its founding at the site of an important railroad junction through its development as a regionally prominent transportation hub and industrial center,” Ricketts said.

After the railroads were built in 1861, businesses and workers followed. Early industries included Raymond Manufacturing, now Associated Spring, and Corry Metal Products Company, now Corry Contract, both in the historic district.

Corry was incorporated as a borough in 1863 and as a city in 1866.

The community has been working toward National Register designation for Corry’s downtown for some years.

“It’s an amazing outcome for what basically was a 20-year community endeavor,” Gray said. “The community looked at making the city center, Mead Park and other areas a historic district, and at making multiple historic districts. There were a lot of great ideas and community commitment, not only for planning but in raising money to hire consultants to collect the materials necessary.”

Those materials now include a kind of biography for each property in the historic district. The information was included in the Corry downtown historic survey commissioned by Impact Corry and compiled by Markosky Engineering Group, a Ligonier consulting firm, in 2018.

The survey was funded by a \$12,000 Keystone Historic Preservation Grant and matching funds from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and Corry Community Foundation.

It was submitted to the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board for consideration. The board on Feb. 1 unanimously recommended the Corry Historic District to the National Park Service for National Register designation.

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**North Center Street in downtown Corry is shown on Sept. 14, 2020.**

CHRISTOPHER MILLETTE/ERIE TIMES-NEWS FILE

**CORRY**

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- Tuesday, April 12, 2022

FROM PAGE ONE

# Corry Historic District added to National Register of Historic Places

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After a number of years in the making, an area of the city, known as the Corry Historic District, has been officially added to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service added the district on April 4 after its unanimous recommendation by the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board.

From the designation of a historic district, to the nomination and ultimate addition to the National Register, a number of volunteers and entities shepherded the effort through to fruition.

According to Impact Corry, the effort to specify Corry's historic district boundaries began roughly 20 years ago, with Impact Corry diving into the process in 2017. Around 2013, Preservation Erie had started on a countywide inventory of historic resources and began mapping out historic structures.

A public meeting was held in 2014 to review the results of the inventory. At that time, David Skellie, co-chairman of the Preservation Erie Historic Resource Committee, encouraged the effort as a means of defining the community's assets and qualifying for certain tax breaks for property owners.

Steve Bishop, former Impact Corry executive director, said it's been a long time coming.

"That was a journey," Bishop said in a press release. "A long — but ultimately satisfying — journey. We first spent a couple years working with Preservation Erie President and board Chair Melinda Meyer as well as the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office."

Meyer pointed to the Corry Area Historical Society's instrumental role in the effort.

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## Historic

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"The historical society opened the doors of its museum and its extensive archives to the team of Markosky Engineering Group, the consultants responsible for building the case for the nomination," Meyer said. "The historical society became a second home for the intensive survey work and collection of key historical information."

Historical society President Ann Clark was pleased to help.

"We even served as a pass-through entity for the receipt of Community Assets Grant funds from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority," Clark said. "BCGRA funds served as part of the necessary financial match for the project's keystone Historic Preservation Grant, awarded by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission."

By 2019, Mandi Johnson, of the Impact Corry Legacy Committee, took over the fundraising efforts, securing funds from the Corry Community Foundation and Associated Spring to cover nomination expenses.

And, as Corry celebrates its rich history, the community looks to the future.

"Corry, Pennsylvania, grew where two rail lines crossed," said Impact Corry Executive Director Charles Gray. "And what was true at Corry's founding is true today — strategic investment empowers residents, businesses and regions to thrive."

"The rails of Corry's yesterday are the fiber optic cables of Corry's tomorrow. With an eye to lessons from the past and plans for the future, Corry is working with its partners to build a universal gig fiber optic network and innovation economy opportunities that will — once again — lure mavericks, artists and entrepreneurs to continue Corry's legacy of innovation, ingenuity, artistry."

The Corry Historic District is an 82.6-acre area of the central part of the city, comprising 272 resources that include the Corry Armory and Corry City Park.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of historic buildings, districts, structures, sites and objects worthy of preservation in the U.S.

Listing on the register, in addition to federal tax incentives, brings opportunity for state and federal preservation grants, tourism and fosters community pride.