



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIA ZOOM/In Person
Knowledge Park; 5240 Knowledge Parkway; Erie, PA 16510
March 16, 2023

ZOOM Meeting Information:

Meeting ID: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87802992782>

Password: not required

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 2023
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 3, 2023 – Resolution to Adopt the 2023-24 Budget
- b. Resolution Number 4, 2023 – Resolution to enter into agreements with forty-nine (49) Erie County Special Events grant applicants for events to be held in 2023
- c. Resolution Number 5, 2023 – Resolution to enter into agreement with one (1) Erie County community organization engaged in Parks, Fields, and Trails, as part of the Community Assets, Round 1B
- d. Resolution Number 6, 2023 – Resolution to Approve the Employment Contract of the Executive Director

14. ADJOURNMENT

If you are able to stay, we invite you to attend the Special Events Grant Reception to recognize those organization who were approved for funding at today's meeting.

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of ECGRA

Date: Thursday, April 20, 2023
Time: 8:30 a.m. – BOARD Meeting
Location: 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510; Board Room
ZOOM meeting – details to follow

REMINDER: There will be a grant review for Arts, Culture, & Heritage applications on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 12:00 noon.



Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

February 16, 2023

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 February 16, 2023 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 at 8:34 am.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Hess, Mr. Oberlander, and Mr. Winschel are present in person. Mr. Barney, Mr. DiPaolo, and Ms. Loll are present via Zoom. Mr. Wachter and Dr. Wood are present in person.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. DiPaolo makes a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Cleaver seconds the motion. There is no discussion of the agenda. Motion carries 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 2023

Mr. Cleaver makes a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. DiPaolo seconds the motion. There is no discussion on the minutes. Motion carries 7-0.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

There are no comments by any Board member at this time.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Mr. Barney: I would just like to apologize for being late to the meeting. It seems I got my weeks mixed up.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public present for comments.

PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cleaver: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Budget vs. Actual is in great shape for month ten; I think you all have copies. We're just overspent on two items and we discussed that one was accounting and the other was meetings. Everything else is in order and in very good shape. That's item number one.

Item number two – I think you all got a copy of the 2023-24 draft budget. I have reviewed it and we need to address that. There are a couple of items that have some small, minor changes, but we have to address Personnel. I can't remember, Mr. Chairman, if we had a special meeting or how we went about that or how we go about it, but I have a few comments to make when we do meet. I'll just summarize that there was an increase in auditing fees, which is what we're overspent in this year, and Perry explained that to me. There is an increase in Professional Development, which Perry can discuss that, and the Insurance has increased because we received more money. Lastly is Personnel, which we have to address, and that includes the Director and the two in the office. I don't know how you want to handle that.

Ms. Hess: Should we go into Executive Session to discuss that at some point today?

Mr. Cleaver: We could. For the matter of information, the projection was 3% increase for the staff. We also have to discuss that Perry is in his last year of his contract . . .

Mr. Barney: I was going to bring that up as well.

Mr. Cleaver: Right, he's in his last year of his contract, and I think that if we do go into Executive Session, we should discuss extending this. I mean, we're a year away, so let's get it back up to snuff. That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

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

- b. Strategic Planning Committee: Dr. Wood states that we will be presenting resolutions later in the meeting of things that were discussed at the meeting.
- c. Update from County Council: Mr. Shank is not present to give a report.
- d. Update from County Executive's Office: Mr. Smith is not present to give a report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wachter: I will save my report for the Executive Session.

Mr. Barney: In talking about Executive Session, do we want to wait until the end or go into that right now?

Mr. Cleaver: I think that we should wait until the end so that Perry can get his information out of the way.

Mr. Barney: That sounds good.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Wood: We did accidentally skip over the Director's Report; I promise to keep it brief.

Mr. Barney: I'm so sorry. Perry, time for your report.

Dr. Wood: We did have a Strategic Planning meeting on January 31st, and it was a very productive meeting. We looked at the increase in the D&O Insurance. A copy of the quote was handed out and it was tentatively accepted. The Parks, Fields, & Trails were reviewed and you will see that in resolution form today covering the ones that qualified that were reviewed. Then we saw five presentations from the Beehives, and those are the third round of the Small Business Financing that we have now been entrusted to oversee by County Council.

We are in the process of finalizing that contract with County government, just as we did with ARPA funds last year. Everything is going along smoothly there. Let me pause there and see if anyone has any questions about that, especially the Beehive contract.

Mr. Barney: I have a question. Have they released the money?

Dr. Wood: Well, they haven't released the money; they chose to treat the Beehive funds as a separate contract, rather than an extension of our original contract. We filled out the paperwork and it's in their hands. But everything is proceeding normally. Just so you're aware, that's a \$737,000 contract. You will see in the proposal today, in the resolution, that we are awarding \$896,000. That's \$200,000 for the four universities and \$96,000 for the Library, so we are putting additional funds into the Beehives above and beyond what the County is providing.

There is also a brief document in your packet about Infinite Erie; this is the concept we helped fund with the other funders of Erie County. This is just some basic talking points about how it's progressing and what it's accomplishing so if anyone asks you and you want to be in the know about it, here's some talking points about it that might be helpful. If you read that and want to follow up with me later, if you have any questions, don't hesitate.

The next document is the insurance renewal – do we have that on the agenda for approval? Can we do that under Old Business? If I can get a motion from one of you under Old Business to accept the additional cost for the insurance. This is the D&O insurance; it's what protects the officers and the staff for legal purposes and once again, it has gone up because we have doubled the size of our revenue because of the ARPA dollars. At some point, this cost will come back down since it is based on our revenue, which we discussed at the Strategic Planning meeting. Does anyone have any questions on the insurance costs?

Mr. Cleaver: Do you want to move to accept it?

Mr. Wachter: The proper way to do that would be a motion to amend the agenda to add the addition of the insurance approval.

Mr. Cleaver moves to amend the agenda to include the insurance item.

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Cleaver has made a motion to amend the agenda to add the insurance approval.

Mr. Winschel seconds the motion.

Mr. Wachter: Mr. Chairman, if you would like to call, "All in favor."

Mr. Barney: All in favor?

The Board unanimously moves to accept the motion to amend the agenda.

Mr. Wachter: Now that the agenda has been amended, so now on the agenda is the item whether to approve the insurance renewal at the increased cost. We will need a separate motion for that.

Mr. Cleaver moves to approve the insurance renewal at the increased cost. Ms. Hess seconds the motion. There is no further discussion or questions. Motion carries 7-0.

Dr. Wood: That concludes my report, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Barney: Tim, you stated that you wanted to do your report when we went into Executive Session. I think we should do that now.

Mr. Wachter: Very good.

Ms. Michali is asked to stop the zoom recording and Dr. Wood and Ms. Michali leave the room. Mr. Maggio is asked to leave the zoom meeting at this time. Executive Session is called at 8:56 am for purposes of Personnel. Executive Session is concluded at 9:19 am.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Number 1, 2023 – 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.

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

- b. Resolution Number 2, 2023 – Resolution to enter into agreements with five (5) groups that represent the 2023 Beehive Recipients for the Ignite Erie Community-University Engagement funding.

Dr. Wood reads the resolution.

Ms. Hess makes a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Oberlander seconds the motion. There is no further discussion of the resolution. Motion carries 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cleaver moves to adjourn. Mr. DiPaolo seconds the motion. Meeting is adjourned at 9:24am.

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Profit & Loss
February 2023

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>2022-23 YTD</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
44800 · Gaming Revenue	1,325,658.06	4,249,534.97		
44801 · Interactive Gaming Revenue		1,767,845.21		
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46410 · Interest Income - Savings	39,983.58	181,108.12		
46422 · Interest Income - BWC - Erie Growth		22,833.33		
46424 · Interest Income - Progress Fund		20,000.00		
46425 · Interest Income - EDF Restruct		13,000.00		
46426 · Interest Income - BWC - Inclusive		19,027.78		
46427 · Interest Income - Blue Highway		168.23		
46428 · Interest Income - eCAT		10,224.00		
46510 · Interest Income - YLI	8,272.00	67,134.80		
Total Income	<u>1,373,913.64</u>	<u>6,350,876.44</u>		
Expense				
62100 · Contracted Services	433.64	51,564.68	66,000.00	72,000.00
62800 · Facilities & Equipment	1,372.50	19,238.40	25,663.00	28,000.00
65000 · Office Administration	879.33	12,820.20	16,456.00	17,950.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	3,578.26	34,822.56	43,725.00	47,700.00
65500 · PASCDU	1,169.54	8,191.38	13,981.00	15,250.00
66000 · Payroll Expenses	19,676.49	229,549.38	287,870.00	314,050.00
67000 · Building a Better Future (ARPA)	65,041.78	1,490,101.95	3,666,663.00	4,000,000.00
7000 · Provision for Uncollect Notes	0.00	12,800.00		
Total Expense	<u>92,151.54</u>	<u>1,859,088.55</u>	<u>4,120,358.00</u>	<u>4,494,950.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	1,281,762.10	4,491,787.89		
Other Income/Expense				
70000 · Grants / Settlements / MRIs				
70030 · Community Assets		(11,942.55)		
70050 · Municipal Settlements		1,172,930.53		
70070 · Special Events		165,097.25		
70090 · Multi-Municipal Collaboration		152,328.00		
70100 · Mission Main Street		335,256.18		
70120 · Summer Jobs Program		53,867.10		
70125 · Neighborhoods & Communities MRI				
70130 · Small Business Financing		141,127.00		
70140 · Pilot Projects				
70150 · Shaping Tomorrow				
70170 · Renaissance Block		120,000.00		
70180 · Anchor Building		165,333.00		
70190 · COVID-19 Immediate Human Relief				
Total 70000 · Grants / Settlements	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,293,996.51</u>		
Net Other Income	<u>0.00</u>	<u>(2,293,996.51)</u>		
Net Income	<u><u>1,281,762.10</u></u>	<u><u>2,197,791.38</u></u>		

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Balance Sheet
As of February 28, 2023

	February
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · ErieBank - Checking	501,008.37
10100 · ErieBank - Savings	
10101 · Committed Funds	2,219,350.00
10102 · Restricted Funds	3,187,151.23
10104 · ARPA Fund	2,570,220.07
10100 · ErieBank - Savings - Other	10,315,354.53
Total 10100 · ErieBank - Savings	18,292,075.83
Total Checking/Savings	18,793,084.20
Other Current Assets	
12000 · Notes Receivable	
12003 · NR - CIBA	4,635.00
12004 · NR - BWC - Erie Growth	1,000,000.00
12005 · NR - Progress Fund	1,000,000.00
12010 · NR - 1855 Capital	500,000.00
12050 · NR - EDF Restructured	1,300,000.00
12060 · NR - BWC - Inclusive Erie	2,500,000.00
12070 · NR - 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 · NR - eCAT	500,000.00
12500 · NR - Youth Leadership Institute	188,000.00
12900 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	(1,542,800.00)
Total 12000 · Notes Receivable	6,319,835.00
14500 · Prepaid Insurance	17,016.36
Total Other Current Assets	6,336,851.36
Total Current Assets	25,129,935.56
TOTAL ASSETS	25,129,935.56
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
20100* · Deferred Revenue	(4,000,000.00)
20300 · Unerarned Revenue	7,989,488.00
Total Current Liabilities	3,989,488.00
Total Liabilities	3,989,488.00
Equity	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	2,927,064.18
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	16,015,592.00
Net Income	2,197,791.38
Total Equity	21,140,447.56
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	25,129,935.56

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Budget vs. Actual
February 2023

Expense	February	YTD	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
62100 · Contracted Services					
62110 · Accounting Fees	0.00	8,950.00	7,500.00	1,450.00	119.33%
62130 · Professional Services	0.00	30,000.00	40,000.00	(10,000.00)	75.00%
62140 · Legal Services	346.80	8,479.80	20,000.00	(11,520.20)	42.40%
62145 · Website Design	0.00	3,088.92	3,000.00	88.92	102.96%
62150 · Payroll Services	86.84	1,045.96	1,500.00	(454.04)	69.73%
Total 62100 · Contracted Services	433.64	51,564.68	72,000.00	(20,435.32)	71.62%
62800 · Facilities & Equipment					
62840 · Office Equipment	0.00	4,263.90	10,000.00	(5,736.10)	42.64%
62890 · Rent	1,372.50	14,974.50	18,000.00	(3,025.50)	83.19%
Total 62800 · Facilities & Equipment	1,372.50	19,238.40	28,000.00	(8,761.60)	68.71%
65000 · Office Administration					
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	65.00	2,988.88	3,000.00	(11.12)	99.63%
65020 · Postage	19.07	209.77	500.00	(290.23)	41.95%
65040 · Office Supplies	102.96	1,283.46	2,000.00	(716.54)	64.17%
65050 · Cell Phone	0.00	1,487.10	3,000.00	(1,512.90)	49.57%
65060 · Copier Lease	657.30	3,770.80	4,200.00	(429.20)	89.78%
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	0.00	71.08	500.00	(428.92)	14.22%
65080 · Bank Fees	35.00	445.00	500.00	(55.00)	89.00%
65085 · Professional Development	0.00	350.00	2,000.00	(1,650.00)	17.50%
65090 · Meeting Expenses	0.00	2,214.11	2,000.00	214.11	110.71%
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.00	250.00	(250.00)	0.00%
Total 65000 · Office Administration	879.33	12,820.20	17,950.00	(5,129.80)	71.42%
65100 · Other Types of Expenses					
65105 · Outreach	0.00	627.69	5,000.00	(4,372.31)	12.55%
65110 · Advertising	232.31	597.35	4,000.00	(3,402.65)	14.93%
65115 · Phone/IT/Fax	1,801.87	16,832.70	18,000.00	(1,167.30)	93.52%
65120 · Insurance	1,544.08	10,340.78	10,200.00	140.78	101.38%
65130 · Grant Management Software	0.00	5,150.00	5,500.00	(350.00)	93.64%
65150 · Travel	0.00	1,274.04	5,000.00	(3,725.96)	25.48%
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	3,578.26	34,822.56	47,700.00	(12,877.44)	73.00%
65500 · PASCDU	1,169.54	8,191.38	15,250.00	(7,058.62)	53.71%
66000 · Payroll Expenses					
66005 · Salaries & Wages	16,655.99	193,745.05	276,400.00	(82,654.95)	70.10%
66010 · FITW Tax	1,369.30	16,612.91	17,400.00	(787.09)	95.48%
66015 · FUTA Tax	35.76	123.60	150.00	(26.40)	82.40%
66020 · PASUI Tax	183.48	607.13	2,000.00	(1,392.87)	30.36%
66700 · PMRS	1,431.96	18,460.69	18,100.00	360.69	101.99%
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	19,676.49	229,549.38	314,050.00	(84,500.62)	73.09%
67000 · Building a Better Future (ARPA)					
67005 · Contracted Services - ARPA	42,558.60	46,821.60	273,274.00	(226,452.40)	17.13%
67010 · Subawards - ARPA	18,252.89	1,382,347.02	3,622,025.00	(2,239,677.98)	38.17%
67025 · Indirect Costs - ARPA	272.54	2,984.28	11,295.00	(8,310.72)	26.42%
67030 · Salaries & Wages - ARPA	3,957.75	57,949.05	93,406.00	(35,456.95)	62.04%
Total 67000 · Building a Better Future (ARPA)	65,041.78	1,490,101.95	4,000,000.00	(2,509,898.05)	143.76%
7000 · Provision for Uncollect Notes	0.00	12,800.00	12,800.00	0.00	100.00%
Total Expense	92,151.54	1,859,088.55	4,507,750.00	(2,648,661.45)	41.24%

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

Schedule of Grant Reserve

as of

February 28, 2023

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Totals/Subtotals</u>
Restricted Uncommitted Funds	3,187,151.23		
Committed Funds	2,219,350.00		
ARPA Funds	2,570,220.07		

2022 Restricted Funds: (75% - after settlement payments)

First Quarter Gaming Revenue		245,818.17	
Second Quarter Gaming Revenue		924,773.35	
Third Quarter Gaming Revenue		1,022,316.16	
Fourth Quarter Gaming Revenue	1,325,658.06	1,325,658.58	3,518,566.26

2022 Interactive Gaming Revenue

FY 2021-2022		1,767,845.21	1,767,845.21
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FY Disbursements:

First Quarter Disbursements		731,260.31	
Second Quarter Disbursements		1,047,811.78	
Third Quarter Disbursements		1,301,406.75	
Fourth Quarter Disbursements	18,252.89	509,784.63	3,590,263.47

Disbursements Detail

Grants/Settlements/MRIs

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
MUNICIPALITIES			
Settlements			
Summit Township		527,818.73	
Greene Township		129,022.36	
McKean Township		129,022.36	
Millcreek Township		129,022.36	
Waterford Township		129,022.36	
Erie County		129,022.36	
			1,172,930.53

Multi-Municipal Collaboration

2022 Edinboro Community & Economic Development		50,000.00	
Erie Area Council of Governments		50,000.00	
Girard Township		19,000.00	
Jefferson Educational Society		100,000.00	
McKean Township		86,500.00	
			305,500.00

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
February 28, 2023

	February	YTD	Subtotal
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT			
Small Business Ecosystem			
Bridgeway Capital		200,000.00	
Erie's Black Wall Street		48,000.00	
Impact Corry		87,500.00	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		57,750.00	
Erie County Investment Playbook			
The Nonprofit Partnership		33,623.22	
		33,623.22	426,873.22
 NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES			
Anchor Building			
2018 Emmaus Ministries, Inc.		5,000.00	
Performing Artists Collective Alliance		5,000.00	
2019 Housing & Neighborhood Development		40,000.00	
2021 Performing Artists Collective Alliance		50,000.00	
2022 Christian Ministries		50,000.00	
Emmaus Ministries, Inc.		76,000.00	
Maggie Knox Western		20,000.00	
Mercy Center for Women		100,000.00	
		100,000.00	346,000.00
 Mission Main Street			
2018 Erie Downtown Partnership		134,108.00	
2019 Borough of North East		110,000.00	
Preservation Erie		(8,185.82)	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		55,500.00	
2020 Borough of Girard		45,000.00	
Impact Corry		28,000.00	
2022 Downtown Girard		75,000.00	
Downtown North East		87,500.00	
Edinboro Community & Economic Development		62,500.00	
Erie Center for Arts & Technology		25,000.00	
		25,000.00	614,422.18
 Renaissance Block			
2020 Borough of North East		30,000.00	
2021 Borough of Union City		50,000.00	
2021 Impact Corry		40,000.00	
2022 Borough of Edinboro		50,000.00	
Borough of Union City		100,000.00	
Downtown Girard		50,000.00	
Our West Bayfront		50,000.00	
		50,000.00	370,000.00

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
February 28, 2023

	February	YTD	Subtotal
QUALITY OF PLACE			
Community Assets			
2018 Harborcreek Township		(11,942.55)	(11,942.55)
 Special Events			
Albion Area Fair, Inc.		9,560.40	
Asbury Woods Partnership		1,855.16	
Borough of Edinboro		1,315.95	
Borough of Wesleyville		781.53	
CAFE		16,507.50	
Crime Victim Center of Erie County, Inc,		2,504.22	
Downtown North East		2,979.26	
Edinboro Arts & Music Festival		3,022.50	
Erie Contemporary Ballet Theatre		5,068.04	
Erie Downtown Partnership		6,300.75	
Erie Homes for Children and Adults		930.70	
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partner.		4,650.00	
Erie-Western PA Port Authority		6,165.46	
Film Society of NWPA		6,863.40	
Fort LeBoeuf Historical Society		841.65	
Goodell Gardens & Homestead		1,655.40	
Harborcreek Township		1,162.50	
Holy Trinity RC Church		6,347.25	
Humane Society of NWPA		4,650.00	
Impact Corry		1,148.55	
Iroquois School District Foundation		1,962.30	
Jefferson Educational Society of Erie		20,000.00	
Lake Erie Fanfare		4,394.25	
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society		7,440.00	
Mercy Center For Women		910.24	
Nonprofit Partnership, The		3,514.24	
Presque Isle Light Station		576.60	
Presque Isle Partnership		4,008.30	
Saint Joseph Church		6,783.19	
SSJ Neighborhood Network		4,726.61	
Union City Pride, Inc.		1,209.00	
Waterford Community Fair Association		7,851.76	
Wattsburg Agricultural Society		10,481.57	
YMCA of Greater Erie		1,422.90	
Young Artists Debut Orchestra		4,201.74	
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie		1,304.33	
		165,097.25	165,097.25

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
February 28, 2023

	February	YTD	Subtotal
SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING			
Beehive Network			
Edinboro University Foundation		0.00	
Erie Regional Library Foundation		5,877.00	
Gannon University		0.00	
Mercyhurst University		0.00	
Penn State University		100,000.00	
Community Enterprise Financing Loan			
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie		63,920.00	
		63,920.00	169,797.00
 YOUTH & EDUCATION			
Summer Jobs & More			
	18,252.89	181,585.90	
	18,252.89	181,585.90	181,585.90
<hr/>			
Total Funds Disbursements	18,252.89	3,740,263.53	3,740,263.53

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Schedule of Grant Reserve
as of
February 28, 2023

		<u>February</u>	<u>Amount Remaining</u>	<u>Original Commitment</u>
Committed Funds:				
N&C	Renaissance Block 2018			
	1 Academy Neighborhood Association		11,250.00	22,500.00
	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
	Renaissance Block 2022			
	Borough of Edinboro		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Downtown Girard		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Our West Bayfront		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Anchor Building			
	19 Impact Corry		60,000.00	75,000.00
	20 Borough of Union City		15,000.00	64,375.00
	22 Christian Ministries		50,000.00	100,000.00
	Mission Main Street			
	1 City of Erie		225,000.00	250,000.00
	3 Waterford Borough		84,600.00	249,800.00
	Mission Main Street 2022			
	Downtown Girard		75,000.00	150,000.00
	Downtown North East		87,500.00	175,000.00
	Edinboro Community & Economic Development		62,500.00	125,000.00
MUN	Multi-Municipal Collaboration			
	21 Borough of North East		50,000.00	100,000.00
SB	Beehive Network			
	Community Enterprise Financing Loan			
	Small Business Ecosystem			
	Impact Corry		87,500.00	175,000.00
PP	Pilot Program			
QP	Response Fund (COVID)			
	Small Business		680,000.00	1,200,000.00
	Non-Profit		300,000.00	400,000.00
Y&E	Shaping Tomorrow			
	Empower Erie - Community College		220,000.00	400,000.00
Total Committed Funds		0.00	2,219,350.00	3,964,675.00
ARPA Transformative Funds				
	Subawards	18,252.89	2,310,511.98	3,622,025.00
	Contracted Services	42,558.60	219,702.40	273,274.00
	Salaries & Wages	3,957.75	31,960.68	93,406.00
	Indirect Costs	272.54	8,045.01	11,295.00
		65,041.78	2,570,220.07	4,000,000.00
Total ARPA Funds				

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Transaction List Detail
February 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/02/2023	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 01/27/2023	-715.98
02/02/2023	EFT	Fidelity Investments	01/14/2023 to 01/27/23 Simple IRA	-250.00
02/02/2023	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	01/14/2023 to 01/27/2023 Payroll	-8,957.66
02/02/2023	EFT	Great Lakes Insurance Services Group	2023 Public Officials Liability	-16,768.00
02/02/2023	EFT	Altair Real Estate	2023 February Rent	-1,525.00
02/02/2023	EFT	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2023 February Copier Lease	-345.95
02/02/2023	EFT	PASCDU	2023 February	-584.77
02/03/2023	EFT	VISA	2023 January Statement	-187.03
02/03/2023	EFT	Local iQ	2023 January Ads	-232.31
02/03/2023	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	2023 January Phone	-916.31
02/14/2023	EFT	UPMC Health Plan	2022 February Benefits	-3,883.88
02/14/2023	EFT	ECCA, Inc.	01/28/2023 to 02/10/2023 Payroll	-9,532.35
02/14/2023	EFT	Fidelity Investments	01/28/2023 to 02/10/2023 Simple IRA	-250.00
02/14/2023	EFT	PMRS	Pay Ending 02/10/2023	-715.98
02/14/2023	EFT	Greater Erie Community Action Committee	2022 Summer Jobs	-8,856.86
02/17/2023	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2023 February Legal	-346.80
02/17/2023	EFT	Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett	2023 February Legal ARPA	-183.60
02/17/2023	EFT	Roth Marz Partnership	Assessment of Community Centers - 1st Payment	-42,375.00
02/23/2023	EFT	Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	2023 March Copier Lease	-345.95
02/23/2023	EFT	Velocity Network, Inc.	2023 Sonic Wall Security	-971.00
02/23/2023	EFT	Greater Erie Community Action Committee	2022 Summer Jobs	-9,396.03
02/28/2023	EFT	Erie Bank	Security Token Fee	-35.00

ERIEBANK

BL ACCT 00100029-10000000
ERIE COUNTY GAMING
Account Number: ####-####-####-8643
Page 1 of 3



SCORECARD	CASHBACK CURRENT BALANCE	CASHBACK PAYOUT DATE
	\$0.00	05/15/2023

Account Summary

Billing Cycle		01/10/2023
Days In Billing Cycle		30
Previous Balance		\$408.10
Purchases	+	\$187.03
Cash	+	\$0.00
Balance Transfers	+	\$0.00
Special	+	\$0.00
Credits	-	\$0.00
Payments	-	\$408.10-
Other Charges	+	\$0.00
Finance Charges	+	\$0.00

NEW BALANCE \$187.03

Credit Summary

Total Credit Line	\$40,000.00
Available Credit Line	\$39,812.97
Available Cash	\$39,812.97
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	\$187.03
MINIMUM PAYMENT	\$187.03
PAYMENT DUE DATE	02/04/2023

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

TOTAL CORPORATE ACTIVITY				\$408.10-
Trans Date	Post Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
01/03	01/03	1613532793	INTERNET PMT-THANK YOU	\$408.10-

Cardholder Account Summary

TAMMI MICHALI ####-####-####-9468	Payments & Other Credits \$0.00	Purchases & Other Charges \$187.03	Cash Advances \$0.00	Total Activity \$187.03
---	---	--	--------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Cardholder Account Detail

Trans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description	Amount
12/13	12/14	PBUS01	24692162347108435467976	TOPS MARKETS #601 ERIE PA	\$14.98
12/17	12/18	PBUS01	24692162351101863985711	Amazon.com*IT4OV1UL3 Amzn.com/bill WA	\$71.98
12/21	12/22	PBUS01	24692162355104836997884	STAMPS COM 855-608-2677 TX	\$19.07
12/29	01/01	PBUS01	24789302364238701832761	GANNETT NEWSRPRR NE 888-8710686 IN	\$65.00

O.S.
O.S.
postage
Subscr.

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

Closing Date	New Balance	Total Minimum Payment Due	Payment Due Date
01/10/23	\$187.03	\$187.03	02/04/23

\$

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

17 4335 2636 1000 8643 00018703 00018703 5

Cardholder Account Detail Continued

Trans Date	Post Date	Plan Name	Reference Number	Description	Amount
01/04	01/06	PBUS01	24121573005000004040163	KOLDROCK WATERS, INC. 000-0000000 PA	\$16.00 U.S.

Additional Information About Your Account

MANAGE YOUR CARD ACCOUNT ONLINE. IT'S FREE! IT'S EASY! SIMPLY GO TO 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!

THE TOTAL FINANCE CHARGE PAID ON YOUR ACCOUNT DURING THE PAST YEAR WAS \$0.00.

ScoreCard CashBack Earnings as of 01/09/2023

SCORECARD	Beginning Balance	Current Earned	CashBack Adjusted	Ending Balance	CashBack Payout Date
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	05/15/2023

Finance Charge Summary / Plan Level Information

Plan Name	Plan Description	FCM ¹	Average Daily Balance	Periodic Rate *	Corresponding APR	Finance Charges	Effective APR Fees **	Effective APR	Ending Balance
Purchases									
PBUS01 001	PURCHASE	E	\$0.00	0.93750%(M)	11.2500%(V)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.0000%	\$187.03
Cash									
CBUS01 001	CASH	G	\$0.00	0.93750%(M)	11.2500%(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		
¹ FCM = Finance Charge Method									
(V) = Variable Rate If you have a variable rate account the periodic rate and Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may vary.									



**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT
FOR
MARCH
2023**



ADVISORY*ADVISORY***ADVISORY***ADVISORY***ADVISORY**

ECGRA to Award Beehive Network Grants
Successful Program Catalyze Small Business and Entrepreneurial Growth with Funding and Support

CONTACT: Kate Philips
philips@parkerphilips.com
215.850.4647 | mobile

ERIE, PA — Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) will continue investment of local share gaming funds and ARPA funds across Erie County with an awards reception on Friday, March 3rd at 10:30AM to present the latest round of the NWPB Innovation Beehive Network grants to local recipients.

Following the reception, the Jefferson Educational Society will be [hosting an event](#) to give the public an up close look at the NWPB Innovation Beehive Network.

Beehive funding is designed to catalyze 501(c)3, nonprofit organizations such as universities to participate in the economic development system of Erie County. Beehive grants provide vital matching funds to encourage the development of entrepreneurial support services at local institutions that have this purpose in their mission.

WHAT: Beehive Network Grants Award Reception

WHO: Dr. Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA
Beehive Grants Recipients

WHEN: March 3rd, 2023

TIME: 10:30am

WHERE: Jefferson Educational Society
3207 State Street
Erie, PA 16508

###

Perry Wood

From: Mary Wassell <wassell@parkerphilips.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 1:09 PM
Cc: Kate Philips
Subject: RELEASE: Infinite Erie Expands Leadership Team



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS*NEWS***NEWS***NEWS***NEWS***NEWS***NEWS***NEWS**

Infinite Erie Expands Leadership Team *Delivery Teams Assigned to Cross-Sectors, Projects*

CONTACT: Kate Philips
philips@parkerphilips.com
215.850.4647 | mobile

ERIE, PA (March 8, 2023) – Infinite Erie, formed and funded by Erie Insurance, Erie Community Foundation, and ECGRA, announced new membership to the Erie Action Team and introduces the Delivery Teams charged with managing implementation across focused Playbook priorities.

By coordinating inclusive growth strategies to deliver transformative change, Infinite Erie was organized across public, private and civic leadership to implement [Erie's Investment Playbook](#) and position Erie to attract & secure more public and private sector funding than like-size regions.

“Our desired outcomes can only be achieved when the regions leaders are working in unison toward a collective goal,” said Karen Bilowith, President and CEO of the Erie Community Foundation and chair of the Erie Action Team. “Right now, that means implementing the 35 priorities identified in the Playbook — and as an extension of the Erie Action Team, the Delivery Teams will work to drive Infinite Erie forward.”

The Erie Action Team serves as the steering committee for Erie's Investment Playbook, and is comprised of public, private, and civic leaders that are driving Erie's economic and community development efforts. The Delivery Teams will work with the Erie Action Team to help determine specific needs, costs, funding sources, and next steps on investments and strategies — putting plans into action.

“By having community leaders on the same page and agreeing to follow a road map for strategically pursuing funding opportunities, Erie County is already winning,” said Kim Thomas, Executive Director of Infinite Erie. “And now with inclusive representation on both the Erie Action Team and Delivery Teams, Infinite Erie will better serve all of Erie County as a catalyst for equitable and inclusive growth and deliver transformative change.”

To ensure ongoing collaboration and inclusion, a leadership representative from each of the Delivery Teams will sit as a member of the Action Team. The new Erie Action Team members are Mike Ferritto, Governor Josh Shapiro's Northwest Regional Director, Gerald Blanks, CEO of GEEDC, and Tina Mengine, CEO of the Erie County Redevelopment Authority; initial Delivery Teams will be led by Rhonda Matthews, founding board member of Erie's Black Wall Street; Boo Hagerty, president of the Hamot Health Foundation; and Gary Horton, founder and CEO of Urban Erie Community Development Corporation. Additional members will be appointed as other Delivery Team leadership is identified.

Below is a breakdown of the full team.

- City of Erie Mayor Joe Schember
- Karen Bilowith, President and CEO, Erie Community Foundation (chair)
- Chris Marsh, Chief Diversity & Community Development Officer, Erie Insurance
- Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA
- Ferki Ferati, President, Jefferson Education Society
- James Grunke, CEO, Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership
- Gary Lee, Chief Administrative Officer, Diverse Erie
- Mike Ferritto, Governor Josh Shapiro's Northwest Regional Director
- Gerald Blanks, CEO, GEEDC
- Rhonda Matthews, founding board member, Erie's Black Wall Street
- Boo Hagerty, President, Hamot Health Foundation
- Gary Horton, founder and CEO, Urban Erie Community Development Corporation

The Erie Action Team will empower the collaborative work of the Delivery Teams. Rhonda Matthews will lead the Inclusive Entrepreneurship Delivery Team. Boo Hagerty will lead the permanent supportive housing and homelessness initiative; and Gary Horton will lead the Burton School Revitalization Delivery Team.

Through the collaboration and coordination of inclusive growth strategies, the Erie Action Team and Delivery Teams will put the Infinite Erie plans into action to serve as a catalyst for equitable and inclusive growth and deliver transformative change.

###

January 2023

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

IMPLEMENTED

7 Total January posts
4 Total graphics created

IN PROGRESS | 2023 Grant Releases and Graphics

Holiday Graphics
Press Release and Distribution
Anchor Building
Renaissance Block
Multi-Municipal Collaboration
Press Events
Small Business Recipients
Special Events

IN PLANNING

Parks Fields & Trails 2 year report
ECGRA Playbook
Roadshow Tours
2022 Annual Report

February 2023

Meeting with Executive Director

Ongoing Social Media Management

Ongoing Consulting

February Comms

IMPLEMENTED

- 8 Total February posts
- 3 Total graphics created
- Strategic Marketing Planning with Kate Philips and Executive Director

IN PROGRESS | 2023 Grant Releases and Graphics

- Holiday Graphics
- Press Release and Distribution
 - Beehive Network
 - Anchor Building
 - Renaissance Block
 - Multi-Municipal Collaboration
 - Special Events
- Press Events
 - Beehive Network Recipients
 - Special Events

IN PLANNING

- Parks Fields & Trails 2 year report
- ECGRA Playbook
- Roadshow Tours
- 2022 Annual Report

IN MEMORY

Jean Joyce was the Mercy Center for Women's inaugural board chair. She would also become a volunteer, donor, and our friend.

JEAN
JOYCE

1930 - 2022



"Your life was a blessing, your memory is a treasure, and you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure."

Community garden receives funding, wins national award



Out of 4,000 entries for the State Farm Neighborhood Assist program which awards \$25,000 each to worthy community projects nationally, the Mercy Center's "Care and Feeding of our Neighbors" project was one of just 100 winners.

Erie County Gaming and Revenue Authority (ECGRA) provided initial funding for the project which is located adjacent to the Mercy Anchor Community Center.

The State Farm Neighborhood Assist grant will enable the Mercy Center to complete the community garden project which will include areas for fresh fruit and vegetables, a meditation garden, mural-painted retaining wall, and park benches. The new community center will also offer ongoing classes in gardening and nutrition to residents and neighbors.

State Farm **Neighborhood Assist**



"We are grateful to so many people for this project," says Jennie Hagerty, executive director at the Mercy Center. "Our project was up against thousands from across the country, and State Farm felt ours was worthy to place it in the top 200."

From there, it was a social media blitz to obtain votes, as only the top 100 would receive \$25,000.

"We're grateful to ECGRA, to all of our supporters who voted for us on social media, and of course State Farm. We're thankful to Yardmaster, too, who has been doing the work and donated and a pear tree, a symbol of longevity, fruitfulness, and strength," she said.

PEDAL for
MERCY

BECAUSE LIFE'S A JOURNEY

09.10.22



Our second annual Pedal for Mercy is set for Sat., Sept. 10 at Penn Shore Winery & Vineyards in North East, Pa. Cyclists can choose to bike the 12-, 25-, or 50-mile course in beautiful wine country. Afterwards, riders will enjoy a catered meal outdoors in the

winery pavilion with live music. Those who register by July 31 will receive an event t-shirt. To register, volunteer or sponsor Pedal for Mercy, visit mcwerie.org.

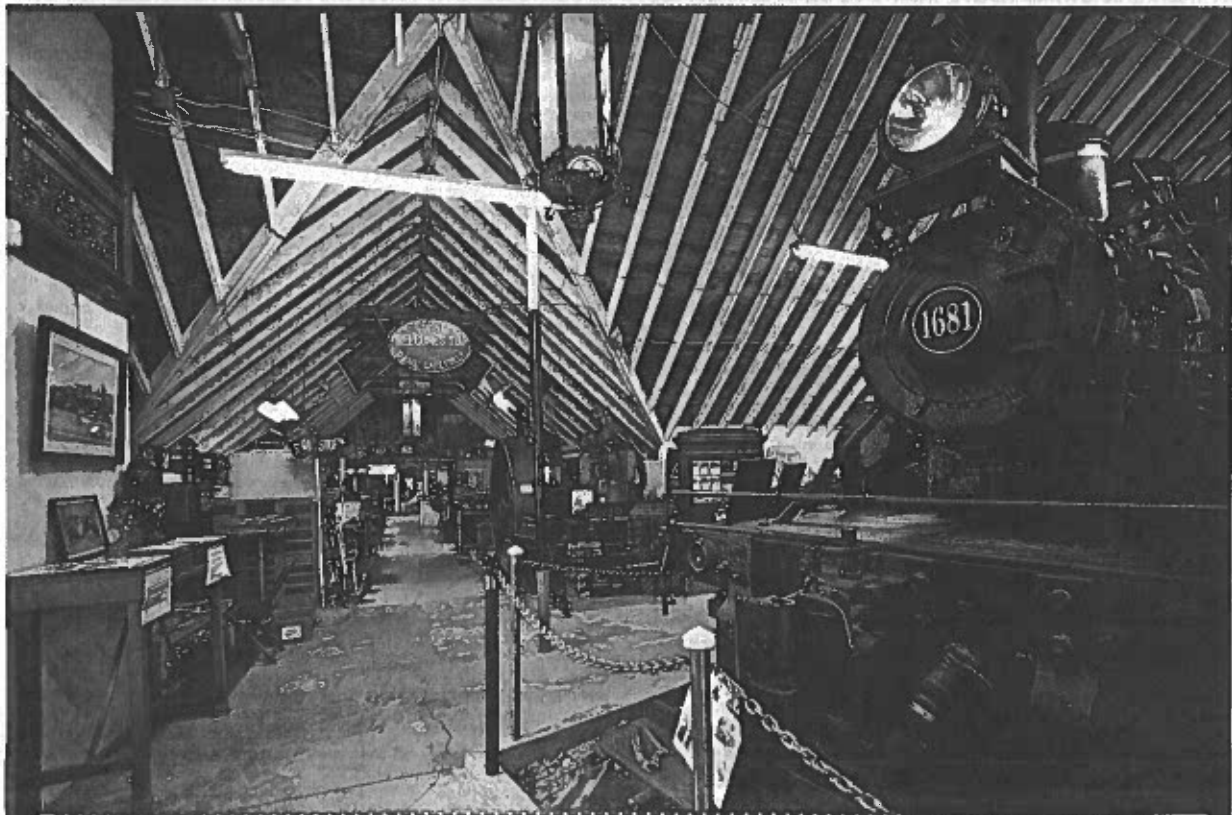
Thank
you

Tom - the ECGRA Board

Thank you very much for approving
our grant application of \$50,000!

This generous grant will allow us to
fully upgrade one section of trail on
the Corn Junction Greenway Trail. We look
forward to showing how great it will look!

Sincerely Kimberly Newlin
Northwest PA Trail Assn



TOP: The Climax 1681 Class B steam locomotive, built in 1927, sits in the Corry Area Historical Society Museum, which was built around the locomotive. FILE PHOTO/ERIE TIMES-NEWS FILE

REBUILDING A COMMUNITY

BACK ON TRACK

How pride, volunteers and ECGRA restored downtown Corry

It was some 30 years ago, but I remember like it was yesterday. Working as a reporter for the Corry Journal, I was driving through the community's long-disinvested downtown when something caught my eye. I immediately pulled over, and stared up at a three-story building that had been freshly painted in three-color Victorian style, the brick façade now an eye-catching mauve, and other architectural features I'd never noticed now popping with complementary colors.



Your Turn
Steve Bishop
Guest columnist

The Schrecengost family's initiative was a salvo of hope for a downtown that, like so many across America, had been hammered by decades of changing shopping patterns fueled by increased mobility, malls and the emergence of big-box stores.

Downtown property owners became increasingly dependent on undercapitalized mom-and-pop entrepreneurs whose ventures — and rent — came and went. That sporadic income was unhappily measured against the cost of maintaining century-old buildings, with unsurprising results.

It wasn't that towns like Corry weren't trying. One well-intentioned but ill-fated initiative in the 1970s was to combat the malls by creating Corry's own downtown mall environment. That was "accomplished" by erecting steel canopies over the length of the downtown's sidewalks.

The canopies with their steel support posts cast the storefronts into shadow, causing mo-



This mural, shown on Sept. 14, 2020, celebrates the Corry and the Climax Manufacturing Co. The mural is on the south side of a building in the first block of North Center Street in Corry. CHRISTOPHER MILLETTE/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

torists to peer intently in an effort to ascertain what was hidden within, and stymieing façade improvements. I recall an architect lamenting some years later that the structures cut the downtown's historic buildings off at the knee.

Then there were the downtown trees, again, well-intentioned, but the wrong varieties, such

as flowering crabs that dropped red berries on the sidewalks. They persisted for years, until the late Leo Jackman emphatically and unilaterally took a chain saw to the tree in front of his clothing store.

The sidewalk canopies and trees were ultimately removed, and appreciation for the turn-of-the-century buildings slowly reemerged. The city stepped up to bury the downtown's overhead wires, install period lampposts and lay brick-accented sidewalks, but the fundamental return-on-investment problem persisted. That is, until a seemingly unrelated development occurred some 30 miles away in Summit Township in 2007. A casino.

With all due respect to the tumblin' dice at Presque Isle Downs & Casino, more important was the attendant formation of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA). Suddenly, a vital change-agent became available to the county's beleaguered communities.

Money. Through such well-considered and well-funded programs as ECGRA's Mission Main Street and Anchor Building initiatives, with some local matching funds, communities could start to ever-so-slowly interrupt the decline.

See TRACK, Page 2B

Track

Continued from Page 1B

We started in Corry with relatively easier initiatives, if for no other reason than we were a bunch of volunteers and new at this community development stuff.

Benches, flower planters and lamp-post banners started to give the downtown some much needed color and texture.

We "graduated" to things like sidewalk interpretive panels to show off the community's remarkable history, and then to — wait for it — sidewalk trees! Yeah, plenty of people remembered the

tree debacle from years before, and pushed back, but the unrelenting hard-scape of brick buildings to concrete sidewalk to blacktop street cried out for more texture, and with professional tree advice and installation, we persevered.

Our overriding goal was to create an environment where downtown property owners felt they weren't in the fight alone, that investing in their buildings just might make sense, an environment where entrepreneurs could feel optimistic, and where residents and visitors alike were drawn to wander and shop.

We saw the fruits of that vision in 2016 when, organically, several downtown merchants came together to form the Corry Downtown Business Association. The merchants began organizing

events like their trademark "First Fridays," where on the first Friday of each month from May to December the downtown is alive with activities and the stores stay open late, giving people a reason to come downtown again.

This all took years. It was incremental. There were logistics and hurdles, and overcoming understandable and ingrained skepticism. Critically, a new generation of Corry leaders has emerged to take this foundational work to the next level.

Taking a drive on a summer day through downtown Corry — recently added to the National Register of Historic Places — with the trees getting some size, and flowers, benches, historical markers, interpretive panels, sidewalk

tables and chairs, new facades, interesting and eclectic stores, and the beautiful Climax Locomotive mural overlooking the two rail lines whose junction in 1866 there is hope and momentum.

That same downtown railroad property is now in community hands with plans for a park that will celebrate Corry's past and future. If the park needs trees, I'll buy one for Leo Jackman.

Steve Bishop hails from Union City, spent 15 years as a newspaper reporter, editor and columnist, and 22 years with the Corry Higher Education Council before retiring. He now moonlights in community development work, and writes from his home in Pittsfield, Warren County.

Downtown UC building to get facelift as owners invest in 'Mission Main Street'

BY STEVE BISHOP
Contributing writer

Downtown Union City building owners continue investing in their commercial properties, while taking advantage of funding designed to spur just such activity.

More than a half-million dollars has been ploughed into those properties in conjunction with a borough-run façade program since the borough first included it as part of an Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority "Mission Main Street" application in 2018. That includes \$221,510 from ECGRA, \$6,500 from the Union City Community Foundation, and \$290,285 from property owners.

◀ See Buildings, P.2



Chloe Forbes/The Corry Journal

Built in 1889 and originally known as the Odd Fellows Building, the building at 21 N. Main St. is now the home of Kim's Townhouse and will see exterior improvements as part of the "Mission Main Street" façade program involving the borough and Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

Buildings

(Continued from front page)

Kim Stine, owner of Kim's Townhouse and the historic former Odd Fellows Building at the corner of Main and Market streets in which the tavern and restaurant are located, is utilizing the façade program for the first time this year.

She's investing \$50,000 in the 134-year-old building's exterior, including a \$12,000 grant from the façade program, to repair the parapet at the top of the building, clean and re-point bricks, paint trim and other related work.

That's on top of installing a new roof and two new furnaces in recent years, and extensive interior remodeling through the years as well, she noted.

Owning such a building "is never a cheap deal," she said, but noting once this work is completed "the sky is the

limit, hopefully" for the building's exterior.

"It was a pretty standard application," she said of the façade program, noting that Borough Manager Cindy Wells worked with her. "The process itself wasn't difficult."

Wells noted that 14 downtown buildings have benefited from the program since 2018, for such things as painting, signs, awnings, siding, windows, doors, interior ventilation and structural reinforcement.

For 2023, ECGRA has made \$98,000 available, of which \$60,700 has already been committed for six projects that with matching funds from the property owners will total \$117,380. The borough still had \$37,300 in matching funds available at last count, with up to \$12,000 available for individual projects and a minimum 25% match required from property owners.

North and South Main Street proper-

ties are eligible for the program. A committee consisting of Wells, Union City Pride president Terri Migliaccio, Erie architect Dave Brennan and Preservation Erie board president Melinda Meyer serve on the committee that reviews each application.

"We review the application to see how it compares to the Historic Preservation Plan and structural assessments," Wells said. "We want it to fit as best possible into the two plans. We will make suggestions and may ask for more information as to the project. A decision is made after that."

Wells said it's heartening to see the investments made by downtown property owners.

"They really want to make improvements in Union City and are willing to invest their own money to have that done," she said. "They realize building appearance has a huge effect on their business."

'Believe in yourself'



"It was not easy, for sure. There were some hard days, very hard days, but I wouldn't change anything about it."

Sean Johnson
Learning Ladder Early Child Care Center

Dana Woodson reviews the days of the week with a class of 3- and 4-year-old students at the Learning Ladder Early Child Care Center, 2502 Peach St., last month. Woodson is the lead teacher for the center's pre-kindergarten program. **MATTHEW RINK/ERIE TIMES-NEWS**

A Black-owned Erie business' tips for success

Matthew Rink
Erie Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Dana Woodson leads a line of little people to the blue carpet in the next room. They plop down, some sitting crisscross applesauce while others extend their legs and point their small shoes toward the ceiling.

They gaze up at Woodson, curious about what they'll do next.

Woodson leads the class of 16 3- and 4-year-old students in a singing of the "days of the week" song, then asks them to describe what the weather was like on this Wednesday morning, and finally asks them to count aloud with her the number of boys and girls among the group.

"You're right," Woodson says with glee to the boys and girls. "There are 16 friends today. Sixteen. Woo."

It's a typical morning inside the Learning Ladder Early Child Care Center, 2502 Peach St., a Black-owned business that began taking shape a decade ago in Kenya and Sean John-

son's basement. The couple started the center "out of necessity" in 2013 when Sean, 40, and Kenya, 39, who was in graduate school at the time, were regularly caring for a half-dozen nieces and nephews.

'Very hard days'

Kenya, who was also pregnant at the time, wanted a source of income. Sean, who had been working as a home health aide and who had launched a real estate business with the purchase of his first rental property coming in 2007, pitched the idea of starting her own business.

"He had mentioned (the idea) a few times because we knew another childcare provider that had just started," said Kenya, who received a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2005 from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. "Around that time I went back for my master's and he kept saying, 'why don't you just do child care?'"

See BUSINESS, Page 4A

Business

Continued from Page 1A

"It was not easy, for sure," Sean said. "There were some hard days, very hard days, but I wouldn't change anything about it."

Within two years, Kenya was caring for eight children. It was time to expand. Sean and Kenya began leasing first-floor space at the former concert venue Forward Hall, which at the time was partially occupied by McLane Church.

That's when they took a risk and put faith in themselves: They invested \$70,000 to make improvements to a building they didn't own, taking out a second mortgage on their home to do so.

"We used every dime of it," Sean said.

Coming to a crossroads

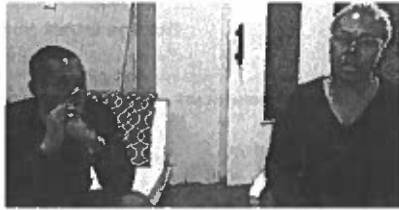
They started the Learning Ladder, officially, in 2015 with the eight children Kenya was watching at home. Within two months they had 27 kids enrolled. And by the end of the year, the business was at capacity with an enrollment of about 60 kids.

"Kenya really cares about their education, teaching them, and instilling in the kids what we instill in our own children," Sean said.

But then they found themselves at what Sean called a crossroads. The building's owner was anxious to sell, but the couple didn't have the \$165,000 to buy it.

Even though Sean had slowly expanded the couple's real estate portfolio — today they own 25 units on 15 properties — they had difficulty acquiring a bank loan. Two local banks denied their applications.

"We had a rude awakening," Sean said. "I had real estate. We had 50, 60 kids enrolled. Kenya was making income and I think two of the local banks denied us. It was at the point where we could have lost our center. We could have truly lost our center. And the little bit of money that we used to re-



Sean Johnson, 40, and his wife Kenya Johnson, 39, who own the Learning Ladder Early Child Care Center at 2502 Peach St., talk about the growth of the business since its founding in 2013 and the challenges facing child care providers like themselves. MATTHEW RINK/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

model in here, the guy could have just took it and sold the building out from under us."

Sean and Kenya Johnson believed they had hit a color barrier with prospective lenders.

"These banks, it isn't black-and-white what they write on these papers. There is a lot of gray," he said. "Whoever's making that decision ... they hold your life in their hands."

That's when Bridgeway Capital stepped in with funding that helped the couple grow their business. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Bridgeway Capital is a community development financial institution, which, unlike a bank, is a private, non-profit entity that provides low-interest loans to low-income, low-wealth and other disadvantaged people who otherwise might not qualify for traditional bank loans. It opened its Erie office in 2012.

At the time, Bridgeway Capital was working with two other businesses in the neighborhood, Dapper Don's Styling Lounge and French Maids. The Johnsons worked with then-Erie Region Director T.J. King of Bridgeway Capital.

"It was the best thing that ever happened to us," Sean said. "He worked us through the loan process so easily. We only had to end up putting 5% down on the \$165,000 and then he gave us historical credit for the two years that we were paying rent. We only had to come up with maybe like \$7,000."

Bridgeway Capital, Sean said, is integral to the Black, Indigenous and People of Color community and anyone

struggling to start or grow a business in the area.

Making changes

Most of the children enrolled at the Learning Ladder receive a subsidy for their care through the state's Child Care Works program. Parents pay a small copay. The United Way of Erie County picks up the tab through a scholarship for other children to get care at the Learning Ladder — those who might not otherwise qualify for the state subsidy.

In addition to the pre-kindergarten program for 3- and 4-year-old children, Kenya Johnson also has an after-school program for kids up to age 12. They can work on school assignments inside the facility's classrooms or get exercise in the gymnasium.

In August, however, Kenya made the difficult decision of ending the Learning Ladder's program for toddlers and infants. Kenya said the industrywide shortage of childcare workers, especially through the COVID-19 pandemic, has made it difficult to keep up with the child-to-staff member ratios required by the state for infants and toddlers.

"When I first started I had infants to (age) 12, but infant and toddlers require more staff and they require much more attention," she explained. "I was only operating with just enough staff, and if somebody called off, if somebody needed some time off, then it kind of put us in a bind of ratio issues and not being in compliance with state regulations."

Calculated risks

Sean and Kenya Johnson say they've learned a lot along the way. Here are recommendations that they have for other minority business owners.

"Start with the education side," Sean said. "You have to learn some of these things, whatever field you're trying to be in. If I want to do real estate, I'm going to figure out how these loan officers work. I'm going to figure out how property managers work. I'm going to figure out how accountants work. I don't need to know everything that they need to know, but I need to have an understanding of what they're doing."

People need to "immerse" themselves in whatever field they're trying to break into, he added.

"At the beginning when I started, it was mixed with a little luck, but as we were starting to make income and things started growing, I needed to know how to control this monster that we're creating," he said. "I started to submerge myself in the books and podcasts and anything that I could get my hands on."

Kenya said it's also im-

portant to "get uncomfortable."

"I know for me, I was shy, even starting a business," she said. "I didn't like want to talk to the newspaper, didn't want to do interviews. I was very uncomfortable. And I'm still adjusting to that, talking in front of people. I know sometimes people don't want to go into unfamiliar places, but there is always somebody who was better than you, who knows more than you. So if you don't put yourself in those places, you'll be stagnant. You won't grow, so just get uncomfortable."

Sean also said aspiring entrepreneurs need to believe in themselves and take risks.

"It may be more calcu-

lated risks," he said, "but believe in yourself and believe in your dream."

Kenya Johnson said she's proud of the quality of care that she and her 11 staff members provide the children. They've received a four-star rating from the state as a result.

"I go by those standards and I go above and beyond," she said. "It's a joy and a rewarding feeling when parents come to me, even when I don't have space, and they say 'can you put me on the waiting list? I'll wait as long as I can to get in.' They always hear good things about us. That fuels my fire."

Matthew Rink can be reached at mrink@timesnews.com or on Twitter at [@ETNRink](https://twitter.com/ETNRink).

Apartments to help people in need

Mercy Center for Women is opening 13 residences

Kevin Flowers

Erie Times-News USA TODAY NETWORK

Ashley Davis needed to find a safe haven.

The 36-year-old Erie resident went to the Mercy Center for Women – which provides transitional housing for homeless women and children – in July after she said she let “my life go down a bad path with people who were not really healthy for me.”

Davis said her environment included “being around domestic violence and the wrong kind of people who weren’t really going anywhere or doing a lot for themselves. And I wasn’t taking very good care of myself.”

She found additional motivation to make life-altering changes in first-time motherhood. Davis’ son, Domenik, is now 9 months old.

“When I found out I was pregnant, he became my motivator to do something better for myself,” Davis said. “I got sick of where my life was going.”

Both Davis and the Mercy Center will make another significant transition on Wednesday.

Davis and her son are among the tenants who will begin moving into 13 new two-bedroom apartments at the Mercy Anchor Community Center, located at the former Holy Rosary School building at 1012 E. 28th St.

Each of the fully furnished apartments features a kitchen, full bath, stackable washer and dryer and other amenities.

The \$4 million project has been in the works since 2017, and is partially funded by a state tax-credit program. The Mercy Center reached an agreement in 2019 to buy the 39,000-square-foot Holy Rosary building from the Holy Rosary

See APARTMENTS, Page 2A

Continued from Page 1A

Parish for \$300,000.

Jennie Hagerty, the Mercy Center’s executive director, said tenants can live in the new apartments for up to two years as they work to gain stability and independence.

Applicants will pay varying rents based on their income and/or the government assistance they receive, Hagerty said.

Men, including single fathers, are also eligible to apply for the new units, she said.

Tenants also must agree to abstain from using alcohol and drugs (unless prescribed by a physician). Any violation will result in immediate termination of a tenant’s

lease agreement.

Hagerty said the Mercy Anchor Community Center will not only support tenants moving toward self-sufficiency, it will also serve as a resource hub for the surrounding community.

An official ribbon-cutting ceremony will likely take place in early May, Hagerty said.

“We want this to be a housing unit where everybody is welcome,” Hagerty said. “We’ve had other agencies refer people to us.”

In addition to the new apartments, the complex features a gymnasium; an exercise room; a technology hub and meeting room with 20 computer stations and a conference room; a thrift store; a food pantry; a Dress For Success Erie location, where women can obtain gently-used and nearly-new professional clothing for employment/ job interviews; and various case management services provided by AHN Saint Vincent, UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, and Sarah Reed Children’s Center.

The building will also host other programming including Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings; GED classes; art instruction; work readiness programs; a community garden, and a foster grandparent program that gives older Erie residents the opportunity to help local children with reading and social skills.

“We’re not just serving the people who will live here,” Hagerty said. “With the services that will be on site, the food pantry, the opportunity to take GED and literacy classes and other things, this is an opportunity to share with so many other people.

“We have a poverty rate of about 22% in this neighborhood,” Hagerty said. “We can provide food, housing and career support to people. We want to be a resource for this community.”

Erie Mayor Joe Schember called the Mercy Center project “Incredible. I’ve toured it a few times, and it’s beautiful inside. It’s going to provide a lot of support to people who need help getting their lives back on track.

“And it’s not just for the residents,” Schember said. “This is going to support that entire neighborhood.”

Tax credits, other funding

Hagerty said funding for the project includes a \$300,000 state grant from the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund; \$200,000 from Erie Insurance; a \$150,000 grant from the Erie Community Foundation, and \$100,000 from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

The bulk of the project’s financing was raised privately, she said, including \$750,000 from an anonymous donor.

The Mercy Center’s project also includes \$613,125 in financing from Pennsylvania’s Neighborhood Assistance Program, a statewide tax credits program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

NAP financing allows businesses to directly invest in community development projects or nonprofits. In exchange, those businesses get a percentage of their financial investment back through state tax credits.

According to DCED guidelines, NAP financing must serve distressed areas or support neighborhood improvement. Eligible examples are affordable housing programs, community services, crime prevention, education, job training or neighborhood assistance.

Participating businesses can receive state tax credits of between 55% and 80% of their donation amounts, depending on the type of contribution and other factors. The program also allows for multi-year funding commitments.

Accudyn Products, American Tinning & Galvanizing Co., Calypso Enterprises, Erie Insurance, Marquette Savings Bank and Northwest Bank are among the local businesses that invested in the Mercy Center project via NAP financing.

DCED Secretary Dennis Davin lauded the Mercy Center project when he visited the Holy Rosary school building in December 2021.

“This one is one of our best programs because it’s businesses investing directly into community projects,” Davin said at that time.

“Not only does it incentivize corporate contributions to much needed community projects,” Davin said, “but it also helps form and build relationships between the private sector, nonprofit sector and community leaders.”

As community support and compassion merge to create new opportunities, Davis — who will move into the Mercy Anchor Community Center soon with her infant son — feels fortunate and motivated.

Davis plans to pursue a career in medical billing and coding, a field she studied years ago at the now defunct Erie Business Center.

“This place is a godsend,” Davis said of the Mercy Anchor Community Center. “With being a new mom, everything is new to me. But the Mercy Center has been like family. I have a brand-new start in a brand-new place, and it’s amazing to be given that.”

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

“With being a new mom, everything is new to me. But the Mercy Center has been like family.” Ashley Davis

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Millcreek land buys clear way for smart growth



Your Turn
Perry Wood
Guest columnist

Millcreek Township is the second largest municipality in Erie County and 12th largest in the commonwealth. It is a significant population center of residents and companies that generate an enormous impact on the region it calls home, much like all similarly-sized municipalities. But Millcreek has a significant distinction that sets it apart from big cities in Pennsylvania — Presque Isle State Park. This natural asset is also an economic asset that welcomes more than 4 million visitors into Erie County each year — that's more than Yellowstone National Park.

As a funder of economic and community development projects across Erie County, the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority has been following the public process of implementing Embrace Millcreek, the township's comprehensive plan since it was adopted in 2018. This plan took a major leap forward when the township's leadership launched an approach to redeveloping large swaths of the West Eighth Street commercial corridor — now known as the Presque Isle Gateway District.

This past summer, the ECGRA staff and board members were joined by County Council members and crisscrossed Erie County, meeting with elected officials, business owners, and non-profits in the revitalization space. Borough and township managers, entrepreneurs, investors, and volunteers working to revitalize Main Streets, neighborhoods, parks, and historic buildings are common themes we documented in our reporting. In Millcreek, we found a structural consensus on the



The Millcreek Township General Authority voted 4-1 on Jan. 30 to buy the former Bel-Aire Hotel and former Joe Root's Grill as well as three other sites for almost \$7.2 million in order to develop the area. ED PALATTELLA/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

importance of revitalizing a corridor that stretches from the city of Erie into Millcreek and acts as a gateway to one of our most precious regional assets: Presque Isle State Park.

This dense strip of businesses is a mixed bag of blighted or soon-to-be-blighted building stock. Perhaps the most striking observation was the extent to which this high-volume corridor was underrealized. The corridor is classified as a low/moderate income census tract. From an economic development perspective, it is underutilized. That's a simplistic way of saying that the corridor could be yielding a significant tax base for the township but is unable to develop new construction with older building stock in the way.

From the perspective of a Millcreek resident who has visited Presque Isle since I was a kid from my hometown of Franklin, it's sad to see this corner be-

cause it doesn't reflect the experience visitors should expect when driving into what I believe to be one of the best family destinations around. Reimagining West Eighth Street and Peninsula Drive as a village-style gateway is a moment of optimism as a new generation of kids make their way in the back seat of their parents' car through the threshold of what will become their own cherished family memories.

Millcreek Township is making progress on the project while moving the township's economic development assets forward as well. The newly created Millcreek General Authority is the right vehicle to guide the redevelopment. Subject to the laws of public accountability, best practices and countless successful examples from across the commonwealth show that the authority can work independently and in concert with the township, without added risk

to taxpayers. The authority is the ideal quasi-public sector vehicle to broker real estate acquisition and disposition of land for maximum public benefit. To develop this corridor, site control is the first step. The township is well on its way to realizing that goal.

This project also offers a window to an important collaboration between the city of Erie and the township. West Eighth Street plays host to businesses in both municipalities, which creates an opportunity for continuity of co-branding through physical improvements and signage. It is a chance for both to improve this iconic street's image and functionality and grow the commercial tax base.

An additional point of pride should be that the project fits what Charles Buki, author of Erie Refocused, would call a "middle markets" approach. Focusing on places that are beginning to feel the effects of blight and could decline further is a smart use of resources. A bulwark against the tide of blight, the Gateway could be a significant factor in stabilizing the residential neighborhoods to the north of the iconic corridor.

Many Millcreek supervisors, past and present, deserve praise for having foresight to listen and create a comprehensive plan that reflects the ends of the community and voice of residents, and the courage to continue to see it through. Putting all the pieces in place to make a measurable comprehensive plan like Embrace Millcreek is difficult work — implementing one is something that requires leadership and political fortitude. Now part of the Infinite Erie Playbook, this project is well-positioned to draw in more funding from state and federal sources and should be celebrated as one of Erie County's plans in action.

Perry Wood is the executive director of the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 3, 2023

Resolution to Adopt the 2023-24 Budget

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, hereby adopts its 2023-24 Budget, to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "A".

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____.

This resolution was passed on the 16th day of March, 2023 by a vote of ____ - ____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

March 16, 2023

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA

Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Draft Budget
 2022-23

Expense	<u>2022-23 Budget</u>	<u>2023-24 Budget</u>
62100 · Contracted Services		
62110 · Auditing Fees	7,500	8,200
62130 · Professional Services	40,000	40,000
62140 · Legal Services	20,000	20,000
62145 · Website Design	3,000	3,000
62150 · Payroll Services	1,500	1,500
Total 62100 · Contracted Services	<u>72,000</u>	<u>72,700</u>
62800 · Facilities & Equipment		
62840 · Office Equipment	10,000	6,000
62890 · Rent	18,000	18,000
Total 62800 · Facilities & Equipment	<u>28,000</u>	<u>24,000</u>
65000 · Office Administration		
65010 · Books, Subscriptions, Dues	3,000	3,000
65020 · Postage	500	250
65040 · Office Supplies	2,000	2,000
65050 · Cell Phone	3,000	3,000
65060 · Copier Lease	4,200	4,200
65070 · Copier Printing Costs	500	500
65080 · Bank Fees	500	500
65085 · Professional Development	2,000	6,000
65090 · Meeting Expenses	2,000	4,000
65095 · Miscellaneous Expense	250	250
Total 65000 · Office Administration	<u>17,950</u>	<u>23,700</u>
65100 · Other Types of Expenses		
65105 · Outreach	5,000	5,000
65110 · Advertising	4,000	4,000
65115 · Phone/IT/Fax	18,000	18,000
65120 · Insurance	10,200	18,600
65130 · Grant Management Software	5,500	5,500
65150 · Travel	5,000	5,000
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	<u>47,700</u>	<u>56,100</u>
66000 · Payroll Expenses		
66005 · Salaries, Wages, Benefits	276,400	293,500
66010 · FITW Tax	17,400	18,400
66015 · FUTA Tax	150	150
66020 · PASUI Tax	2,000	2,000
66700 · PMRS	18,100	19,200
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	<u>314,050</u>	<u>333,250</u>
7000 · Reserve for Uncollectable Notes	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expense	<u><u>479,700</u></u>	<u><u>509,750</u></u>

RESOLUTION NUMBER 4, 2023

Resolution to Enter into agreements with forty-nine (49) Erie County Special Events Grants applicants, whose events take place between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023

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, the forty-nine (49) special event recipients are identified as:

Albion Area Fair Inc., AmeriMasala, Asbury Woods Partnership, Borough of Edinboro, Borough of Union City, Borough of Wesleyville, CAFÉ, Community Blood Bank of NWP, Crime Victim Center, Downtown North East, Dr. Gertrude A. Berber Foundations, Edinboro University Foundation, Erie Bird Observatory, Erie County Veterans Memorial Park, Erie Downtown Partnership, Erie Homes for Children & Adults, Erie Lions Club Save an Eye Fund, Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership, Erie-Western PA Port Authority, Film Society of NWP, Goodell Gardens, Harborcreek Community Engagement Team, Harborcreek Township, Holy Trinity RC Church, Humane Society of NWP, Jefferson Educational Society, Lake Erie Fanfare, Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society, Lawrence Park Township, McKean Community Development Group, Mercy Center for Women, Mercy Hilltop Center, Nonprofit Partnership, Orthodox Church of the Nativity, Pinracks, Presque Isle Light Station, Presque Isle Partnership, Safe Net, Saint Joseph Church Bread of Life Community, Saint Patrick's Church, Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Union City Pride, Waterford Community Fair Association, Wattsburg Agricultural Society, Inc., YMCA of Corry, YMCA of Greater Erie, Young Artists Debut Orchestra, and Youth Leadership Institute of Erie;

Whereas, the eligible applicants are awarded grants totaling **\$211,997.18** 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 forty-nine (49) Erie County Special Events Grants applicants, whose events take place between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023, 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 16th day of March 2023 by a vote of ____ to ____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

March 16, 2023

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA



2023 Special Events

Organization Name	Name of Event	Amount Requested/ Recommended
Albion Area Fair	Albion Area Fair	\$12,707.00
AmeriMasala	AmeriMasala	\$2,116.00
Asbury Woods Partnerhsip	2023 Series of Events	\$1,520.11
Borough of Edinboro	Boro with the Works	\$1,625.00
Borough of Union City	UC Police Deptment National Night Out	\$230.00
Borough of Wesleyville	Wesleyville Community Days	\$965.50
CAFE	Celebrate Erie/Lights over Lake Erie	\$20,000.00
Community Blood Bank of NWP	Donor Appreciation Day	\$1,400.00
Crime Victim Center of Erie County	50th Anniversary Celebrations	\$4,594.55
Downtown North East	Gibson Park 2023 Open Market	\$887.00
Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Foundations	Barber National Institute Events 2023	\$17,683.00
Edinboro University Foundation	2023 Highland Games & Scottish Festival	\$2,525.00
Erie Bird Observatory	Celebrate Spring Birding	\$265.00
Erie County Veterans Memorial Park	Dedication of Erie County Veterans Memorial Park	\$300.00
Erie Downtown Partnership	2023 Event Series	\$6,000.00
Erie Homes for Children & Adults	Golden Gatsby Gala/Victory Ride/MOVE Show of Talents	\$3,011.20
Erie Lions Club Save An Eye Fund	Save An Eye All-Star Football Game	\$1,068.00
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership	Erie Homecoming 2023	\$5,000.00
Erie-Western PA Port Authority	ERIEBANK 8 Great Tuesdays	\$6,866.00
Film Society of NWP	Erie Horror Fest	\$9,255.00
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	2023 Series of Events	\$2,050.00
Harborcreek Community Engagement Team	Harborcreek Community Events	\$915.00
Harborcreek Township	Concert in the Park, Light Up Night	\$1,400.00
Holy Trinity RC Church	30th Annual Zabawa	\$6,925.00
Humane Society of NWP	The Mutt Gala, Rock & Rescue, Trails & Tails 5K	\$7,500.00
Jefferson Educational Society	JES Programming/Global Summit	\$19,300.00
Lake Erie Fanfare	40th Annual Drum Corps Competition; 27th Annual German Heritage Festival	\$5,000.00
Lake Erie Greek Cultural Society	Panegyri	\$3,000.00
Lawrence Park Township	Laser Lights and Music Events	\$37.50
McKean Community Development Group	McKean Community Day	\$500.00
Mercy Center for Women	Women Making History, Pedal for Mercy, Music Trvia Night	\$1,200.00
Mercy Hilltop Center	Community Outreach Fair	\$400.00
Nonprofit Partnership, The	22nd Annual Keystone Nonprofit Conference	\$3,882.00
Orthodox Church of the Nativity	Troika Festival	\$2,287.50
Pinracks	Guys & Dolls	\$750.00
Presque Isle Light Station	Tower Tuesdays & Erie Land Lighthouse Events	\$297.00
Presque Isle Partnership	2023 Events	\$4,692.50
SafeNet	Community Outreach and Big Backyard Events	\$3,942.50
Saint Joseph Church Bread of Life Community	Oktoberfest 2023	\$4,450.00
Saint Patrick's Church	Erie Irish Festival	\$7,746.92
SSJ Neighborhood Network	St. Paul's Italian Festival	\$5,412.74
St. Stanislaus Catholic Church	Taste of Poland/Parish Festival	\$250.00
Union City Pride	Purse Bingo, French Creek Festival, Festival of Trees	\$1,273.00
Waterford Community Fair Association	2023 Waterford Community Fair	\$9,250.00
Wattsburg Agricultural Society. Inc.	Erie County Fair at Wattsburg	\$12,345.06
YMCA of Corry	Block Party Chainsaw Carving and Music Festival	\$3,072.10
YMCA of Greater Erie	YMCA Apple Festival	\$400.00
Young Artists Debut Orchestra	2023 Series of Events	\$4,500.00
Youth Leadership Institute of Erie	Global Youth Service "Health Awareness Day"	\$1,200.00
TOTAL		\$211,997.18

RESOLUTION NUMBER 5, 2023

**Resolution to enter into agreements with one (1)
Erie County community organization engaged
in Parks, Fields, & Trails as part of the Community Assets, Round 1B**

Whereas, the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed funding proposals and made funding recommendations to support community assets as they relate to ECGRA’s Strategic Plan and community goals;

Whereas, the Board of Directors affirms that one (1) applicant has met the threshold for funding including being in good standing with taxing bodies and other reporting requirements;

Whereas, the eligible applicant is awarded a grant totaling \$25,000.00 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 one (1) Erie County Community Asset 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 16th day of March 2023 by a vote of ____ - ____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
March 16, 2023

ATTEST:

Secretary, ECGRA



2022 Community Assets Grants Recipients

PARKS, FIELDS, & TRAILS

ROUND 1A

Organization	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Borough of Edinboro	Nature's Outlet Improvement Project	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Borough of Union City	French Creek Trail & Access Improvements - Devereaux Park	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Downtown Girard	Construction of New Park at Girard Hotel Site	\$50,000.00	On Hold
Edinboro Legion Pool, Inc	Edinboro Legion Pool Improvement Project	\$12,340.00	\$12,340.00
Erie Downtown Partnership	Phase 1: Energizing Perry Square for Improved Economic Vitality & Quality of Life	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Fairview School Foundation	Fairview Elementary School Inclusive Playground	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church	Outdoor Recreation Area for Church and Preschool	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Goodell Gardens & Homestead	Observation Platform	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Humane Society of NWPA	Bark Park & Wagging Trails Courtyard Revitalization	\$25,000.00	On Hold
McKean Borough	Youth Athletic Field Development	\$25,000.00	On Hold
Northwest Pennsylvania Trail Association	Corry Junction Greenway Trail (CJGT)	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Washington Township	Powering Township Parks	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
TOTAL Requested		\$487,340.00	\$362,340.00

ROUND 1B

Organization	Project	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Humane Society of NWPA	Bark Park & Wagging Trails Courtyard Revitalization	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
TOTAL Requested		\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00

RESOLUTION NUMBER 6, 2023

Resolution to Approve the Employment Contract of the Executive Director

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 approve the contract of the Executive Director, for the conduct of its business, to the extent outlined in the attached Exhibit "A".

On the motion of _____, seconded by _____.

This resolution was passed on 16th day of March, 2023 by a vote of ____ - ____.

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

Chairman, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority

March 16, 2023

ATTEST:

Secretary ECGRA

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT ("AGREEMENT")

BETWEEN

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY ("AUTHORITY")

AND

PERRY WOOD ("WOOD")

WHEREAS, the Authority and Wood desire to continue the Authority's employment of Wood as its Executive Director;

WHEREAS, the parties wish to confirm the terms of Wood's continued employment.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants and agreements herein, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties mutually agree as follows:

1. Employment. The Authority hereby agrees to continue employing Wood as its Executive Director, and Wood hereby accepts employment in the position, pursuant to the provisions set forth herein.

2. Term of Employment. Wood's employment hereunder shall continue for a period of four (4) years from April 1, 2023, ending on March 31, 2027, unless terminated sooner pursuant to paragraph 5 hereof.

3. Duties and Responsibilities.

(a) Wood shall continue to have the duties and responsibilities normally assigned to him in the past, subject to modification from time to time by the Authority, including, but not limited to:

- (i) supervising and managing the business affairs of the Authority;
- (ii) supervising and managing the employees of the Authority;
- (iii) implementing policies and procedures established by the Authority;
- (iv) developing and recommending the implementation of policies and procedures to the Authority;
- (v) monitoring and accounting for the monthly income and operating expenses of the Authority and providing monthly

reports to the Authority reflecting such income and operating expenses;

- (vi) preparing annual budgets, statements of financial condition and other financial reports in coordination with the Treasurer and the Authority's accountant;
- (vii) developing and recommending the implementation of a grant application process, including project applications, policies, procedures and guidelines relating to the disposition of gaming revenue, to the Authority, in coordination with Authority committees;
- (viii) evaluating grant applications for gaming revenue and recommending project applications and applicants to the Board, in coordination with Authority committees;
- (ix) developing and evaluating contracts and agreements in conjunction with the Authority's solicitor and, with the consent of the Authority, entering into contracts and agreements on behalf of the Authority;
- (x) serving on Authority committees and, with the consent of the Authority, serving on community task forces and other community groups;
- (xi) securing documents generated by the business operations of the Authority, including, but not limited to, the Authority's Charter, Bylaws, Rules and Procedures, Minutes and Resolutions, Authority policies and procedures, financial documents, agreements, grant applications, policies and procedures, application materials, exhibits and correspondence, and all other business records;
- (xii) managing, monitoring and reporting to the Authority with respect to the status of contracts approved by the Authority, distributed gaming revenue and projects awarded by the Authority; and
- (xiii) performing faithfully, and to the best of his abilities, such other duties and obligations as may be assigned to him by the Authority from time to time.

(b) Wood's employment will be generally in accordance with the Authority's policies and procedures;

(c) Wood will report to the Board of Directors;

Authority _____
Wood

(d) Wood shall devote his exclusive, full-time efforts to the faithful, efficient and competent performance of his duties; provided, however, that he may undertake consultative work, speaking engagements, writing, lecturing, adjunct teaching or other professional services, provided that such work is approved by the Authority Board of Directors and does not interfere in any way with his full time responsibilities to the Authority;

(e) Wood will promote the success and reputation of the Authority at all times and avoid all activities which are detrimental to the success and/or reputation of the Authority; and

4. Compensation, Insurance and Other Fringe Benefits. The Authority will provide Wood with the following:

(a) Compensation. Wood will receive an annual salary of One Hundred and Thirty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Six Dollars and Fifty-Five Cents (\$137,386.55), payable in accordance with the Authority's usual payroll practices. Wood's salary shall be subject to a minimum annual three percent (3%) increase.

(b) Compensation Increase in Excess of Minimum Annual Increase. In the Board's sole discretion, Wood may receive a salary increase in excess of the minimum salary increase. In no case shall any increase in excess of the minimum annual increase exceed three percent (3%) of the previous year's base salary.

(c) Insurance and Other Fringe Benefits. Wood shall be eligible to receive all insurance and other fringe benefits offered to other similarly situated employees of the Authority pursuant to its Personnel Policy. Such fringe benefits include, at a minimum, medical, dental, and vision coverage and long and short term disability insurance.

(d) Expenses. The Authority shall reimburse Wood for all out-of-pocket expenses incurred by him in the performance of his duties pursuant to this Agreement, and for any other expenses in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) that have been authorized in advance by the Authority. Expense reimbursement shall be in accordance with the Authority's Personnel Policy. For the purposes of this provision, "out-of-pocket expenses" shall be determined to be those unbudgeted and individual purchases of goods or services that are necessary for the day-to-day operations of the Authority.

5. Termination.

(a) Termination for Cause. Wood's employment is subject to immediate termination in the event he engages in any of the following:

- (i) Conduct that results in an investigation or legal proceedings against the Authority by a federal, state, county or municipal regulatory agency that results in a final negative finding or conviction;

Authority _____
Wood

- (ii) Negligent or intentional conduct that threatens to bring Wood or the Authority into public disrepute, contempt, scandal or otherwise jeopardizes the reputation and/or success of the Authority;
- (iii) Commission of, conviction of and/or guilty plea of a felony;
- (iv) Material acts of theft, breach of fiduciary duty, or gross negligence;
- (v) Gross negligence and/or failure to satisfy his obligations under this Agreement, which is not corrected by Wood within fifteen (15) days of his receipt of written notice by the Authority.

In the event Wood's employment hereunder is terminated for cause, he shall be entitled to payment of his salary and any applicable benefits through the date of separation but nothing further.

(b) Termination for Lack of Funding. The Authority shall have the right to terminate Wood's employment immediately in the event the Authority is dissolved, terminated or defunded. Should Wood's employment be terminated pursuant to this subparagraph, he shall be entitled to payment of his salary and any applicable benefits for a period of one year from the date upon which the Authority notifies him, in writing, of its intent to terminate his employment, or for that period of time remaining within the term of this agreement, whichever is less.

6. Death or Disability of Wood. In the event Wood becomes disabled from the performance of his obligations under this Agreement, or dies during the term of this Agreement, his employment hereunder will be subject to termination and his right to any further compensation and benefits will cease. "Disability" will mean failure of Wood to fully perform his duties on a full-time basis for ninety (90) consecutive days as a result of Wood's incapacity due to physical or mental illness or injury.

7. No Conflict. Wood represents and warrants to the Authority that neither Wood's performing any obligation pursuant to this Agreement, nor the Executive's employment by the Authority, whether before or after the date of this Agreement, will violate or conflict with any obligation Wood has to any other person. If such representation or warranty is untrue or misleading in any respect, Wood shall indemnify and hold harmless the Authority from and against all claims, costs, damages, expenses, indebtedness, liabilities, and losses incurred by the Authority or arising in connection therewith.

8. Notice. Any notice required by this Agreement must be in writing and shall be considered given when mailed by registered mail, return receipt requested, to the following:

Authority _____
Wood

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

Wood: Perry Wood
3138 West 53rd Street
Erie, PA 16506

9. Waiver. Waiver by the Authority of a breach of any provision of this Agreement by Wood shall not be considered as a waiver by the Authority of any subsequent breach by Wood.

10. Assignment. All rights and obligations under this Agreement shall be personal to Wood and shall not be assignable by him. The rights and obligations of the Authority under this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon the Authority and its assigns.

11. Entire Agreement. This Agreement, including all attachments, contains the entire understanding between the parties hereto. There have been no oral or other agreements of any kind whatsoever as a condition, precedent or inducement to the signing of this Agreement or otherwise concerning this Agreement or the subject matter hereof. Any prior communications between the parties, including the Authority's representatives, which are not included in this Agreement, are not binding.

12. Modification. No changes, modifications or alterations of any of the terms and provisions contained in this Agreement shall be effective unless changed, modified or altered in writing and signed by both parties hereto.

13. No Third Party Rights. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as created or giving rise to any rights to any third parties or any persons other than the parties hereto, with the exception of the Authority.

14. Severability. In the event any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Agreement, but this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provisions are not contained herein. If, moreover, any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be excessively broad as to time, geographical scope, activity or subject, it shall be construed, by limiting and reducing it, so as to be enforceable to the extent compatible with the applicable law as it shall then appear in the jurisdiction.

15. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. All disputes arising under this Agreement shall be brought in either the Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, Pennsylvania or the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Erie Division.

Authority _____
Wood

16. Headings. Any headings preceding the text of the paragraphs hereof are inserted solely for convenience of reference and shall not constitute a part of this Agreement nor shall they affect its meaning, construction or effect.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

Executed by the parties this ____ day of _____, 20__, intending to be legally bound.

WITNESS/ATTEST:

PERRY WOOD

WITNESS/ATTEST:

ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE
AUTHORITY

BY _____

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