



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
VIA ZOOM/In Person  
Knowledge Park; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510  
August 19, 2021

ZOOM Meeting Information:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85476525235>

Meeting ID: 854 7652 5235  
Password: not required

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 2021
5. DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS
6. COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN
7. PUBLIC COMMENT
8. PRESENTATION
9. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - a. Treasurer’s Report
  - b. Strategic Planning Committee
  - c. Update from County Council
  - d. Update from County Executive’s Office
10. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
11. SOLICITOR’S REPORT
12. OLD BUSINESS
13. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 11, 2021 – Resolution to enter into agreements with two (2) entities that comprise the recipients of the 2021 Anchor Building Program
- b. Resolution Number 12, 2021 – Resolution to enter into agreements with thirteen (13) additional Erie County Special Events Grant applicants for the Supplemental Extension

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – BOARD Meeting  
Location: 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510; Jordan Room  
ZOOM meeting – details to follow



## **Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**

### **Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting**

July 15, 2021

Meetings for the Board of Directors of ECGRA can begin meeting in a physical location per Governor Wolf's proclamation of June 11, 2021. However, each member and ex-officio has the option to attend in person or virtually. Members of the public can now speak at the physical location of 5240 Knowledge Parkway.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Directors' Meeting of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority was held on July 15, 2021 at 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510. Legal Notice of the meeting was given through an advertisement appearing in the Erie Times-News. The meeting was called to order by the Chair.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Mr. Barney, Mr. DiPaolo (late), Ms. Hess, Ms. Loll, and Mr. Sample (late) are present via Zoom. Mr. Cleaver and Mr. Paris are present in person. Mr. Wachter, Mr. Lee are present via Zoom, and Dr. Wood is present in person.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Paris seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the agenda. Motion carries 5-0.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – June 2021

Mr. Hess makes a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion. There is no discussion on the minutes. Motion carries 5-0.

#### **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

There are no comments at this time.

## COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: I would like to commend all the Board members who had the opportunity to participate in the Community Assets review. There was a lot of good input, and a lot of things were accomplished and I look forward to that number of individuals participating in future reviews. So, thank you.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public present for comments.

## PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations scheduled.

At this point, both Mr. DiPaolo and Mr. Sample have joined the meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cleaver: I reviewed the financial report with Dr. Wood and he answered the only major question I had, which was regarding a charge on the credit card for 15 books. It caught my eye so I think Dr. Wood should explain that to the Board. Other than that, I will turn it over to Perry for the expenses and income.

Dr. Wood: The main expenditures when looking at the first report shows that some Special Events paid out, the four grants for the 2021 MMC were paid out, the Mission Main Street payment of \$133,000, and the Pilot Project that the Board just approved to the Film Society. Does anyone have any questions of me of the Treasurer's Report?

Mr. DiPaolo makes a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as stated. Mr. Paris seconds the motion. There are no questions or discussion of the Treasurer's Report. Motion carries 7-0.

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: Mr. Paris: We had a zoom to discuss the Parks, Fields, & Trails and I think we will be approving that later today.

Mr. DiPaolo: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we separate those before we vote on them.

Ms. Hess seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the motion. Motion carries 7-0.

- c. Update from County Council: Mr. Anderson is not present to give an update.
- d. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Lee: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. I'm on the road so if we get disconnected, you'll know that I'm in a spot where I unfortunately will not be able to be heard.

I am not going to be long. There are a couple of key things I want to bring up from the Administration's standpoint. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the County has received half of the total allocation; we are going to be getting \$52.4 million and we have already received \$26.2 million. The Administration has put together a projected budget which will be submitted to Council for allocation of that \$26.2 million. We have been working with key stakeholders in the community. Dr. Wood will be sharing, I'm sure, a little bit more about what we would like to do from a transformative standpoint and have ECGRA play a role in executing that particular grant program.

We are looking at allocating a sizable amount for minority development as well as economic development. There are some municipality grants, some for infrastructure that needs to be done. We have a whole array of areas that we are looking to allocate that \$26.2 million towards that will make a very wise investment for the whole region. We are very excited about that. Are there any questions about the American Rescue Plan Act?

Mr. Cleaver: Mr. Lee, if I can mention, it was in today's paper and it was all broke down. It looks like it was very well prepared, and a lot of places are getting money that need it. I looked at it and it was pretty well spelled out in the paper this morning.

Mr. Lee: Wonderful. Thank you. Secondly, the Summer Jobs & More Program is going well. We have a total of about 150 students participating and 48 employers. I am pleased with GECAC as far as how they are running the program. The program is slated to end in the middle of August. It is going to be another successful year. Are there any questions about the Summer Jobs program?

Mr. Barney: Did I hear you correctly say that there are 150 students?

Mr. Lee: That is correct – 150 students.

Mr. Barney: Super.

Ms. Hess: Gary, we have several of those students out here at Harborcreek and they are top notch. It's a really great program and we're really enjoying having those students around this summer.

Mr. Lee: Wonderful. Thank you for the feedback, Kelly. I appreciate it. Again, we hope that this program will continue even after our Administration is gone because it is a worthwhile and very valuable program for the entire region. That concludes my updates and report, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Ms. Loll (via chat function): Will we be getting the information that they are requesting of Council? I am interested in getting a list of the areas that they are requesting.

Mr. Lee: That is public information; it was in the paper. Are we talking about the list for the ARPA?

Ms. Loll (via chat): Yes.

Mr. Lee: Yes, that information, as commented by Whitey, is in the paper as we speak so you will be able to see it there. There may be some changes and of course County Council will make those. If they do, that is going to be public information after the finance meeting today. How they put out the information from County Council, I believe it's Nicole, she puts the information out. The bottom line is that is going to be public information, as far as on our website if they make any adjustments to it.

Ms. Loll (via Chat): Thank you.

Mr. Lee: Okay. Thank you, everyone.

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: Good morning, everyone. If you look in your Executive Director's Report, you'll see a special report that the staff has been working on with Parker Philips about the relationship between ECGRA and Bridgeway Capital. It does a very good job of laying out the different funding sources; it's a very nice piece that we've sent to local elected officials informing them on how that relationship is going.

The next thing in your packet, you will see the staff spent a lot of time this month vetting the Community Assets subcategory of Parks, Fields, & Trails. That, of course, led to the Strategic Planning committee meeting and the resolution on today's agenda. Finally, you'll see in the packet the various news clippings that came off about projects that are going forth in the Erie Times News as well as the Corry Journal.

Then if you look at the agenda, you will see that we also are looking to pass the audit. The audit, as a refresher, the way the audit process begins is Maher Duessel comes in, they meet with the staff at ECGRA, they request a large amount of information about our finances and our governance process. That is mostly compiled by Tammi in the beginning, then it is turned over to Maher Duessel. Maher Duessel comes back with clarifying questions. This year they interviewed both the former Treasurer and the current Treasurer, both Mr. Barney and Mr. Cleaver, to see if they have any concerns, questions, or comments. Next, we scheduled Maher Duessel to come in and talk to the Board of Directors along with the Draft Audit; they went through the Draft Audit with you all, which was made available to you in both paper and electronic form. Then there was a period of time where you could contact them directly or contact the staff at ECGRA with any clarifying questions or comments. I did talk to Maher Duessel and no one had contacted them outside of the two conversations with the Treasurer. So since there were no questions or comments, we are good to go on the official approval of the Audit. Once it is approved, it is distributed to a number of agencies at the County for the official record so that we are in compliance with all County Administrative Code regulations.

Let me wrap up my Director's Report by commenting on something that Mr. Lee said about the American Rescue Plan Act. There is a nice outline in today's paper, and it was on GoErie last night. It does not mention that ECGRA is being considered as an administrator for the program. I have talked to many of you about this that we were requested by the Administration and County Council to submit a proposal to be an administrator of ARPA funds. So, we are under consideration for a program called the Transformative Grant Program. So, if you see that in the paper, that is the area that we are being considered for. That proposal was submitted, it's approximately \$4 million in this year's budget, and I think it's really consistent with the work we do here at ECGRA. I really appreciate the fact that both Council and the County Executive are recognizing the work we are doing in that area. It will be interesting. If we are selected as an administrator, I will be coming back to the ECGRA Board of Directors for a conversation.

Tim and I have already looked at the documents; Tim is doing a legal review and I am doing a programmatic review. Really, at this point, they are a lot of the same federal documents are guiding

those two things, so we will make sure that ECGRA is on solid legal ground as we begin to design grant guidelines for this Transformative Grant Program concept. Does anyone have any questions for me?

Mr. Barney: Thank you, Dr. Wood.

### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: I just wanted to echo what Perry was saying. The compliance piece for the Transformative Grant concept is going to be critical. The Program, coming under the Federal Government, does have very specific items on which we can spend the money. As a subrecipient of the grant, should we be determined to administer it, we could then only distribute that grant to entities that had projects or programs that were impacted by the Coronavirus, in that this would then impact that in a positive nature. There is some latitude in how we are to do that, but we need to keep that in mind that this is not unrestricted money. Perry and I continue to work through that compliance piece, and we look forward to reporting back as we get further into the process.

Mr. Barney: I have a question, Tim. The funds have to be disbursed by 2024. If they give the funds to us, will it still have to be disbursed in the same time manner?

Mr. Wachter: Yes. All of the requirements would flow through the County; the County would just be acting as a pass-through entity and then we have all those same requirements that you're hearing about.

Mr. Barney: Thank you. Then we know we can't be dragging our feet if we do get it.

Dr. Wood: Dale, it may be the case that the Phase 1 monies, which would be the \$4 million, would have to be spent by December 2022; that's based on what the County gets. We would also be slated as an administrator of the Transformative Grant monies in Phase 2, which could be another \$6 million on top of the \$4 million. I am using hypothetical language here because this hasn't passed yet. Hopefully tonight, the first reading will pass with ECGRA as an administrator. Those are the guidelines that the County has given us so far.

Mr. Barney: Thank you. Carol posted something in the chat.

Ms. Loll (via chat): Would they be assigning us a portion or possibly the whole?

Dr. Wood: Carol, Phase 1 is \$26 million. In theory, they are proposing that ECGRA administer \$4 million of that \$26 million.

Ms. Loll (via chat): Thank you.

### OLD BUSINESS

There is no Old Business to cover at this time.

## NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 9, 2021 – Resolution to enter into agreements with eight (8) Erie County community organizations and municipalities engaged in Parks, Fields, & Trails as part of the Community Assets

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Dr. Wood: We have a motion on the table that came during the committee reports and the request was to separate. Mr. Chairman, if you could call for a role call on each individual application. Is that the correct way to handle that, Tim?

Mr. Wachter: Mr. DiPaolo, was that your intention that you wanted to separate each individual application or is there one that you wanted to remove?

Mr. DiPaolo: Yes, I wanted to separate each one of them; there are some that I want to vote on yes but there are others that I feel that we should hold off on them. That's the reason why I made that motion.

Mr. Wachter: Then a role call would be appropriate for each one.

Ms. Hess: Perry, when we had our meeting, did we end up at the end of that meeting, is this what this table reflects?

Dr. Wood: Yes. You'll notice it reflects a 50% total for the City of Corry, it reflects two applications that were declined because they weren't ready at this time (City of Erie and United Way) and both of them went to zero. We're going to go back to them and talk to them about their applications, and then it reflects all the other organizations at full funding. That was the committee's recommendations.

Ms. Hess: Thank you.

Mr. Sample: I'm not sure what Dom is trying to say, but could we vote on the recommendations of the committee and still keep them intact? That would eliminate the two grants and drop the one by 50%. Is that your intention, Dom?

Mr. DiPaolo: Yes, that's fine.

Mr. Sample: That way we can vote all at once. Am I correct, Tim? If we just voted on the committee's recommendation, which would eliminate the two and drop one to 50%.

Mr. Wachter: I was not at the committee meeting so I'm not sure which two you are going to drop.

Mr. Sample: Perry just said it was the City of Erie and the United Way.

Mr. Wachter: Dom, which ones would you like to vote no on?



Mr. DiPaolo: The City of Erie is one and I didn't know they were going to pull that. The other concern I had was the North Hills Golf Course (City of Corry), even though we decided half of that, I still wanted to vote no.

Mr. Wachter: The City of Erie shows that it is getting nothing, so you're okay with that.

Mr. DiPaolo: Yes, that's fine.

Mr. Wachter: The City of Corry is the North Hills one; why don't we vote on everything but the City of Corry application and then we will do a separate vote for the City of Corry so that you can vote.

Mr. DiPaolo: That's fine with me. I didn't want to cause a problem with this, but I just wanted to make sure, first of all, that the City of Erie was pulled. That's fine.

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Barney, it appears that it would be appropriate to move for approval of this resolution for every one of the applicants except for the City of Corry.

Mr. Barney: I concur. Let's do that and then we will revisit Corry so Dom can have it on record that he votes no for that one. So, we are saying that we don't need to do each individual vote, but that we will do the committee recommendations except for the City of Corry.

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind, we would need a motion approving Resolution Number 9, 2021 for all of the listed grant recipients except for the City of Corry.

Mr. Cleaver makes the motion as stated by Mr. Wachter. Mr. Paris seconds the motion. Motion carries 6-0-1, with Mr. Sample abstaining.

Mr. Wachter: Now, Mr. Barney, if we could request a motion to approve Resolution Number 9, 2021 as it pertains to the City of Corry's application.

Mr. Sample makes the motion as stated by Mr. Wachter. Ms. Hess seconds the motion. Motion carries 6-1, with Mr. DiPaolo voting in the negative.

- b. Resolution Number 10, 2021 – Resolution to accept the 2020-21 Audited Financial Statements

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Mr. Sample makes a motion to accept the resolution. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 7-0.

## ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hess moves to adjourn.

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
Profit & Loss  
July 2021**

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2021-22 YTD</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
44800 · Gaming Revenue		332,414.20		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	229.50	2,410.57		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC - Erie Growth		7,583.33		
46424 · Interest Income - Progress Fund		5,000.00		
46425 · Interest Income - EDF Restruct	3,250.00	6,500.00		
46426 · Int. Income - BWC - Inclusive		6,319.44		
46427 · Interest Income - Blue Highway		0.00		
46428 · Interest Income - eCAT		5,112.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>3,479.50</u>	<u>365,339.54</u>		
<b>Expense</b>				
62100 · Contracted Services	2,244.90	19,930.74	<b>26,500.00</b>	<b>79,500.00</b>
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	1,456.67	5,826.68	<b>6,832.00</b>	<b>20,500.00</b>
65000 · Office Administration	988.06	4,734.66	<b>5,716.00</b>	<b>17,150.00</b>
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	5,827.26	11,937.16	<b>16,332.00</b>	<b>49,000.00</b>
66000 · Payroll Expenses	22,221.29	91,306.90	<b>103,784.00</b>	<b>311,352.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>32,738.18</u>	<u>133,736.14</u>	<u><b>159,164.00</b></u>	<u><b>477,502.00</b></u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	(29,258.68)	231,603.40		
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
70000 · Grants / Settlements / MRIs				
70030 · Community Assets	97,011.36	97,011.36		
70050 · Municipal Settlements		83,103.55		
70070 · Special Events	9,750.00	117,164.98		
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration		147,000.00		
70100 · Mission Main Street	45,892.00	179,702.00		
70120 · Summer Jobs Program		8,221.67		
70125 · Neighborhoods & Communities MRI				
70130 · Small Business Financing	79,500.00	207,500.00		
70140 · Pilot Projects	25,000.00	40,000.00		
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow				
70170 · Renaissance Block		160,000.00		
70180 · Anchor Building				
<b>Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements</b>	<u>257,153.36</u>	<u>1,039,703.56</u>		
<b>Net Other Income</b>	(257,153.36)	(1,039,703.56)		
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>(286,412.04)</b></u>	<u><b>(808,100.16)</b></u>		

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of July 31, 2021

	<b>July</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	231,761.03
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10101 · Committed Funds	2,747,243.29
10102 · Restricted Funds	3,314,620.61
10100 · ErieBank - Savings - Other	2,989,190.52
<b>Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings</b>	9,051,054.42
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	9,282,815.45
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
12000 · Notes Receivable	
12003 · Note Receivable - CIBA	18,846.25
12004 · Note Receivable - BWC - Erie Growth	1,000,000.00
12005 · Note Receivable - Progress	1,000,000.00
12010 · Note Receivable - 1855 Capital	500,000.00
12050 · Note Receivable - EDF Restruct	1,300,000.00
12060 · Notes Receivable - BWC - Inclu	2,500,000.00
12070 · Note Receivable - Blue Highway	250,000.00
12080 · NR - BWC - Resp Fund Sm Bus	520,000.00
12085 · NR - BWC - Resp Fund Nnprofit	100,000.00
12090 · Notes Receivable - eCAT	500,000.00
12900 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	(1,540,000.00)
<b>Total 12000 · Notes Receivable</b>	6,148,846.25
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	1,892.48
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	6,150,738.73
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	15,433,554.18
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>15,433,554.18</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
20200 · Retirement Payable	(3,750.00)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	(3,750.00)
<b>Equity</b>	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	2,927,064.18
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	13,318,340.55
Net Income	(808,100.55)
<b>Total Equity</b>	15,437,304.18
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>15,433,554.18</b>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Budget vs. Actual**  
**July 2021**

Expense	July	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
<b>62100 · Contracted Services</b>					
62110 · Accounting Fees	1,500.00	8,600.00	15,000.00	(6,400.00)	57.33%
62130 · Professional Services	0.00	9,000.00	40,000.00	(31,000.00)	22.50%
62140 · Legal Services	665.00	1,292.00	20,000.00	(18,708.00)	6.46%
62145 · Website Design	0.00	717.99	3,000.00	(2,282.01)	23.93%
62150 · Payroll Services	79.90	320.75	1,500.00	(1,179.25)	21.38%
<b>Total 62100 · Contracted Services</b>	<b>2,244.90</b>	<b>19,930.74</b>	<b>79,500.00</b>	<b>(59,569.26)</b>	<b>25.07%</b>
<b>62800 · Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>					
62840 · Office Equipment	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)	0.00%
62890 · Rent	1,456.67	5,826.68	18,000.00	(12,173.32)	32.37%
<b>Total 62800 · Facilities &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>1,456.67</b>	<b>5,826.68</b>	<b>20,500.00</b>	<b>(14,673.32)</b>	<b>28.42%</b>
<b>65000 · Office Administration</b>					
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	459.66	1,951.88	3,000.00	(1,048.12)	65.06%
65020 · Postage	19.07	76.28	500.00	(423.72)	15.26%
65040 · Office Supplies	52.68	556.07	2,000.00	(1,443.93)	27.80%
65050 · Cell Phone	0.00	0.00	2,200.00	(2,200.00)	0.00%
65060 · Copier Lease	345.95	1,383.80	4,200.00	(2,816.20)	32.95%
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	12.69	12.69	500.00	(487.31)	2.54%
65080 · Bank Fees	35.00	140.00	500.00	(360.00)	28.00%
65085 · Professional Development	0.00	550.93	2,000.00	(1,449.07)	27.55%
65090 · Meeting Expenses	63.01	63.01	2,000.00	(1,936.99)	3.15%
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
<b>Total 65000 · Office Administration</b>	<b>988.06</b>	<b>4,734.66</b>	<b>17,150.00</b>	<b>(12,415.34)</b>	<b>27.61%</b>
<b>65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>					
65105 · Outreach	1,000.00	1,352.82	5,000.00	(3,647.18)	27.06%
65110 · Advertising	84.90	223.10	4,000.00	(3,776.90)	5.58%
65115 · Phone/IT/Fax	3,907.86	7,023.24	18,000.00	(10,976.76)	39.02%
65120 · Insurance	834.50	3,338.00	10,100.00	(6,762.00)	33.05%
65130 · Grant Management Software	0.00	0.00	4,900.00	(4,900.00)	0.00%
65150 · Travel	0.00	0.00	7,000.00	(7,000.00)	0.00%
<b>Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>	<b>5,827.26</b>	<b>11,937.16</b>	<b>49,000.00</b>	<b>(37,062.84)</b>	<b>24.36%</b>
<b>66000 · Payroll Expenses</b>					
66005 · Salaries & Wages	19,609.05	80,685.81	274,400.00	(193,714.19)	29.40%
66010 · FITW Tax	1,276.90	5,279.73	17,302.00	(12,022.27)	30.52%
66015 · FUTA Tax	0.00	0.00	150.00	(150.00)	0.00%
66020 · PASUI Tax	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.00%
66700 · PMRS	1,335.34	5,341.36	17,500.00	(12,158.64)	30.52%
<b>Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>22,221.29</b>	<b>91,306.90</b>	<b>311,352.00</b>	<b>(220,045.10)</b>	<b>29.33%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>32,738.18</b>	<b>133,736.14</b>	<b>477,502.00</b>	<b>(343,765.86)</b>	<b>28.01%</b>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**

**Schedule of Grant Reserve**

as of  
July 31, 2021

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Totals/Subtotals</u>
<b>Restricted Uncommitted Funds</b>	3,314,620.61		
<b>Committed Funds</b>	2,747,243.29		

**2020 Restricted Funds:** (75% - after settlement payments)

First Quarter Gaming Revenue		332,414.20	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue			
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue			
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue			<b>332,414.20</b>

**FY Disbursements:**

First Quarter Disbursements		782,550.20	
Second Quarter Disbursements	257,153.36	257,153.36	
Third Quarter Disbursements			
Fourth Quarter Disbursements			<b>1,039,703.56</b>

**Disbursements Detail**

**Grants/Settlements**

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
<b>MUNICIPALITIES</b>			
<b>Settlements</b>			
Summit Township		37,396.60	
Greene Township		9,141.39	
McKean Township		9,141.39	
Millcreek Township		9,141.39	
Waterford Township		9,141.39	
Erie County		9,141.39	
			<b>83,103.55</b>
<b>Multi-Municipal Collaboration</b>			
Girard Township		17,000.00	
Impact Corry		25,000.00	
Jefferson Educational Society		100,000.00	
West Erie County EMA		5,000.00	
			<b>147,000.00</b>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**

**Schedule of Grant Reserve**

as of  
July 31, 2021

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
<b>NEIGHBORHOODS &amp; COMMUNITIES</b>			
<b>Anchor Building</b>			
<b>Mission Main Street</b>			
Erie Downtown Partnership - 2019	45,892.00	45,892.00	
Our West Bayfront - 2019		133,810.00	
			<b>133,810.00</b>
<b>Renaissance Block</b>			
Borough of Union City - 2021		50,000.00	
Impact Corry - 2019		50,000.00	
Impact Corry - 2021		50,000.00	
Our West Bayfront		10,000.00	
			<b>160,000.00</b>
<b>PILOT PROGRAMS</b>			
Film Society of Northwestern PA		15,000.00	
New Localism Associates	25,000.00	25,000.00	
			<b>40,000.00</b>
<b>QUALITY OF PLACE</b>			
<b>Community Assets</b>			
2018 CC - Erie Center on Health and Aging	(4,648.76)	(4,648.76)	
Borough of Girard	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Borough of Union City	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Fairview Prks & Recreation Authority	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	12,365.12	12,365.12	
Headwaters Natural Resource Trust	9,295.00	9,295.00	
Impact Corry	25,000.00	25,000.00	
			<b>97,011.36</b>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
as of  
**July 31, 2021**

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
<b>Special Events</b>			
Albion Area Fair, Inc.		12,268.75	
Borough of Edinboro		1,000.00	
Borough of Union City		300.00	
CAFE		3,875.00	
Corry Higher Education Council		500.00	
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundation		18,820.00	
Edinboro University Foundation		1,212.00	
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre		4,044.00	
Erie Downtown Partnership	7,500.00	7,500.00	
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner.		5,000.00	
Saint Joseph Church		6,000.00	
Goodell Gardens & Homestead		1,115.00	
Iroquois School District Foundation		5,200.00	
Jefferson Educational Society of Erie		20,000.00	
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	2,250.00	2,250.00	
Mercy Center For Women		1,201.00	
Sacred Heart Church (2020)		197.23	
The Nonprofit Partnership		4,046.25	
Waterford Community Fair Association		8,950.00	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		9,700.00	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		3,600.00	
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie		385.75	
			<b>117,164.98</b>

**SHAPING TOMORROW**

**SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING**

**Beehive Network**

Edinboro University Foundation		81,000.00	
Erie Regional Library Foundation		47,000.00	
Gannon University	79,500.00	79,500.00	
			<b>207,500.00</b>

**YOUTH & EDUCATION**

**Summer Jobs & More**

2020 Summer Jobs		8,221.67	
			<b>8,221.67</b>

<b>Total Funds Disbursements</b>	257,153.36	1,039,703.56	<b>993,811.56</b>
----------------------------------	------------	--------------	-------------------

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
as of  
**July 31, 2021**

		<u>July</u>	<u>Amount Remaining</u>	<u>Original Commitment</u>
<b>Committed Funds:</b>				
<b>N&amp;C</b>	<b>Renaissance Block 2018</b>			
	1 Academy Neighborhood Association		11,250.00	22,500.00
	Our West Bayfront		0.00	100,000.00
	SSJ Neighborhood Network		7,000.00	70,000.00
	2 Bayfront Eastside Taskforce		25,000.00	50,000.00
	ServErie		29,000.00	58,000.00
	<b>Renaissance Block 2020</b>			
	Borough of Girard		25,625.00	51,250.00
	Borough of North East		30,000.00	60,000.00
	Borough of Union City		10,000.00	60,000.00
	Impact Corry		0.00	100,000.00
	Sisters of Mercy/House of Mercy		25,000.00	50,000.00
	YMCA of Greater Erie		25,000.00	50,000.00
	<b>Renaissance Block 2021</b>			
	Borough of Union City		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Impact Corry		50,000.00	100,000.00
	<b>Anchor Building</b>			
	18 Emmaus Ministries, Inc.		5,000.00	100,000.00
	Grace Church		0.00	100,000.00
	Performing Artists Collective Alliance		5,000.30	93,126.50
	19 Erie Masonic Temple Preservation Foundation		0.00	70,000.00
	Housing & Neighborhood Development Services		40,000.00	50,000.00
	Impact Corry		60,000.00	75,000.00
	<b>Mission Main Street</b>			
	1 Borough of North East		110,000.00	250,000.00
	City of Erie		225,000.00	250,000.00
	Erie Downtown Partnership	45,892.00	134,108.00	250,000.00
	2A Borough of Edinboro		34,900.00	250,000.00
	Borough of Union City		4,000.00	200,000.00
	2B Our West Bayfront		0.00	250,000.00
	Preservation Erie		122,000.00	150,000.00
	SSJ Neighborhood Network		55,500.00	250,000.00
	3 Borough of Girard		45,000.00	170,000.00
	Impact Corry		28,000.00	202,400.00
	Waterford Borough		84,600.00	249,800.00
<b>MUN</b>	<b>Multi-Municipal Collaboration</b>			
<b>SB</b>	<b>Beehive Network</b>			
	Edinboro University Foundation		5,000.00	200,000.00
	Erie Regional Library Foundation		5,877.00	200,000.00
	Gannon University	79,500.00	5,000.00	200,000.00
	Mercyhurst University		5,000.00	200,000.00
	Penn State University (Behrend)		100,000.00	200,000.00
<b>PP</b>	<b>Pilot Program</b>			
	Partnership for a Healthy Community		50,000.00	100,000.00
	New Localism Associates	\$25,000.00	25,000.00	50,000.00



**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Schedule of Grant Reserve**  
as of  
**July 31, 2021**

**Committed Funds (cont):**

		<u>July</u>	<u>Amount Remaining</u>	<u>Original Commitment</u>
<b>QP</b>	<b>Response Fund (COVID)</b>			
	Small Business		680,000.00	1,200,000.00
	Non-Profit		300,000.00	400,000.00
<b>Y&amp;E</b>	<b>Shaping Tomorrow</b>			
	Empower Erie - Community College		220,000.00	400,000.00
	<b>GECAC - Summer Jobs Program 2020</b>		110,382.99	150,000.00
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>		<u><b>150,392.00</b></u>	<u><b>2,747,243.29</b></u>	<u><b>7,132,076.50</b></u>

**Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority**  
**Check Detail Report**  
**July 2021**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
07/01/2021	EFT	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2021 July Copier Lease	-345.95
07/01/2021	EFT	Penn State University - Knowledge Park	2021 July Rent	-1,456.67
07/01/2021	EFT	Erie Area Council of Governments	Leadership Seminar	-1,000.00
07/01/2021	EFT	MaherDuessel, CPA	2020-21 Audit - Final Payment	-1,500.00
07/01/2021	EFT	Diligent Corporation	Semi-Annual Board Effect Software	-3,000.00
07/02/2021	EFT	VISA	2021 June Statement	-617.92
07/06/2021	EFT	Diligent Corporation	Semi-Annual Board Effect Software	-90.00
07/06/2021	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	2021 July Phone/IT	-794.36
07/06/2021	EFT	Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	2021 Special Events	-2,250.00
07/07/2021	EFT	Erie Times News	2021 June Ad for Meetings	-84.90
07/12/2021	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	06/19/21 to 07/02/21 Payroll	-8,774.23
07/12/2021	EFT	Fidelity Investments	06/19/21 to 07/02/21 Simple IRA	-250.00
07/12/2021	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 07/02/21	-667.67
07/16/2021	EFT	Gannon University	Beehive 3rd Payment	-79,500.00
07/16/2021	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2021 June Legal	-665.00
07/16/2021	EFT	ComDoc, Inc.	Copy Overage	-12.69
07/19/2021	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	07/03/21 to 07/16/21 Payroll	-8,774.23
07/19/2021	EFT	Fidelity Investments	07/03/21 to 07/16/21 Simple IRA	-250.00
07/19/2021	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 07/16/2021	-667.67
07/26/2021	EFT	UPMC Health Plan	2021 July Health Benefit	-3,417.39
07/27/2021	EFT	Borough of Girard	2021 Community Assets - PFT	-25,000.00
07/27/2021	EFT	Borough of Union City	2021 Community Assets - PFT	-25,000.00
07/27/2021	EFT	Erie Downtown Partnership	2021 Special Events	-7,500.00
07/27/2021	EFT	Erie Downtown Partnership	2019 MMS - 2nd Installment	-45,892.00
07/27/2021	EFT	Fairview Parks & Recreation Authority	2021 Community Assets - PFT	-5,000.00
07/27/2021	EFT	Headwaters Natural Resource Center Trust	2021 Community Assets - PFT	-9,295.00
07/27/2021	EFT	Impact Corry	2021 Community Assets - PFT	-25,000.00
07/27/2021	EFT	New Localism Associates	2021 Pilot Project - 1st Installment	-25,000.00
07/27/2021	EFT	Goodell Gardens & Homestead	2021 Community Assets - PFT	-12,365.12
07/31/2021	EFT	Erie Bank	Security Token Fee	-35.00



**SCORECARD** CASHBACK CURRENT BALANCE \$0.00 CASHBACK PAYOUT DATE 05/15/2022

Account Summary		
Billing Cycle		06/09/2021
Days In Billing Cycle		30
Previous Balance		\$2,101.32
Purchases	+	\$662.51
Cash	+	\$0.00
Balance Transfers	+	\$0.00
Special	+	\$0.00
Credits	-	\$44.59-
Payments	-	\$2,101.32-
Other Charges	+	\$0.00
Finance Charges	+	\$0.00
<b>NEW BALANCE</b>		<b>\$617.92</b>

Credit Summary	
Total Credit Line	\$40,000.00
Available Credit Line	\$39,382.08
Available Cash	\$39,382.08
Amount Over Credit Line	\$0.00
Amount Past Due	\$0.00
Disputed Amount	\$0.00

**Account Inquiries**

Call us at: (866) 317-0355  
Lost or Stolen Card: (866) 317-0355

Go to WWW.MyCardStatement.com

Write us at PO BOX 30495, TAMPA, FL 33630-3495

Payment Summary	
NEW BALANCE	\$617.92
MINIMUM PAYMENT	\$617.92
PAYMENT DUE DATE	07/04/2021

NOTE: Grace period to avoid a finance charge on purchases pay entire new balance by payment due date Finance charge accrues on cash advances until paid and will be billed on your next statement

Corporate Activity				
<b>TOTAL CORPORATE ACTIVITY</b>			<b>\$2,101.32-</b>	
Trans Date	Post Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
06/04	06/04	1597078882	INTERNET PMT-THANK YOU	\$2,101.32-

Cardholder Account Summary				
TAMMI MICHALI ####-####-####-8023	Payments & Other Credits \$44.59-	Purchases & Other Charges \$662.51	Cash Advances \$0.00	Total Activity \$617.92

Cardholder Account Detail					
Trans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description	Amount
05/10	05/11	PBUS01	24789301130694802740490	ERIE TIMES NEWS CIRCULATI 814-8701600 PA	\$57.63 <i>subscriber</i>
05/16	05/16		CB000107	SCORECARD CASHBACK RWRD	\$44.59-
05/17	05/18	PBUS01	24226381138400008239484	SAMSLUB #6675 ERIE PA	\$25.69 <i>mtg. exp</i>

PLEASE DETACH COUPON AND RETURN PAYMENT USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE - ALLOW UP TO 7 DAYS FOR RECEIPT

ERIEBANK  
PO BOX 42  
CLEARFIELD PA 16830-0042

**Account Number**  
####-####-####-8643

Check box to indicate name/address change on back of this coupon

AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED

<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>New Balance</b>	<b>Total Minimum Payment Due</b>	<b>Payment Due Date</b>
06/09/21	\$617.92	\$617.92	07/04/21

\$

BL ACCT 00100029-10000000  
ERIE COUNTY GAMING  
5340 FRYLING ROAD  
SUITE 201  
ERIE PA 16510-4672



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:



VISA  
PO BOX 4517  
CAROL STREAM IL 60197-4517

**Cardholder Account Detail Continued**

Trans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description	Amount
05/20	05/21	PBUS01	24801971141690958437940	AMERN PLANNING ASSOCI 312-786-6398 IL	\$374.00 member
05/21	05/23	PBUS01	24692161141100803419531	STAMPS.COM 855-608-2677 CA	\$19.07 postage
05/24	05/25	PBUS01	24493981144083011852744	AT&T*BILL PAYMENT 800-331-0500 TX	\$23.50 phone/IT
06/03	06/04	PBUS01	24692161154100164596137	AMZN Mktp US*2X0BN7CS0 Amzn.com/bill WA	\$52.68 O.S.
06/08	06/09	PBUS01	24226381160400005338975	SAMSCLUB #6675 ERIE PA	\$37.32 mtg exp
06/08	06/09	PBUS01	24431061159083732248097	AMAZON.COM*2X27E0120 AMZN AMZN.COM/BILL WA	\$14.99 books
06/08	06/09	PBUS01	24789301159833901736670	ERIE TIMES NEWS CIRCULATI 814-8701600 PA	\$57.63 subscript

**Additional Information About Your Account**

MANAGE YOUR CARD ACCOUNT ONLINE. IT'S FREE! IT'S EASY! SIMPLY GO TO [WWW.MYCARDSTATEMENT.COM](http://WWW.MYCARDSTATEMENT.COM) AND ENROLL IN OUR ONLINE SERVICE. YOU CAN REVIEW ACCOUNT INFORMATION, TRACK SPENDING, SET ALERT NOTIFICATIONS, DOWNLOAD FILES, AND MUCH MORE. MANAGING YOUR ACCOUNT IS FAST, SECURE AND EASY WITH MYCARDSTATEMENT. ENROLL TODAY!

ScoreCard CashBack Earnings as of 06/08/2021					
SCORECARD	Beginning Balance	Current Earned	CashBack Adjusted	Ending Balance	CashBack Payout Date
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	05/15/2022

**Finance Charge Summary / Plan Level Information**

Plan Name	Plan Description	FCM <sup>1</sup>	Average Daily Balance	Periodic Rate *	Corresponding APR	Finance Charges	Effective APR Fees **	Effective APR	Ending Balance
<b>Purchases</b>									
PBUS01 001	PURCHASE	E	\$0.00	0.58333%(M)	7.0000%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$617.92
<b>Cash</b>									
CBUS01 001	CASH	G	\$0.00	0.58333%(M)	7.0000%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$0.00
* Periodic Rate (M)=Monthly (D)=Daily							Days In Billing Cycle: 30		
** includes cash advance and foreign currency fees							APR = Annual Percentage Rate		
<sup>1</sup> FCM = Finance Charge Method									
(V) = Variable Rate If you have a variable rate account the periodic rate and Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary.									



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

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
AUGUST  
2021**

**JUNE 2021**

Meeting with Executive Director  
Ongoing Social Media Management  
Ongoing Consulting  
June Comms

**IMPLEMENTED**

- Eight June posts
- Bridgeway Capital Report
- Bridgeway Capital Release
- Bridgeway Capital Graphics

**IN PROGRESS**

- Holiday Graphics
- Annual Report
- Parks Fields & Trails 2 Year Report
- ECGRA Playbook
- ECGRA Playbook Event
- Roadshow Tours with ECAT, PACA, and Train Station Corry

**IN PROGRESS | 2021 Grant Releases and Graphics**

- Renaissance Block Grant
- Multi-Municipal Collaboration Round 1 grant
- Community Assets - Parks Field Trails grant
- Anchor Building Grant
- Multi-Municipal Collaboration Round 2 grant
- Community Assets - Arts Culture Heritage
- Community Assets - Community Centers

**JULY 2021**

**Meeting with Executive Director**

**Ongoing Social Media Management**

**Ongoing Consulting**

**July Comms**

**IMPLEMENTED**

11 July posts

**IN PROGRESS**

Holiday Graphics  
Annual Report  
Parks Fields & Trails 2 Year Report  
ECGRA Playbook  
ECGRA Playbook Event  
Roadshow Tours with ECAT, PACA, and Train Station Corry

**IN PROGRESS | 2021 Grant Releases and Graphics**

Renaissance Block Grant  
Multi-Municipal Collaboration Round 1 grant  
Community Assets - Parks Field Trails grant  
Anchor Building Grant  
Multi-Municipal Collaboration Round 2 grant  
Community Assets - Arts Culture Heritage  
Community Assets - Community Centers

## **2021 Anchor Building Program Summaries**

### **2 Proposals totaling \$148,000**

#### **Project #1**

**Project Name:** PACA Building Studio Expansion (1505 State Street, Erie), Phase III

**Project Sponsor:** Performing Artist Collective Alliance (PACA)

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

**Project Total:** \$ 200,000

**Project Summary:** PACA will improve the remaining undeveloped area of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of its five-story, 70,000 square foot building to accommodate an additional five rentable studio spaces (approximately 3,500 SF of space). Work will include metal studs, drywall, electrical upgrades, lighting, heating, water heaters, painting, and a second set of ADA accessible restrooms required by the city of Erie. PACA will also replace 15 windows. The additional rentable space will enable PACA to generate more income to use for other improvements to the building as well as ongoing maintenance and debt service.

The PACA building currently has three floors of 100% rented studio and retail space. While PACA serves as a small business incubator with artist studio space, and is home to artistic guilds like the Clayspace pottery group PACA also provides a public theater space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Previous improvements on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor completed in 2018 under Phase I included:

- Installation of 36 windows on State Street side
- Steel drywall framing and steel door frame installation
- Fire-rated doors
- Electrical service installation to serve five studios and a set construction shop
- Furnaces in five units
- New ADA accessible, code-compliant restrooms for men and women
- Drinking fountain
- Painting
- Design services

The total investment in Phase I was \$216,000.



As a result of the Phase I work, PACA lowered its utility costs and was able to generate more rental income. This positive change to its finances allowed PACA to refinance its debt to be able to borrow funds to complete Phase II which was the complete removal and reinstallation of its 13,500 SF roof - a \$265,000 investment made in 2020-2021.

Phase III will be the final buildout of the 4<sup>th</sup> floor with the last five of the 10 individual studios and additional restrooms required by the city of Erie. Plans have already been approved by the city and construction can begin once funding is approved.

The gross revenue anticipated is \$2,000/month once all the new studios are leased. PACA told ECGRA that artists are waiting to move in.

**Recommendation:**

PACA provides low-cost studio space to Erie area artists, artisans, makers, musicians, and other small businesses in one building. There are few other organizations that have as its primary mission to afford a place for arts-based businesses and entrepreneurs to start and grow. ECGRA's support of the PACA facility in turn promotes Erie County makers. PACA's continued investment has encouraged owners of nearby properties such as Kellar's Comedy and Magic Club and the former Maennerchor to also re-invest in the neighborhood around 14<sup>th</sup> and State in downtown Erie. PACA is located only a few yards outside of the Erie Downtown Partnership boundaries and the city's Opportunity Zone which means it is not eligible for the same funding its neighbors can receive.

The recommendation is to award a grant for \$100,000. PACA will use its cash reserves and anticipated grants and donations in 2021 and 2022 to complete the project.

As a reminder, although PACA is a non-profit organization, it does voluntarily pay its full real estate taxes.



PACA in 2010



PACA in 2019

**2021 ANCHOR BUILDING PROGRAM SUMMARIES**

## **Project #2**

**Project Name:** Albion Area Public Library Improvements and Repairs

**Project Sponsor:** Borough of Albion

**Grant Request:** \$48,000

**Project Total:** \$ 99,735

### **Project Summary:**

The Albion Area Public Library is located in a former Bessemer Railroad rest house built in 1911. The building is an example of Albion's railroad history and qualifies as a heritage building under the guidelines of the Anchor Building Program. It has been reused since 1959 as a public library. In order to continue service as a library, some key repairs are required to its accessible entrance and foundation as well as the front porch. The building does not generate income for the borough. In fact, the borough underwrites the library operation annually in the amount of \$4,000.

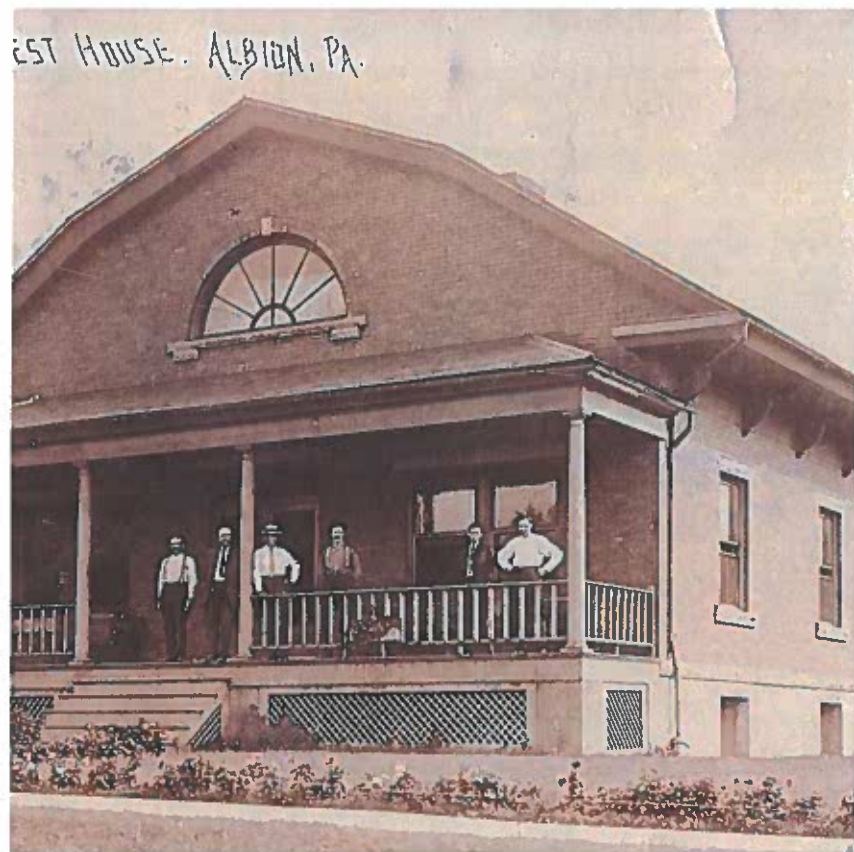
The borough has planned a multi-phase approach to repairing and updating the building. The first phase to be funded under the current proposal is to replace the existing handicap-accessible ramp. A cost estimate was included totaling \$59,910, however the borough must publicly bid this work and costs may be higher.

The borough is working with an engineer to formulate a plan, cost estimates, and construction drawings for the improvements.

The project match will be provided by the borough in cash and with other grants it has applied for. The borough has offered the cost of engineering and design services for the complete renovation of the library as project match. The quote for that work is \$36,825.

### **Recommendation:**

Fund the project at the requested amount. The term of the Anchor Building Program grant is two years which would give the borough time to pursue additional grants and donations if bids come in high.



**2021 ANCHOR BUILDING PROGRAM SUMMARIES**



**2021 ANCHOR BUILDING PROGRAM SUMMARIES**

## Tammi Michali

---

**From:** Tom Maggio  
**Sent:** Friday, July 30, 2021 2:42 PM  
**To:** Perry Wood; Tammi Michali  
**Subject:** FW: A Big Beehive THANK YOU

**Importance:** High

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**From:** Roach, Kathleen M <roach009@gannon.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 30, 2021 11:19 AM  
**To:** Tom Maggio <tmaggio@ecgra.org>  
**Cc:** Gleason, Brad K <gleason006@gannon.edu>  
**Subject:** A Big Beehive THANK YOU  
**Importance:** High

Happy Friday, Tom!

On behalf of the Gannon Beehive, Brad and I would like to thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to celebrate the NWPA Innovation Beehive Network. It meant a lot to have you attend this event and visit our six Beehive clients who were featured: Abomination Athletics, Centric Technologies, House of Hospitality, MP-ERIE-CO, Mrs. Klean, and Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro. It still astounds me the collaboration between our four local universities and the library to offer these free services to Erie-area start-ups. AND, if it wasn't for ECGRA, our Beehive Network truly wouldn't exist – we so appreciate all of the funding and support ECGRA has given and continues to give!!! Our Erie Entrepreneurial Ecosystem is alive and growing for sure!!

Again, thank you so much for celebrating with us, Tom! It really meant a lot to us and the other Beehive members. Should you have any question regarding the Beehive or our clients, please don't hesitate to reach out.

*"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." - Mark Twain*

Kind regards,

**Kathy**

Kathy Roach '88  
CBI Entrepreneurial Coordinator  
Gannon University College of Engineering and Business  
Phone: 814.459.6068  
Cell: 814.490.4240  
Email: [roach009@gannon.edu](mailto:roach009@gannon.edu)  
Website: [www.erietech.org](http://www.erietech.org)

# Local COVID fund helped the community

**Valerie Myers** Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A \$2.35 million Erie County COVID-19 Response Fund has helped small businesses and nonprofits weather the coronavirus pandemic and funded pandemic humanitarian projects, according to a fund report released last week.

The fund was established by the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and Erie County Council in March 2020. ECGRA partnered with Bridgeway Capital to provide immediate nonprofit and small business loans.

The COVID-19 Response Fund made \$1.6 million in loans available. The loans were administered through Bridgeway Capital with flexible payment schedules.

As a partner to the fund, Bridgeway accepted applications online and closed on 24 loans to small businesses and two loans to nonprofits totaling more than \$633,000 in just seven weeks in spring 2020. The loans helped save 103 full-time jobs and 53 part-time jobs, according to ECGRA.

Humanitarian relief grants included \$168,000 to Second Harvest Food Bank to help provide 6,000 meals to local food pantries, homeless shelters, child care centers and senior care centers.

A grant to Meals on Wheels helped get meals to the homebound.

In all, the COVID-19 Response Fund provided more than 40 humanitarian grants totaling almost \$709,000.

The grants also included:



**Chamere Henderson, volunteer coordinator, and Bailey Glesbrecht, mobile food pantry coordinator at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwestern Pennsylvania, load boxes with food items in January. JACK HANRAHAN/ERIE TIMES-NEWS FILE**

- Up to \$20,000 to provide almost 7,000 face shields to first responders and nonprofit and school employees.
- \$76,408 to the Urban Erie Commu-

- nity Development Corp. for supplemental food for Erie Housing Authority residents.
- \$46,500 to Penn State Behrend and

\$23,000 to Gannon University to expand face shields production.

- \$39,085 to Erie City Mission and \$30,750 to Community Shelter Services for shelter and kitchen costs.

- \$16,000 to YMCA of Greater Erie to care for children of essential workers.

The Erie County COVID-19 Response Fund, established in March 2020, has been recognized by Drexel University's Nowak Metro Finance Lab as a "first mover" in the nation, helping to provide humanitarian aid and pump money into the local economy ahead of state and national funding.

"ECGRA was built to move swiftly and with public accountability, allowing Erie County to get ahead in the crisis, which saved many local organizations from closing their doors to the residents they serve," Bruce Katz, co-founder and inaugural director of the Nowak Metro Finance Lab, said in the Response Fund report.

The Erie County COVID-19 Response Fund report can be read online at [www.ecgra.org/covidreport](http://www.ecgra.org/covidreport).

ECGRA annually distributes millions of dollars in gross revenues from Presque Isle Downs & Casino to municipalities, neighborhood associations and other organizations for programs, events and community improvements.

The authority has worked with Bridgeway Capital to invest in small and minority-owned businesses since 2016.

Contact Valerie Myers at [vmymers@timesnews.com](mailto:vmymers@timesnews.com). Follow her on Twitter @ETNmyers.

# Unique greenhouse planned for west Erie



Heather Caspar, executive director of the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, stands on the site of the new greenhouse in the 400 block of West 19th Street in Erie. KEVIN FLOWERS/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

## 1,000-square-foot space will be partially underground

**Kevin Flowers**  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network is ready to step up its urban agriculture game thanks

to a crucial assist from the Erie Zoning Hearing Board.

The nonprofit neighborhood organization plans to construct a 1,000-square-foot, largely underground greenhouse in the 400 block of West 19th Street in Erie's Little It-

aly neighborhood, where a dilapidated single-family house once stood.

The Neighborhood Network, which serves impoverished

**See GREENHOUSE, Page 2A**



# Greenhouse

Continued from Page 1A

neighborhoods in east and west Erie, acquired the property in 2020 and had the house demolished.

Plans call for what's known as a walipini greenhouse on the site. It is an underground greenhouse with a transparent or translucent roof that is naturally heated and cooled by the earth.

The greenhouse will be used to grow produce, herbs, and other plants year-round to support the Neighborhood Network's farmer's market, urban agriculture education and food insecurity programs, said Heather Caspar, the organization's executive director.

It would be the first such greenhouse erected by a neighborhood organization within city limits, said Caspar, who added that the Neighborhood Network has about \$100,000 secured thus far, including grant funds, to build the greenhouse; the project's exact cost is still being determined.

Caspar said that basic construction on the greenhouse could be finished "yet this calendar year."

"We may find construction of both the structure and finishing off the entire site continues well into next year, following new fundraising for the project," Caspar said.

## Inspired by a project in Detroit

The Neighborhood Network's greenhouse project, according to Caspar, was inspired by the work of Steven Mankouche, a professor at the University of Michigan, who spearheaded the creation of a sunken walipini greenhouse in Detroit utilizing the foundation of a crumbling, burned-out house.

Walipini means "place of warmth" in the language of Bolivia's Amaraya Indians.

Mankouche is consulting with the Neighborhood Network on its greenhouse project, Caspar said.

"There are so many vacant and blighted properties in our neighborhoods, and you can only have so many (outdoor) gardens and green spaces," Caspar said. "We're always trying to find alternate ways to use these spaces."

The razed West 19th Street home's foundation, which is roughly six feet deep, was left intact and the greenhouse structure will be placed over it.

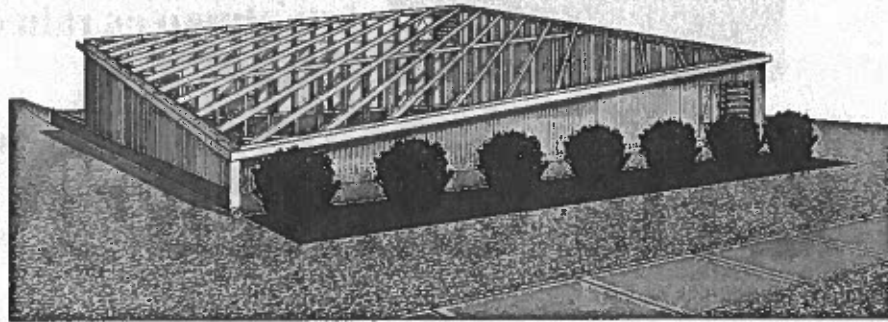
"We're very excited about this," Caspar said.

The project cleared a significant hurdle on July 13 when the Erie Zoning Hearing Board signed off on a use variance for the property. The variance was necessary because greenhouses are not typically permitted, under city zoning rules, in residential areas like the 400 block of West 19th Street.

At that meeting, which was conducted online, Caspar explained the greenhouse would "further our programs for the neighbors" in a number of ways.

She said the greenhouse could be used for various urban farming education programs for residents, including children.

The Neighborhood Network also operates a public farmer's market in the



The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network plans to build a greenhouse, shown in this rendering, on property the organization owns in the 400 block of West 19th Street. The greenhouse will help support the organization's urban agriculture and food security programs. CONTRIBUTED IMAGE/BOSTWICK DESIGN PARTNERSHIP



The Erie Zoning Hearing Board has OK'd a use variance that will allow the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network to construct a largely underground greenhouse in the 400 block of West 19th Street, shown here on Wednesday.

KEVIN FLOWERS/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

**"There are so many vacant and blighted properties in our neighborhoods, and you can only have so many (outdoor) gardens and green spaces."**

**Heather Caspar**  
Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network executive director

summer months and runs soup kitchens and food pantries to help citizens who are in need.

The Neighborhood Network has also developed a small community park adjacent to where the greenhouse will be built, Caspar said.

## It fits with Erie Refocused, too

Further, she said, the project aligns with Erie Refocused, the city's long-

range comprehensive development plan. Erie Refocused aims to solve the city's future needs in terms of transportation, housing, land use, economic development and other areas, to combat decades of systematic decline. The plan specifically suggests the city find creative uses for vacant property/developing green space.

"It is neighborhood improvement," Caspar said.

Members of the Zoning Hearing

Board agreed.

"I commend you for a really interesting use of an otherwise problematic property," board member Laura Guncheon said.

No one spoke in opposition to the project at the July 13 meeting. The Neighborhood Network also reached out to adjacent property owners about the project and secured several letters of support.

One of those written statements was from Erie's Craig Sheehan, who owns a house in the 400 block of West 19th Street.

"This seems like a wonderful improvement to the neighborhood," Sheehan wrote on July 6. "You definitely have my support for the project."

Contact Kevin Flowers at [kflowers@timesnews.com](mailto:kflowers@timesnews.com). Follow him on Twitter at @ETNflowers.

# Not all on board with county's COVID-19 relief Rescue Plan priorities

A vote on the \$26 million spending plan likely will take place on Aug. 5

A.J. Rao

Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Erie County Council is one step closer to approving an ambitious \$26 million spending plan for federal COVID-19 relief. But not everyone on council — or in the public — is on board yet.

Council members held a first reading of the ordinance Tuesday to allocate \$26,315,751 in American Rescue Plan funds to a number of county-critical areas, from access to education and economic development to public health and safety.

While members touted consensus around the plan — and said a vote will likely take place at a special meeting on Aug. 5 — others pushed back, insisting the plan was devised with little input from others.

"This project was put together by hand-picked people," said 5th District Council Member Brian Shank on a Facebook post Friday. "As a county councilman, I was not even asked my opinion on how this money should be spent."

Shank, a Republican, doubled down on his criticism Tuesday, saying he was "insulted" that the plan didn't provide support to veterans and instead provided \$360,000 to start a vaccine incentive program for county employees.

"It's a personal choice (to get a vaccine)," he said. "If you choose to get it, go for it. I had mine as a first responder, so why do I have to be bribed? This is \$300 per county employee. That (money) could feed a squadron of veterans."

## Members of the public also raise questions

Some members of the public Tuesday followed suit.

"It looks like the county executive and the county council only reached out to county departments, county agencies and county authorities and asked for feedback," said Jon Whaley, an Erie resident and former Republican candidate for mayor.

"Maybe (they) don't want the average person to wade through (the plan) and see what's going to be done with that money. So shame on somebody."

Brenton Davis, the Republican nominee for county executive, also appeared at Tuesday's meeting, saying

residents on the campaign trail are worried.

"Many are concerned that this is going to be the 'same-old,' status quo, business as usual — and that they're not going to be included in any of these conversations," Davis said. "There's very few stakeholders that have a seat at Erie County's table when it comes to this money."

## Who developed the plan?

Kathy Dahlkemper's administration developed the spending plan in coordination with a workgroup of elected officials, agency directors and other economic development and philanthropic organizations such as the Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership, Erie Community Foundation and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

Council Chairman Carl Anderson said "thousands of hours" of work and research went into the development of the plan to make it "fair, equitable and forward-thinking."

He also said council members had an opportunity to voice their concerns and formulate the basis of the spending plan via a "Covid-19 Impact Committee," which the council formed and started to convene in January.

Shank was a member of the committee, Anderson said.

"I don't feel that certain people were left out," said Anderson, a Democrat. "From council's standpoint, we painstakingly attempted to include everybody."

He added, "There's a lot of information to digest and some members of the public aren't completely aware of what exactly is going on; others are trying to use it for their own political propaganda, which is very unfortunate. But by and large, we've had a lot of discussion with members of the community and the community is supportive of what we're doing."

Anderson said council members have a right to object and that some budget items may not pass unanimously. However, he said he was "fairly confident" that a consensus of the council was present for most items.

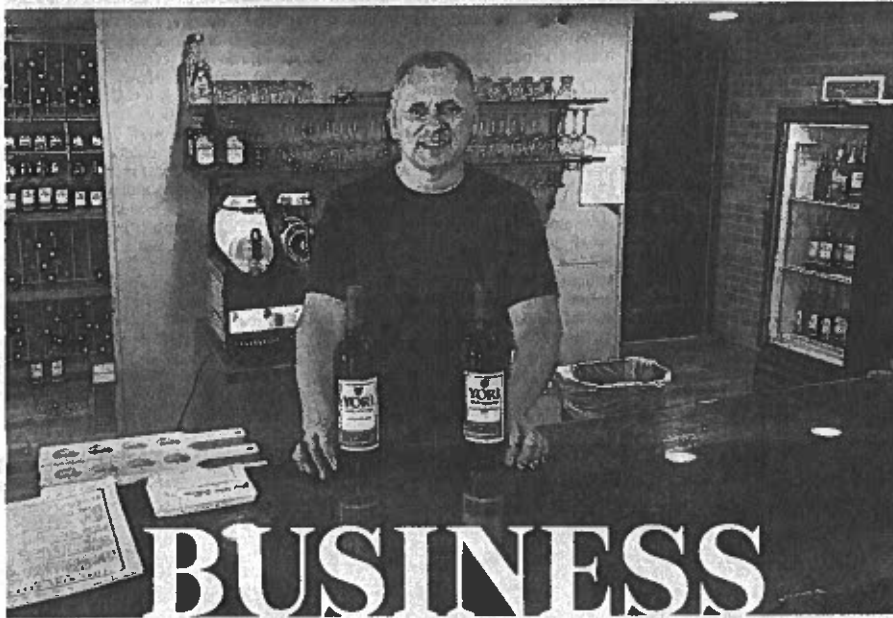
The \$26 million, coming from the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, is the first of a \$52.3 million pool of money slated for Erie County government, and one that will attempt to stabilize an economy still recovering from the pandemic.

A.J. Rao can be reached at [arao@gannett.com](mailto:arao@gannett.com). Follow him on Twitter @ETNRao.

# Erie Times-News

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021 | GOERIE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



## BUSINESS 'BOOM'

Downtown North East sees resurgence as new businesses open, old ones expand

Matthew Rink Erie Times-News | USA TODAY NETWORK

**NORTH EAST** — Michael Yori was still a teenager when he and his then-girlfriend, Lynn Yori, opened Michael's Pizzeria on South Lake Street in November 1987.

Yori, now 52, has seen a lot of businesses come and go from downtown North East over the past three and a half decades. He's got one word for what he's seeing now, though: A "boom."

"I don't think we've seen this in 20, 25 years, where it seems like all of a sudden everybody wants to do something nice and make North East the place you want to show up to and be here," said Yori, who also owns Yori Wine Cellars. "The more businesses that come, the more people it attracts and that benefits all of us."

"It seems like everybody wants to take some of these old structures and remodel them to the point where they look like they're new again and put a new spin on life here in North East," he added.

What's happening in downtown North East is an organic transformation led by private business owners and new entrepreneurs who are buying or leasing commercial space, and in some cases completely renovating it.



And it's all happening as the economy rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic and ahead of the sale of the North East campus of Mercyhurst University.

"A lot of the people that are making their moves now had started making them prior to the pandemic," said Holly Ferruggia, executive director of

See RESURGENCE, Page 2A

**TOP:** Michael Yori, 52, owner of Michael's Pizzeria and Yori Wine Cellars, stands behind the new bar at his business at 20 S. Lake St. in North East. Yori, who opened the pizza shop in 1987 and the winery in 2017, says there's a business "boom" downtown, which includes his decision to renovate and expand. **ABOVE:** The Haynes House, a historic brick building on the southeast corner of Main and Lake streets in downtown North East, is shown Wednesday. The building was bought in June by Jason Drohn and his wife, Chelsey Yenny, of North East. The couple has not announced their plans for the building, but work crews from Cynargy Construction have been working to restore both the interior and exterior of the building. **PHOTOS BY MATTHEW RINK/ERIE TIMES-NEWS**

# Resurgence

Continued from Page 1A

the North East Area Chamber of Commerce. "They were even more determined to come out of this (pandemic) on top. Every individual business owner, they have to receive all of the credit because they are the ones that just continue to push through. I'm surprised that we didn't have more closures of other businesses, but I'm not surprised by the new ones that came into town."

Consider this:

- A storefront on the north side of East Main Street that once housed a pet fish shop and that was a field office for the Erie County Democratic Party for most of 2020 will soon open as an instrumental music instruction business, the N.E. Music Co.

- Next door, another vacant storefront will soon be transformed into a retail space for Driftwood Wine Cellars. A sign on the front window reads simply, "Drifting your way soon."

- Across the street, Lake Country Bike, which closed temporarily during the pandemic, has reopened with new owners. And the owners of the building in which Lake Country Bike is housed plan to open The Side Door Wine Shop around the corner.

- On West Main Street, North East native Sara Callan Kim opened the home goods store The Nest this spring. It's only a few steps away from the second location of her other business, Lollie & Co., which opened its North East store in October. Lollie & Co. first opened in the Shops at the Colony on West Eighth Street in Millcreek Township in 2019 before expanding to a second location in North East.

- In the same block of buildings as The Nest, a new business, Skål Meadery, is expected to open in what was formerly the Grape Country Market.

- Further north on Lake Street (Route 89), the three-parcel, 13-acre homestead known as Miller Farm — the former residence of the late North East entrepreneur and philanthropist Robert Miller — was bought by David and Jennifer Wedzik on April 30, according to



The Nest by Lollie & Co., 3 W. Main St., North East, is among the newest additions to downtown. The shop is shown on Wednesday. Owner Sara Callan Kim opened the second location of Lollie & Co., 8 S. Lake St., in October 2020. The Nest opened this spring. MATTHEW RINK/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

Erie County property records, for \$810,000 total. Mercyhurst University, which Miller donated 10 acres of the property to in 2010, sold two of the parcels for \$560,000. The land is being transformed into "The Paddock at Miller Farm," a collection of townhomes and condos. So far, six units, including two "barn-dominiums," have been put on the market, with one already sold.

- In June, the nonprofit North East In Bloom, which specializes in community beautification projects, dedicated a new, 40-foot by 8-foot mural by artist Ehren Knapp. Knapp is slated to create another mural for North East in Bloom

at the Route 89 underpass.

- The North East Historical Society, replicating an idea from Ashtabula, Ohio, has begun placing plaques on downtown buildings that list all of the businesses that once occupied them.

## Haynes House sale

A month before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, civic leaders gathered at the chamber to announce a plan to address the downtown's aging, historic buildings, attract viable commercial businesses and determine the future of the grape-farming community after the exit

of Mercyhurst University.

Mercyhurst announced in August of 2019 that it would sell the 75-acre campus on the grounds of the former St. Mary's Seminary and consolidate academic offerings to its main campus in Erie. The university has been in negotiations with Baltimore-based Blue Ocean Investments, which owns the S.P.I.R.E. Institute in Geneva, Ohio, for the property.

"The Sustain North East Initiative" was unveiled by the borough of North East, the North East Area Chamber of

See RESURGENCE, Page 3A

## Resurgence

Continued from Page 2A

Commerce, and Downtown North East Inc., a nonprofit that works on economic development and beautification projects, as an answer to the lack of private investment that had allowed some of the town's historic buildings to fall into a state of disrepair.

An unspoken part of that plan involved Downtown North East Inc. quietly attempting to raise money to buy the brick building known as the Haynes House on the southeast corner of Main and Lake streets. The closing of a youth center in 2017 had left a key storefront vacant and the corner bar, Speed-Eez, one in a long line of taverns to occupy the spot, opted to close in early 2020.

"The Erie Community Foundation turned down our requests for money to purchase the Haynes House, so we decided as a group that because of the pandemic and everything, we were just going to wait and see what happened," said Charlene Kerr, chair of Downtown North East, Inc.

On June 25, Venango Management Services sold the Haynes House for \$350,000 to a limited liability company bearing the name of the building's address, Erie County real estate records show.

The buyer, 1-9 E. Main Street LLC, was formed in late March by the husband-and-wife duo of Jason Drohn and Chelsey Yenny, according to the certificate of organization filed with the Pennsylvania Department of State and obtained by the Erie Times-News.

A portion of the building is expected to be used as a fitness center, however, it is unclear what the couple's plans are for the remainder of it.

Drohn declined to comment when contacted recently but said the couple's plans will be made public in time.

"We're really excited to see that a private individual purchased that building and he's renovating it and he's going to restore it — the windows, the doors, the floors, the ceilings — the best he can historically," Kerr said. "So that is just really great. He's going to have some very exciting things going on."

A crew from Cynergy Construction has been making interior and exterior upgrades to the building for several months now.

### Mainstay eatery expands

Facade improvements have also altered the feel of businesses along Main and South Lake streets, including at Lake Country Bike, Lollie & Co., The Bean Coffee House and re.FOUND.ry, the new name of the former Mercantile 89.

Yori hopes his pizza shop and winery will be the next ones to make facade improvements, some of which have been paid for with matching grants from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

That might not happen until next year, though.

Instead, Yori has been focused on drastic renovations indoors.

Last year, he leased the vacant building to the south

of his and broke down a portion of the brick wall separating the two.

The winery and pizzeria, which share a common entrance, essentially switched spots, allowing Yori Wine Cellars to expand.

It now has seating for 120 people, including a small outdoor patio, where customers can taste wine and choose from a menu of small plates and shared plates, including charcuterie.

The change was prompted, in part, by COVID-19.

In the first month of the pandemic, sales were more than halved by restrictions placed on businesses. But that June and the two months that followed, takeout and delivery orders for Michael's Pizzeria skyrocketed. Yori said they were among the best three months in its 34 years — and it happened despite his dining area remaining closed.

In the latter half of 2020, Yori and his wife considered what they might do with the pizzeria's unused dining area.

"What we saw on our Yori Wine Cellar side was a large reduction of people, tourism, obviously," he said, "but there were still those days — Saturday is always a great walk-in day for people to taste wine — where we were turning people away, unfortunately, because we had a very limited tasting area — just 360 square feet."

With takeout and delivery orders driving business for the pizzeria, it made sense to Yori to use the space to expand his winery.

"It's exceeded my expectations," he said of the investment.

### What's next?

With the Haynes House in new hands, it's likely that the chamber and Downtown North East Inc. will set their sights on obtaining the former First National Bank building at 17 S. Lake St., in an effort to make repairs to it and then resell it to a new owner, Ferruggia said.

"It just needs so much work," she said, noting that they would seek funding from ECGRA for the project. "For a private individual to take on something like that, it's almost impossible."

Kerr and Ferruggia said all of the other private investment means they can redirect their efforts to other areas of the North East community.

"With the Drohn family buying up the Haynes House, the landlords stepping in and taking care of their buildings a little bit more, and tenants putting a lot more thought and care into their spaces, it allows the 'Sustain North East' group to focus on bigger projects like Halli Reid Park, Heard Park, our I-90 gateways," Ferruggia said.

"It's allowed us to broaden the idea we initially started with because people are doing their parts."

In late June, the North East borough and township, in conjunction with the Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development, held the first of several public meetings to update the North East Area Comprehensive Plan.

The municipalities are seeking public input to help craft the plan, which will take about a year to complete.



The N.E. Music Co., 22 E. Main St., is among the new businesses that will be opening in downtown North East. Another new business, Driftwood Wine Cellars, will open in the storefront just west of it. MATTHEW RINK/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

"Our goals," North East Borough Manager Pat Gehrein said in a statement last month, "are to identify a shared vision for the future of the North East area, determine our top priority issues, develop action plans to address these priorities and to achieve the desired results."

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# Erie Times-News

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021 | GOERIE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Boater and businessman Scott Hitz, foreground, center, has benefited from the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network, a group of business and entrepreneurship experts from four local universities and the Erie County Library system that provides help for startups in the Erie region. Hitz is the owner of Your Sailing Adventure, taking clients on sailing trips on his 32-foot-long Beneteau sailboat, background. CHRISTOPHER MILLETTE/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

## Abuzz with business

### Cooperative NWPB Innovation Beehive Network guides, grows Erie entrepreneurs

**Jim Martin**  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Scott Hitz has learned this summer that launching a new business isn't easy. The process can be filled with paperwork, regulations and countless other challenges.

Hitz, owner of Your Sailing Adventure, which invites customers to combine sailing with visits to local res-

taurants and attractions, said he's found help with many of those challenges by turning to the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network.

Started in 2014, the Beehive is a cooperative effort between Edinboro University, Penn State Behrend, Gannon University, Mercyhurst University and the Erie County Public Library.

See BEEHIVE, Page 6A

**"Our students gain valuable skills in networking as they interact with clients in a professional setting to provide clients with actionable intelligence."**

**Brian Fuller**  
Beehive director for Mercyhurst

## Beehive

Continued from Page 1A

The library and local universities provide a range of services, including marketing, business intelligence, prototype development and business consulting to entrepreneurs and early-stage businesses.

The services — all of them free — are provided by students who are paid through a grant program under the direction of faculty members.

Some of the successes of the Beehive over the last seven years were detailed Thursday afternoon when Mercyhurst University hosted the annual Beehive celebration, giving guests a look inside its new Innovation Entente Lab.

The lab, funded by a grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, provides Mercyhurst students and faculty space to work with clients to develop marketing strategies and analyze business intelligence data and potential funding opportunities.

"Our students gain valuable skills in networking as they interact with clients in a professional setting to provide clients with actionable intelligence," Brian Fuller, the Beehive director for Mercyhurst, said in a statement.

Hitz said he got help with marketing, coding and the development of a business plan from Beehive units at Gannon, Mercyhurst and Edinboro.

"They were wonderful," he said. "I couldn't have asked for more."

Fuller said member schools are working well together and are quick to refer entrepreneurs to one another.

And they are finding plenty of clients.

"In the spring, we did 23 projects for 20 clients," Fuller said. "Right now we have 18 clients in the hopper ready to go for the fall semester. We are never without."

The network also provides students the experience of solving problems for clients.

"Some students might leave with their names on a patent. That is very hard to match," said Jacob Marsh, industrial relations coordinator for Penn State Behrend. More than a dozen Behrend students have been credited on patents since the Beehive was launched, he said.

Amy Bridger, senior director of corporate strategy and external engagement at Behrend, thinks the Beehive had something to celebrate as member organizations gathered Thursday with some of the businesses they have

helped.

Behrend alone has been involved with about 160 projects to date, Marsh said, adding that altogether the Beehive has taken on more than 400 projects.

"The Beehive has been highly successful," Bridger said. "It started with a vision of all four schools working together. I think it has come together better than we ever expected."

### Beehive successes

Some of the Beehive stories highlighted Thursday include:

- The work Edinboro University's Center for Branding & Strategic Communication has done with Edinboro graduates Hunter Klobucar and Tyler Waltenbaugh, co-founders of Fish Gods LLC. The company created the Clean Earth Bag, a reusable container bag made for outdoor enthusiasts to collect garbage.

- Gannon University's Beehive operation, the Center for Business Ingenuity, which provides business consulting and case-management service for entrepreneurs, will feature a half dozen of its key clients, including Karen Thomas, owner of Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro.

- Student-workers and staff from Penn State Behrend's Innovation Commons, a product design and rapid prototyping center, will showcase design projects that have led to market-ready products and patents.

- The Blasco Library's Idea Lab, an adult maker space that offers free access to equipment and classes, helped Amelia Rigelman launch a new business venture. After experimenting with 3D modeling, she began designing 3D cookie cutters that imitated customers' photographs.

Like Bridger and Marsh, Fuller said members of the Beehive network don't see their work as a competition.

"We have actually been working really well together and serving our clients," said Fuller, who is also director of operations for the Ridge College at Mercyhurst. "You could never tell we are from rival universities."

Fuller said he's heard interest from outside the area in duplicating the local Beehive effort.

He's not surprised.

"This is probably one of the most useful things you will find at a university level anywhere," Fuller said. "It has exceeded my expectations."

Contact Jim Martin at 814-870-1668 or [jmartin@timesnews.com](mailto:jmartin@timesnews.com). Follow him on Twitter @ETNMartin.



Some of the members of the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive Network talk with Scott Hitz, at right, on Tuesday. From left: Patrick Moran, emerging technologies librarian at Blasco Memorial Library; Jacob Marsh, industry relations coordinator at Penn State Behrend; Abbey Lesniewski, assistant director of the Innovation Entente Lab at Mercyhurst University; Brian Fuller, director of the Innovation Entente Lab at Mercyhurst University; Tony Peyronel, executive director for entrepreneur development at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and Hitz. CHRISTOPHER MILLETTE/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

# Erie Times-News

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 | GOERIE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Center for Arts, Tech ready for debut year



Daria Devlin, executive director of the Erie Center for Arts and Technology, tours a new classroom in Erie.  
PHOTOS BY GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

**Tax credits, other funding enabled renovations at the former Wayne School; art classes set for middle and high school students, job training for adults**

**Ed Palattella**  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nine years ago, Daria Devlin tutored kindergarten students as a volunteer at the Erie School District's Wayne School, at East Avenue and East Sixth Street.

Devlin is still connected to the classrooms at Wayne, though not as a volunteer.

She has led the effort to overhaul the building and reopen it, in the fall, as the home of the Erie Center for Arts and Technology, the new nonprofit that Devlin heads as its executive director.



The main entrance to the Erie Center for Arts and Technology is shown on the west side of the former Wayne School in Erie.

See ARTS & TECH, Page 9A



# Arts & Tech

Continued from Page 1A

Filling the classrooms at the ECAT building this fall will be adult students learning job skills and high school and middle school students learning about the arts.

Devlin, 44, the former coordinator of grants and community relations for the Erie School District, has been overseeing the transformation of the former Wayne School since August 2019, when ECAT purchased the four-story, 80,180-square-foot building from the school district for \$250,000. The district closed Wayne, which was an elementary school, in 2017 due to declining enrollment.

The \$12 million renovation of the 108-year-old building started in August 2020 and is on schedule to be completed later this month. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is set for Sept. 16.

Led by Devlin, ECAT financed the overhaul with grants, bank loans, loans from other organizations the sale of condominium space and the use of a federal tax-credit program never tried before in the Erie area. At a time when area public and private schools are embarking on large-scale building projects, including multimillion-dollar additions to Fairview High School and the campus of Cathedral Preparatory School, ECAT has been plugging along with its project, reworking a school into what Devlin hopes will be an anchor for opportunity and development in the largely low-income East Avenue neighborhood.

"I love that this school is going to be used for something similar — education, a place where people can learn and grow," Devlin said during a recent tour of the refurbished building.

## Environment of exploration

ECAT is designed to fill a need in Erie. It is a place where at-risk middle and high school students can get involved in the visual and digital arts outside of what they might experience in school, allowing the students to appreciate the arts and explore the arts as a career. And it is a place where adults can get trained in sustainable jobs, particularly in the medical fields, to get out of poverty.

The whole idea is to get students on a ladder for a living wage without burdening them with a high student debt," Devlin said.

The goal of the renovations, she said, was to update the Wayne building to create a unique space that would expose the middle and high school students especially to artworks and architecture that would inspire them.

ECAT is modeled after Manchester Bidwell Corp., an arts and career-training initiative founded in Pittsburgh in the late 1960s. Buildings associated with the Manchester Bidwell model typically feature sweeping entrances and other architectural highlights meant to expand the perspective of the students, many of whom come from low-income households.

The Wayne building is no different. Designed by the Avon Design Group of Pittsburgh, with the Erie-based Spaulding Barns Project Management overseeing construction, the renovated building at 650 East Ave. features a welcoming main lobby. Visitors will immediately encounter plenty of glass and bright colors, such as orange, as well as a two-story water feature that resembles a waterfall and has pool at bottom. The designs are meant to convey possibility.

"It really is intended to create a sense of light and beauty and an environment of exploration and opportunity and hope," Devlin said. "That is really the word

## Anchor for development

ECAT will run its two programs out of the building: after-school classes for middle school and high school students in the arts, including painting, drawing and ceramics in the fall and digital arts in the spring; and certified adult-job training classes, starting with training for medical assistants. Those programs are free.

ECAT is scheduled to start the after-school programs in mid-September with about 40 students, Devlin said. She said ECAT wants to build up to about 150 students a semester. The adult education classes will start after ECAT gets final approval from the state Board of Education, most likely in mid-August, Devlin said.

ECAT since 2019 has been running after-school programs at other locations and, during the pandemic, online, while the Wayne building has been renovated. ECAT's five-member full-time staff was scheduled to move into their offices into the building on Aug. 10.

ECAT's tenants will expand the offerings to the neighborhood beyond education. The United Way of Erie County by Aug. 11 is scheduled to move its offices from West Sixth Street into condominium space it purchased in the ECAT building.

A medical clinic will remain in the ECAT building, with patients starting to use the new space on Monday. Another addition is a walk-in pharmacy with a drive-thru.

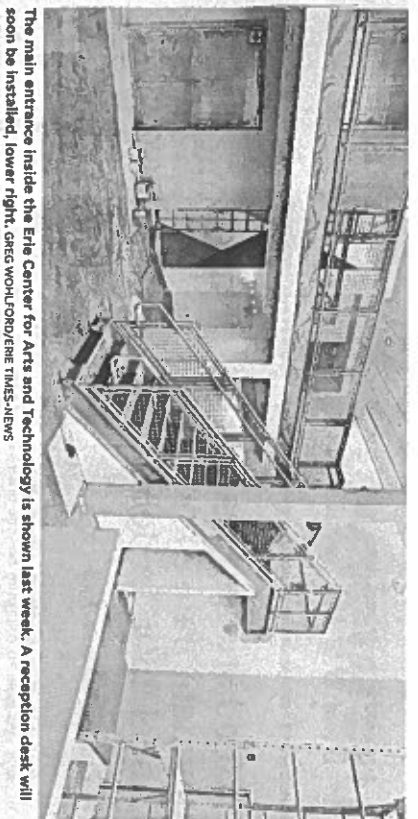
UPMC Hamot is leasing space for its tuition-funded Jameson School of Nursing program, with a start date of Aug. 30. That program is enrolling 90 students, about double what the school anticipated, UPMC Hamot said.

UPMC Hamot is partnering with Gannon University to operate the satellite campus of the New Castle-based UPMC Jameson School of Nursing in the ECAT building. The Erie program — UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot — is designed to get students on a track to graduate as registered nurses in 16 months, officials said.

Students will get clinical instruction at UPMC Hamot, take non-nursing classes at Gannon and complete the balance of their classroom work at the ECAT building.

The program will graduate nurses more quickly than a four-year program, helping Hamot and other facilities deal with the chronic nationwide nursing shortage, officials said.

"Everything has exceeded my expectations," said Karen Morahan, director of the UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot. "The response from the community. The response from the students. The



The main entrance inside the Erie Center for Arts and Technology is shown last week. A reception desk will soon be installed, lower right. CHRIS WOJCIK/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

building is gorgeous."

Overall, as many as 200 people a day will use the ECAT building, Devlin said, bringing potential foot traffic to area of East Avenue south of East Sixth Street. ECAT joins the Barber National Institute, to the north of East Sixth Street, as an asset to the East Avenue area. And across from the ECAT building is East Middle School, whose students will be among those eligible for ECAT's programs.

"There is a lot of opportunity for investment, with the number of people using the building, just bringing more and more people to this side of town," Devlin said. "I think the neighborhood can benefit from that."

## Tenants and funding

As of early August, ECAT was continuing to negotiate with potential tenants, but the entire building is all but filled. The tenant list:

- First floor — ECAT
- Second floor south — United Way of Erie County, which bought the 6,056-square-foot space as a condominium for \$424,000 in August 2019, and paid \$523,000 for renovations.
- Second floor north — Wayne Primary Healthcare, a clinic operated by Primary Health Network. The clinic has been in the building since 2012. Leased space.
- Third floor — UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot. Leased space.
- Gymnasium — Shan-Pull Sports LLC, a sports program whose head is Shannon Pullum, the former basketball coach at Strong Vincent High School and Merckhurst North East. Pullum has said he will run basketball and volleyball leagues and provide personal trainers and literacy programs out of the gym. Leased space.
- Ground floor — Darling's Pharmacy, including a drive-thru. Leased space.
- Ground floor — Office space for the Blue Coats peacekeeping initiative, whose members help counsel Erie School District students. Leased space.
- Though a nonprofit, ECAT agreed to pay property taxes on the building as part of the purchase from the Erie School District.
- The renovation costs started at \$10.3 million but

expanded to \$12 million with additional improvements.

ECAT is using the condominium sale and rental income to pay the debt associated with the \$12 million in renovations. ECAT funded about \$2.5 million of the \$12 million through its participation in the federal New Markets Tax Credit program, created in 2000 to provide incentives for investment in low-income areas. The ECAT project is the first New Markets deal in Erie, according to U.S. Treasury Department records. The balance of the funding for renovations came from grants and bank loans.

A huge lift

Though complicated, the funding and leasing elements ended up combining to make ECAT a viable project.

The chairman of ECAT's 16-member board, Charles "Boo" Hagerly, said he is pleased with the building's progress and impressed by Devlin's ability to coordinate all the different aspects of the development. Hagerly is also president of the Hamot Health Foundation.

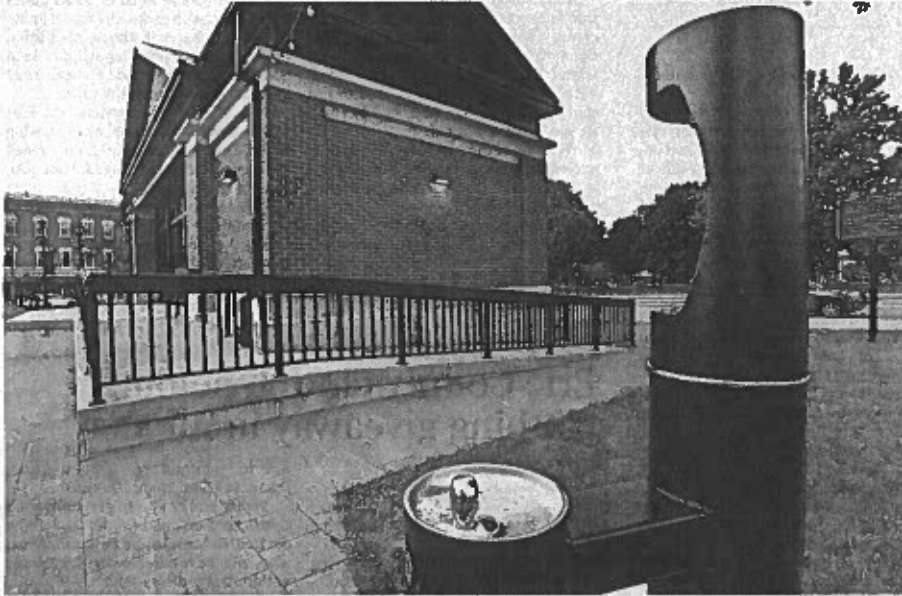
"This was a huge, huge lift, and everything just kept coming together," Hagerly said. "The word is 'collaboration.'"

Devlin is not done yet. As she prepares to welcome students into the building, she dreams of plans for what is left of the unused space in the former Wayne School. She wonders, for example, if the former boiler room, with its big windows and flood of natural light, would make a good art gallery.

Whatever happens next, Devlin, the former tutor, has taught herself a lesson in perseverance. She took an unused school and made it something new, despite all the difficulties in achieving the transformation.

"It was the right decision," she said of choosing Wayne School. "This is the place where we want to be. For more information on ECAT, go to [eriacat.org](http://eriacat.org). For more information on the UPMC Jameson School of Nursing at UPMC Hamot, call 814-877-6877. Contact Palatella Ed Palatella at [edpalatella@tinemreus.com](mailto:edpalatella@tinemreus.com). Follow him on Twitter @E7VnPalatella.

## Wave of upgrades comes to downtown's Perry Square



A new drinking fountain was installed in Perry Square a few weeks ago. It is one of several improvements to the east and west sides of the park. PHOTOS BY GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

### Improvements include new bathrooms, drinking fountain

**Kevin Flowers**  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Downtown Erie — and Perry Square in particular — is a daily decompression spot for Robert King.

The 64-year-old retired maintenance worker can usually be found on a bench in East Perry Square, near the park's fountain.

He's often there before 11 a.m. Sometimes, King is chatting with other park regulars. On other occasions, he prefers to be alone, quiet and unbothered.

"You can get peace of mind here, sit down and enjoy yourself," said King, who lives nearby at Methodist Towers in the 100 block of West Eighth Street. "The older generation, a lot of us don't have a lot to do but come down to Perry Square."

"Nobody bothers you. It's calm."

King has also taken notice of one of East Perry Square's most recent additions: two portable restrooms near the fountain that are open to the public daily.

See **UPGRADES**, Page 4A



Families visit the fountain in East Perry Square on July 15. As part of an improvement plan, a drinking fountain, stylish lighting and portable restrooms have been installed at the downtown park.

# Upgrades

Continued from Page 1A

"Man, it was about time. We've needed bathrooms down here for a long time," King said. "I'm not trying to be negative but this park still needs a lot of things. Downtown still needs a lot of things, like more stores and more for people to do. But I do notice Perry Square is a lot better than it used to be."

That's the type of reaction officials at the Erie Downtown Partnership are hoping for as the nonprofit and its partners move forward with a number of enhancements on both the east and west sides of the downtown park, which was originally christened Perry Square in 1846.

The upgrades include the portable toilets in East Perry Square, a new public drinking fountain located in West Perry Square near the park's multipurpose stage and stylish string lights that illuminate the West Perry Square stage area with an ambient glow at night.

The portable toilets and string lights were put in place in early July. The drinking fountain was installed about two weeks ago.

Plans call for five to seven large, thermoplastic-coated picnic tables to be installed in West Perry Square before the Erie Downtown Development Corp.'s nearby Flagship City Food Hall opens this fall.

The tables will provide outdoor dining space and additional seating to those who visit the park or food hall, and they will be equipped with removable umbrellas to shield users from the sun and rain. Each table also features an overhang that makes them easy for people in wheelchairs to use.

The Downtown Partnership is also working with the city of Erie to install electrical upgrades on both sides of the park, to provide more capacity for food trucks, vendors, and various entertainment events at the park, such as small concerts.

There is no specific timetable for the electrical work.

The improvements are "part of our ongoing effort to activate and improve public spaces in downtown and make downtown more safe, fun and welcoming," said John Buchna, the Erie Downtown Partnership's executive director.

## Who's paying for it?

Buchna said the enhancements "and related programming will cost in excess of \$200,000. He mentioned that Perry Square is now hosting various regular events, including a Sunday farmer's market; outdoor movie nights; polka



Perry Square is shown on July 15. State Street bisects the east side, left, and west side of the popular park. GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

dances; yoga classes; lectures; story time for children, and others.

The Downtown Partnership is working with several groups on the improvements including the city of Erie, the Erie Community Foundation; Perry Square Alliance; Erie Insurance; ErieBank; Marquette Savings Bank, and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

Many of them have provided funding for the enhancements.

"This is not just to support businesses and people who use the park, but the events we do down here as well," Buchna said.

Perry Square is an obvious focal point, Buchna said, because the park is at the heart of the Downtown Partnership's long-range improvement strategy for downtown Erie.

The improvements also build upon the \$3.5 million previously invested in Perry Square by the city of Erie and others.

That work, which was completed in 2016, was the most significant at Perry Square in decades.

It included removing the park's former gazebo and constructing the West Perry Square multipurpose entertainment stage near State Street; rehabilitating the East Perry Square fountain — which dates to 1929 — with updated LED lighting and new equipment that allows for varied water displays; new landscaping, and changing sidewalk configurations on both sides of the park to create more open space.

A combination of state grants, federal Community Development Block Grant dollars and more than \$600,000 in private donations funded the park upgrades that were completed in 2016.

"There has been almost a generation of disinvestment downtown," Buchna said. "Now you're seeing a lot of investment, with the promise of more to come."

Those are signs of a good, healthy community."

Mayor Joe Schember added: "I think the more we make the park accessible and easy to use, the better it is for everyone who uses the park. That includes the homeless and vulnerable people that we know use Perry Square, as well as anyone else who frequents the area."

John Persinger, the EDDC's chief executive, appreciates those efforts.

The EDDC's 8,000-square-foot Flagship City Public Market along North Park Row could open as soon as this coming fall, and is across the street from Perry Square.

Plans call for Erie's Whole Foods Co-op, 1341 W. 26th St., to open a second location in that space, which would be paired with Gordon's Butcher & Market and Luminary Distilling. The new market, which also includes a variety of local food vendors, is a key element of the EDDC's planned \$30 million downtown culinary arts district that also includes more than 80 new apartments.

The additional dining space provided by the new tables in Perry Square, Persinger said, will complement the public market.

"It's great to see that there is so much investment across the entire community, and any upgrades to Perry Square to make it a safer and more welcoming environment is encouraging," Persinger said.

## Reaction to the changes, and what's ahead

The plans also align with Erie Refo-

cused, the city's multiyear, comprehensive development plan, which addresses Erie's needs in a number of areas including housing, transportation, land use and economic development.

Erie Refocused recommended investing in both the city's existing parks and creating new green space.

Erie City Councilman Mel Witherspoon said the park improvements "could be a good thing. With the new market opening, people might want to sit down and eat their sandwiches at the park, and that's OK."

"I just have some reservations about how much is too much at the park," Witherspoon said. "I don't want to see it get too cluttered."

One of Witherspoon's City Council colleagues, Kathy Schaaf, isn't worried about that. By contrast, Schaaf is "delighted" that portable bathrooms and a public water fountain are in place at Perry Square.

For years, both Schaaf and City Councilwoman Liz Allen have voiced concerns about the lack of both bathroom facilities and drinking fountains at parks and other community spaces within city limits.

"These are the kinds of things that create a more welcoming space, to me," Schaaf said.

"Perry Square has been kind of behind the times on some of these things. I'm just thankful that as a city, we're finally embracing what's needed down there."

Buchna said the Downtown Partnership will continue talking with city officials and other partners about bringing additional amenities to Perry Square and downtown Erie, such as restrooms, warming/cooling shelters and hand-washing stations.

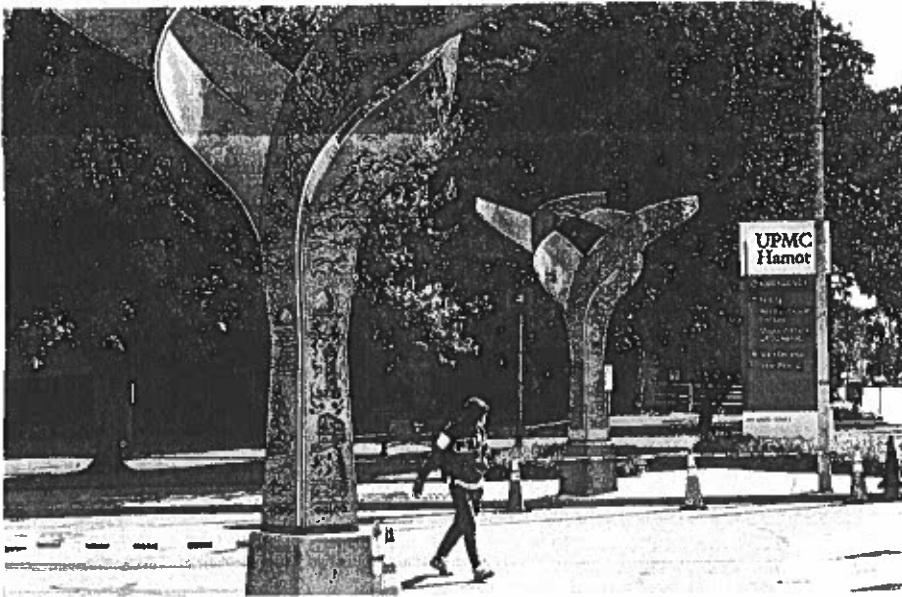
Those facilities could aid many citizens who frequent downtown Erie, including those affected by homelessness and poverty.

The project, known as Designing for Distance + Dignity, was among 10 downtown projects nationwide chosen for an \$8,500 grant from the National Main Street Center.

"It's a question of, how do we really utilize these public spaces to best serve the community?" Buchna said. "How do we serve to educate, to provide, and to service everyone? That's what we're trying to do, but there's a lot more work ahead."

Contact Kevin Flowers at [kflowers@timesnews.com](mailto:kflowers@timesnews.com). Follow him on Twitter at @ETNflowers.

## New 'gateway' sculptures debut in downtown Erie



A pedestrian passes between the sculptures "Points of Reference," near Third and State streets, on Tuesday. The 18-foot sculptures, which are illuminated at night, are made of powder-coated steel. GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES NEWS

### The two 1.5-ton pieces include word 'home' in 26 languages

**Kevin Flowers**  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The intersection of Third and State streets in downtown Erie is now home to two new colorful public sculptures, thanks to a pair of Los Angeles-based artists.

The two works, named "Points of Reference," are part of a long range plan by the city of Erie and the Erie Downtown Partnership to create gateways at several downtown locations — including the Third and State intersection — that are designed to help create a sense of place in various downtown neighborhoods.

The 18-foot-high sculptures, which are illuminated at night, are made of powder-coated steel and were designed by artists Paulina Bouyer and Eddie Magaña of the Los Angeles-based public art collective Aphidoidea.

They were chosen after a public

See **SCULPTURES**, Page 2A

## Sculptures

Continued from Page 1A

process that requested proposals from both local and nationally known artists.

The Downtown Partnership's website describes the sculptures as "inspired by the local spirit of endurance and perseverance... Historically Erie has been a maritime center, a railroad hub, and a manufacturing hub. These references gave the artists the idea of origin, tradition, and knowledge."

These new sculptures are not related to the Erie Downtown Sculpture Walk, a two-year public downtown art project organized by Erie Arts & Culture and the Erie Downtown Development Corp.

### Sculptures feature 'Home' in 26 languages

To pay homage to Erie's diversity, the sculptures also include the word "home" translated in 26 different languages, including Arabic, French, Russian, Armenian and Vietnamese.

The pieces weigh 1.5 tons each and

cost nearly \$140,000. The project was funded by UPMC Health Plan, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Mayor Joe Schember helped dedicate the sculptures Tuesday afternoon.

"This has been six years in the making," said John Buchna, the Downtown Partnership's executive director. "It was part of our master plan and we're extremely excited to see these items now in place."

Buchna said the sculptures also include references to Erie's maritime his-

tory and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're using artwork to highlight downtown," Buchna said. "This also provides a sense of excitement."

Craig Newell Fabrication and Welding in Cambridge Springs helped create and powder coat the sculptures. Barber & Hoffman Engineering, a firm with offices in Ohio and Pennsylvania, as well as Erie's Vavala Concrete Construction and Lathrop Electric also worked on the project.

Contact Kevin Flowers at [kflowers@timesnews.com](mailto:kflowers@timesnews.com). Follow him on Twitter at @ETNflowers.

# Erie Times-News

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021 | GOERIE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## County to spend \$26M in COVID relief

Provisions include free Community College student tuition, small business grants, Fire Authority funds

**A.J. Rao**  
Erie Times-News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

More than \$26 million in federal COVID-19 relief will hit the streets of Erie after County Council on Thursday approved an ambitious spending plan to

revitalize an economy still in recovery.

The funding, which stems from the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, is the first of a \$52.3 million pool of money slated for Erie County, and one that will attempt to stabilize a community still recovering from the pandemic.

The council, which convened at Erie

County Courthouse, performed a line-by-line vote of the spending plan and approved every budget item, the majority of them passing unanimously.

Notable items included:

- Free tuition to eligible students entering the Erie County Community College.
- Municipal assistance for emergency medical services and volunteer fire stations, as well as seed money for a Fire Authority, which would coordinate ser-

vices between the county's fire companies

• Small business grants, as well as "transformative grants," which would assist entities that devise "forward-thinking" ideas for the public good.

• A diversity, equity and inclusion commission to oversee the disbursement and leveraging of funds for the benefit of minority communities.

See RELIEF, Page 2A

## Relief

Continued from Page 1A

A full list can be viewed at [bit.ly/cccovidplan](http://bit.ly/cccovidplan).

for County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper, who appeared at Thursday's meeting, the council vote was a "truly historic moment."

"I think what was passed tonight will have positive reverberating effects for many, many years," she said. "I think we'll look back at this moment and say this changed the trajectory of our community in a very positive way."

### Pushback

While every budget item received enough votes to move forward, some got pushback — namely, a \$360,000 allocation to start a vaccine incentive program for county employees.

Republican council members Ellen Schauerman, Scott Rastetter and Brian



Dahlkemper

Shank

Shank, who each voted against the measure, described the program as an unnecessary and fruitless attempt to boost vaccinations.

"These (COVID-19 relief) funds are for the people of the community, and to keep \$360,000 for ourselves and the people fortunate enough to work for the county — I don't think that's right," Schauerman said. "The people who don't want to get (a vaccine) are not going to get them. And I don't think an incentive is going to help."

Rastetter agreed, saying the budget item "set a bad precedent," while Shank called it "offensive."

"To try and bribe county employees to

get a shot and to pay them \$300 is offensive, especially when county employees went through the pandemic and didn't miss one paycheck and got to stay home in their pajamas while everyone else was struggling," said Shank, adding that he would donate his incentive money to a local veterans center.

The budget item passed 4-3.

Another measure that took a beating was the establishment of a Community Futures Center.

The center, according to the plan, would be comprised of three contracted employees who would network with American Rescue Plan recipients county-wide and advise them on how to strategically spend and leverage their funds.

Council solicitor Tom Talarico argued that the use of contracted employees, as opposed to county employees, would mean the center could potentially circumvent public scrutiny and oversight.

Council members agreed to move the \$280,000 allocated for the center to a restricted account, where it will remain until the administration and council deter-

mine how best to staff the center.

### Reports and spending timeline

Dahlkemper said she intends to sign off on the plan as soon as it reaches her desk.

The \$26,357,751 allocated will be joined by a duplicate portion in 2022, and would need to be allocated by Dec. 31, 2021, and spent by Dec. 31, 2026.

According to an amendment added and approved in Thursday's vote, the administration is required to provide monthly reports to the council on its American Rescue Plan expenditures. The requirement will last to the end of the year. Following that, the administration will provide quarterly reports to the council through Dec. 31, 2026.

Funds not obligated by Dec. 31, 2024 or used to cover costs of obligated funds by Dec. 31, 2026, must be returned to the county.

A.J. Rao can be reached at [arao@gannett.com](mailto:arao@gannett.com). Follow him on Twitter @ETNRao.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 11, 2021**

**Resolution to enter into agreements with two  
(2) entities that comprise the recipients of the  
2021 Anchor Building Grant Program**

Whereas, ECGRA's mission of economic and community development recognizes the importance of investing in neighborhoods and communities by working with citizen groups organized as nonprofits, authorities established to promote economic development and municipal governments;

Whereas, the Economic Development Financing Law finds that a) "the elimination or prevention of blight can best be provided by the promotion, attraction, stimulation, rehabilitation and revitalization of industry, commerce and other economic activities" and b) "that by reason of the unavailability of private credit sources, redevelopment areas in cities of this Commonwealth have remained unimproved";

Whereas, the Economic Development Financing Law states that entities like ECGRA may have as its purposes the promotion of "new or improved residential facilities or other activities deemed appropriate to eliminate blight", and the promotion of "urban and commercial centers"; and

Whereas, the two (2) recipients are identified as the following primary applicants: Albion Borough, and Performing Artists Collective Alliance;

Whereas, the eligible applicants are awarded grants totaling \$148,000 to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "A";

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to enter into agreements with two (2) recipients of the Anchor Building Grant Program so that they may flourish and create an economic impact on the region.

On the motion of \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

This resolution was passed on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021 by a vote of \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

-----  
Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority  
August 19, 2021

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, ECGRA



## 2021 ANCHOR BUILDING

Organization	Representative	Project Title	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Albion Borough	Gary Wells	Improvements and Repairs of Albion Area Public Library	\$48,000.00	
Performing Artists Collective Alliance	Mark Tanenbaum	PACA Arts Center Expansion	\$100,000.00	-
		<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$148,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 12, 2021**

**Resolution to Enter into agreements with thirteen (13) additional  
Erie County Special Events Grants applicants, under the Supplemental Extension**

Whereas, the Regional Assets Committee has established a set of eligibility and funding criteria for special events that are produced by municipalities and nonprofits;

Whereas, there were fourteen (14) applicants for special events funding, and the Board of Directors affirms that thirteen (13) applicants have met the funding eligibility;

Whereas, the thirteen (13) special events are identified as:

Asbury Woods Partnership, Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Downtown North East, EHCA Foundation, Erie Art Company, Erie Lions Club, Film Society of NWPA, French Creek Council, BSA, Gaudenzia Inc., German Heritage Festival, Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, Sacred Heart Church, and Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network;

Whereas, the eligible applicants are awarded grants totaling \$29,736.07 to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "A";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, pursuant to the Economic Development Financing Law and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority Bylaws, resolves to enter into agreements with thirteen (13) additional Erie County Special Events Grants applicants, whose events take place between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021, so they may flourish, create an economic impact on the region through tourism, and continue to enrich the quality of life for Erie County residents.

On the motion of \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_,

This resolution was passed on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021 by a vote of \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

August 19, 2021

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, ECGRA





# 2021 Special Events

Organization Name	Name of Event	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Albion Area Fair	Albion Area Fair	\$13,000.00	\$12,268.75
Borough of Edinboro	Boro with the Works	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Borough of Union City	French Creek Festival Fireworks	\$300.00	\$300.00
CAFE	814 Day	\$3,875.00	\$3,875.00
Corry Arts Council/Corry Chamber	2021 CorryFest	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Corry Higher Education Council	30th Anniversary Celebration	\$500.00	\$500.00
Dr. Gertrude A Barber Foundations	Barber Events 2021: 14th Annual Art Show and Sale; 9th Annual Barber Beast on the Bay; 57th Annual Christmas Ball	\$18,820.00	\$18,820.00
Edinboro University Foundation	Edinboro Highland Games & Scottish Festival	\$1,212.00	\$1,212.00
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre	The Nutcracker	\$4,044.00	\$4,044.00
Erie Downtown Partnership	2021 Downtown Erie Events	\$10,000.00	\$7,500.00
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership	Erie Homecoming 2021	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Jefferson Educational Society	JES Programming/Global Summit	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	Annual Greek Festival	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00
Mercy Center for Women	2021 Events	\$1,201.00	\$1,201.00
Saint Joseph Church Bread of Life Community	Oktoberfest 2021	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
The Goodell Project, d/b/a Goodell Gardens & Homestead	Summer Music Series, Workshop Series, Homegrown Harvest Festival	\$1,115.00	\$1,115.00
The Iroquois School District Foundation	Erie Food Truck Festival	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00
The Nonprofit Partnership	20th Annual Keystone Nonprofit Conference	\$4,046.25	\$4,046.25
Waterford Community Fair Association	2021 Waterford Community Fair	\$8,950.00	\$8,950.00
Wattsburg Agricultural Society. Inc.	Wattsburg Agricultural Society Inc. 2021 Erie County Fair at Wattsburg	\$15,854.00	\$9,700.00
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	Summer Music Academy; Spring & Winter Concerts	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	Your Voice, Your Choice Global Service Day	\$385.75	\$385.75

**TOTALS** \$128,353.00    **\$118,967.75**

<b>ROUND 2</b>			
Asbury Woods Partnership	Hive to Honey, Scary Creature Feature, etc.	\$1,217.50	
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc.	Speaker Series, Comedy Nights, etc.	\$1,669.15	
Downtown North East	Wine Fest/Country Harvest Festival	\$2,000.00	
EHCA Foundation	VictoryRide/Speakeasy/Partners in Dance & Arts	\$3,077.00	
Erie Art Company	Noodloefish Art Experience	\$1,250.00	
Erie Lions Club	Save An Eye All-Star Football Game	\$975.00	
Film Society of NWPA	Eerie Horror Fest	\$5,900.00	
French Creek Council, BSA	Boy Scouts of America Scouting Events	\$1,973.70	
Gaudenzia Inc.	23rd Annual Race for Recovery	\$200.00	
German Heritage Festival	25th Annual German Heritage Festival	\$2,290.00	
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church	28th Annual Zabawa Polish Heritage Festival	\$7,062.00	
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	Annual Greek Festival (Panegyri)	\$0.00	
Sacred Heart Church	Annual Spaghetti Dinner	\$299.92	
Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network	St. Paul's Italian Festival	\$1,821.80	

**TOTALS** \$29,736.07    **\$0.00**

**Subtotal    \$148,703.82**