



## 2022 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INVESTMENT: FUNDED INITIATIVES

The Gordie Howe International Bridge project is a once-in-a-generation undertaking. Not only will the project deliver much-needed transportation improvements for international travellers, it is providing jobs and opportunities for growth to the Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan region. A key project element is the inclusion of a Community Benefits Plan which includes the Workforce Development and Participation Strategy and the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy.

The \$20 million Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy of the Community Benefits Plan includes the Community Organization Investment, an annual commitment to provide a \$100,000 (CDN) investment allowance for community organizations located in or serving Sandwich/west Windsor or Delray/Southwest Detroit (the host communities) between 2020 and 2024. Funds are used to support events, programming and/or infrastructure improvements that benefit the host communities and align with one of the community investment priorities, including: community partnerships, community safety and connections, economic benefits, and/or aesthetics and landscaping.

From November 2021 to January 2022, registered non-profit and charitable organizations were invited to apply for the program's third year of funding. Twenty-eight eligible applications were reviewed, scored and prioritized by members of the Local Community Group, which includes 16 stakeholders representing various perspectives from Windsor and Detroit. The prioritized applications were reviewed by senior project representatives from Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA), Bridging North America and the State of Michigan to determine funding recipients.

In July 2022, the Community Organization Investment will divide \$100,000 (CDN) to five organizations in Canada and four in the US:

### CANADIAN INITIATIVES

#### **LOOK AGAIN! OUTSIDE**

**Organization:** Art Windsor-Essex

**Funding:** \$20,000

**Initiative Type:** Programming

Art Windsor-Essex will expand the 'Look Again! Outside' project into Sandwich. The project will provide a selection of several life-sized reproductions of artworks from the AWE collection that are relevant to the history of the Sandwich neighbourhood and will include an in-person and virtual public tour.

#### **CARING HEARTS FOOD BANK**

**Organization:** Society of Saint Vincent de Paul – Windsor Essex Central Council

**Funding:** \$10,000

**Initiative Type:** Infrastructure

Funding will be provided for enhancements to the current structure of the Caring Hearts Food Bank including paving the pathway from the parking area to the edge of the Food Bank premises and the provision and installation of a retractable canvas canopy over the area of the Food Bank structure.

## **GREEN SPACE RECLAMATION/JESUIT PEAR GROVE CONSERVATION**

**Organization:** Les Amis Duff-Bâby

**Funding:** \$7,650

**Initiative Type:** Infrastructure

Funding provided will be used to reclaim the former garden area/orchard of the Duff-Bâby Mansion. The project will include determining the native/non-native species and removing undergrowth and non-native species to restore and enhance the area for public access.

## **OUTDOOR BASKETBALL HOOPS**

**Organization:** Sandwich Teen Action Group (STAG)

**Funding:** \$6,700

**Initiative Type:** Infrastructure

Allocated funds will be used to purchase and install two new outdoor basketball hoops behind the STAG facility where the youth and community can play at their leisure.

## **US INITIATIVES**

### **CREATIVE PLACEMAKING IN SOUTHWEST DETROIT**

**Organization:** Urban Neighborhood Initiatives (UNI)

**Funding:** \$25,000 (CDN)

**Initiative Type:** Programming

Funding is being provided for the Creative Placemaking programming – The Land Stewardship Program. This is to support the implementation of two community gardens, an outdoor kitchen, art installations, and an outdoor gathering space on four vacant lots in Springwells.

### **FIESTA DETROIT CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL**

**Organization:** We Are Culture Creators

**Funding:** \$7,500 (CDN)

**Initiative Type:** Event

Funding will support Fiesta Detroit – a music, art and cultural festival for residents of Southwest Detroit that will be held on the historic holiday of Cinco De Mayo in 2023.

## **BIG SANDWICH AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM**

**Organization:** Big Brothers Big Sisters Windsor Essex

**Funding:** \$5,650

**Initiative Type:** Programming

Big Brothers Big Sisters will purchase furniture and/or AV equipment for the Sandwich/west Windsor Group Mentoring Room at Mackenzie Hall to provide a welcoming place for program youth.

### **FORT STREET BRIDGE PARK MULTI-PURPOSE TRAILHEAD PHASE II**

**Organization:** Friends of the Rouge

**Funding:** \$10,000 (CDN)

**Initiative Type:** Infrastructure

Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) are spearheading the effort to establish a 29-mile water trail on the Lower Rouge River that traverses 10 cities from Canton to River Rouge. Funding will support the creation of final design, construction documents, and/or permitting for Fort Street Bridge Park Phase II, that includes a universally accessible kayak launch.

### **LIVERNOIS 2 CLARK NEIGHBOR CONNECTIONS**

**Organization:** Livernois 2 Clark Neighborhood Association

**Funding:** \$7,500 (CDN)

**Initiative Type:** Programming

Funding will support 12 community-building activities and events including Motor City Makeover, Holiday Lights Competition, a fall block party, and information sharing meetings.

Applications for the 2023 Community Organization Investment will be accepted in late fall 2022, with funding released to successful applicants in July 2023. Learn more about the program at [www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com).

## **PUBLIC REPORTING**

The Community Benefits Plan includes a robust documenting, tracking and reporting structure that demonstrates accountability to the region. The Community Benefits Plan is posted on [www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com), along with quarterly reports on initiative progress and results. Updates on initiatives funded through the 2022 Community Organization Investment will be provided during the respective project's delivery period.

For more information about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project visit [www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com) or call 1-844-322-1773. Follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg](https://www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg), like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GordieHoweBridge](https://www.facebook.com/GordieHoweBridge) and connect with us on LinkedIn at [www.linkedin.com/company/wdba-apwd](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wdba-apwd).