



## NEWS RELEASE

### Eight Local Community Organizations to Receive Community Benefits Funding

June 15, 2021

**Windsor, Ontario** • The Gordie Howe International Bridge team announced the distribution of \$100,000 (CDN) to several local organizations as part of the project Community Benefits Plan. This marks the second annual funding release from the Community Organization Investment, and will be used to fund eight exciting and unique projects – four in Windsor and four in Detroit.

The Community Organization Investment, one initiative under the broader Community Benefits Plan, is a five-year annual investment allowance with \$50,000 (CDN) allocated to registered non-profit or charitable organizations located in or serving residents in Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit respectively. The funds support events, programming and infrastructure improvements that will benefit the communities and align with one of the community investment priorities identified through public consultation.

This year's recipients will receive funding in July 2021. The projects include:

**Canada:**

- Essex County Black Historical Research Society: Across the River to Freedom: Early Black History in Sandwich, Ontario
- Border City Athletics Club: Women Can Summit Series
- The John McGivney Children's Centre: A Bridge to Play McGivney: New Accessible Ramp
- Windsor Police Services Community Services Branch in partnership with New Beginnings: Sandwich Community DiverCity BBQ

**US:**

- First Latin America Baptist Church of Detroit: Community Recreation Service Center
- Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation: Delray Bilingual Programs for Family Assistance
- Unity in Our Community TimeBank: Joyful Movement Outside
- Clark Park Coalition: Southwest Detroit Winter Carnival 2022 at Clark Park.

The recipients were selected following an application process that ran from November 2020 through January 2021 and resulted in 30 eligible submissions. The project's Local Community Group, comprised of stakeholders from the host communities, played a significant role in reviewing the applications and providing recommendations to the project team.

As part of this initiative, community organizations can apply annually for funding for events, programming and infrastructure improvements in amounts ranging from \$1,000 - \$25,000 (CDN). The application process for the 2022 funding cycle is anticipated to open in November 2021.

## QUOTES

“The Gordie Howe International Bridge project team is inspired by our host communities to deliver meaningful benefits that will serve as a catalyst for positive local change for years to come. We are listening and collaborating with local residents and representatives to ensure that our community-based project initiatives continue to reflect local priorities and feedback.”

- *Bryce Phillips, CEO, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority*

“Bridging North America would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2021 Community Organization Investment fund. We know each organization will do great things with these resources and we are proud to be contributing to the local communities on both sides of the border in a meaningful way.”

- *Michael Hatchell, CEO, Bridging North America*

## QUICK FACTS

- Funding under the Community Organization Investment initiative will occur each year between 2020 to 2024 and is one of over 25 initiatives that make up the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy component of the Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan.
- Initiatives that are eligible for funding must align with one of the community investment priorities identified during public consultation on Community Benefits. These priorities include community partnerships, community safety and connections, aesthetics and landscaping and economic benefits.
- The Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan is being delivered by Bridging North America with collaboration and oversight from WDBA and the State of Michigan.
- A Local Community Group representing the communities of Delray, Sandwich, Windsor-Essex County and the Greater Detroit Area has been formed by WDBA to act as informal partners during the implementation of the Community Benefits Plan.

## RELATED PRODUCTS

- Backgrounder: Supportive Statements
- [Fact Sheet: 2021 Community Organization Investment Funded Initiatives](#)
- [Video: 2021 Community Organization Investment Recipients](#)
- [Winter 2021 Community Benefits Quarterly Report](#)

## ASSOCIATED LINKS

- [Gordie Howe International Bridge Community Benefits Plan](#)

## ABOUT WINDSOR-DETROIT BRIDGE AUTHORITY

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) is a not-for-profit Canadian Crown corporation created to deliver the Gordie Howe International Bridge project between Windsor, ON and Detroit, MI through a public-private partnership (P3). WDBA is responsible for overseeing and managing the construction and operation of the new crossing. For more information visit [www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com) and follow the project on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg](https://www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg).

## ABOUT BRIDGING NORTH AMERICA

Bridging North America (BNA) became the private-sector partner to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Gordie Howe International Bridge project in September 2018. BNA is comprised of some of the most recognized leaders in the construction and infrastructure industry which includes North American and international companies. BNA partners have significant experience carrying out major infrastructure projects such as the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway in Windsor, Ontario; New Champlain Bridge Corridor in Montreal, Quebec; Autoroute 30 in Montreal, Quebec; Eglinton Crosstown LRT in Toronto, Ontario; Réseau Express Métropolitain (REM) in Montreal, Quebec; Automated People Mover at LAX Airport, California; Harbor Bridge, Corpus Christi, Texas; Tappan Zee Bridge in New York and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, California.

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## BACKGROUND

### Supportive Statements

"The Gordie Howe International Bridge project demonstrates Canada's commitment to investing in modern and resilient infrastructure that grows the economy and creates good jobs. The Bridge's Community Benefits plan is a leading example of how our government's infrastructure investments can support transformative social, economic and environmental changes in our communities. With the announcement of the latest round of the Community Organization Investment initiatives, four Sandwich/Windsor projects will receive funding; among these is an initiative highlighting early Black history and diversity through the creation of three short films and an event empowering Black, Indigenous and People of Colour in sports. Projects like these have wide-ranging positive social, economic and environmental impacts and help increase overall wellbeing while improving the lives of local residents."

- The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

"From its inception, one of the priorities for the Gordie Howe International Bridge is making sure the neighboring communities are helped during and after construction. Because of that shared commitment with our Canadian partners, we will grow recreational services in Southwest Detroit, provide enhanced bilingual and literacy education, and support the Clark Park Coalition's Winter Carnival. These are community benefits in every sense."

- Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer

"The Windsor-Essex Community Benefits Coalition is thrilled that local Sandwich Town organizations will be receiving funding from such an exceptional community partner that has supported community voices and initiatives from their beginning. This diverse investment in local history, athleticism, accessibility, and community building represents the tireless work of the Gordie Howe International Bridge team to ensure benefits for stakeholders, operators, users, and the general public. We are excited to continue collaborating with the Gordie Howe International Bridge team and hope that continued economic, social, and environmental prosperity through investments like these will continue for the entire lifecycle of the bridge via a legacy fund."

- Brady Holek, Community Benefits Coordinator, Windsor-Essex Community Benefits Coalition

"The Community Organization Investment grants by the Gordie Howe International Bridge project are delivering much needed services and enhancing quality of life in the Delray and Southwest Detroit community. This year's awardees exemplify the true spirit of partnership with our community - supporting recreation, family assistance, and community connection. These grants are an opportunity to invest positively in our community's future and we are grateful to the Gordie Howe International Bridge project team and to all of the applicants who are working to make our community a better place to live and thrive."

- Simone Sagovac, Project Director, Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition