



2020 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 will also provide 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 Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy of the Community Benefits Plan includes a commitment to provide a \$50,000 (CDN) annual investment allowance over five years for community organizations located in or servicing Sandwich/west Windsor or Delray/Southwest Detroit (the host communities). Funds will be used to support events, programming and infrastructure improvements that will 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.

Eligible registered non-profit and charitable organizations were invited to submit requests for funding between November 2019 and January 2020. Sixty applications were received. 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 WDBA, Bridging North America and the State of Michigan to identify applications that will receive funding in 2020.

In July 2020, the first release of \$100,000 (CDN) funding through the Community Organization Investment will be provided to successful applicants. Six initiatives will receive funding in Canada and three in the US. The Community Organization Investment initiative will be available annually for a five-year duration from 2020 – 2024. An open call for applications will occur in late fall of each year, with funding released to successful applicants the following July.

Additional details about this year's nine initiatives are identified below.

CANADIAN INITIATIVES

SANDWICH UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM MUSEUM

Organization: Sandwich First Baptist Church

Funding: \$20,000

Initiative Type: Infrastructure

The Sandwich First Baptist Church will construct a heritage museum that will honour the Sandwich area's role with the Underground Railroad and celebrate the contributions of African Canadians. The museum will be curated within a modified shipping container located in the Sandwich community.

HELPING HANDS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

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

Funding: \$11,000

Initiative Type: Programming

The Helping Hands Friendship Centre provides no-cost, fun activities for diverse residents of the west-end. Activities include: a family fun day barbeque, tours and picnics, educational programs, bingo, arts and crafts as well as communal celebrations of special holidays like Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Funding will be used to reach more members.

SPREADING OUR ROOTS

Organization: Friends of the Court

Funding: \$8,000

Initiative Type: Infrastructure

Friends of the Court and partners undertook a comprehensive review of the landscape conditions of Mackenzie Hall in Sandwich and identified a need for large stock trees and supportive infrastructure to fully realize the potential of the outdoor space. Funds will be used to purchase and replace large stock native trees, reposition a heritage pear tree, replace deteriorated or missing perennial plant material and install a support rail for existing wisteria shrubs.

BINATIONAL DETROIT RIVER CLEANUP

Organization: Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)

Funding: \$4,100

Initiative Type: Event

ERCA, the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC) and several other community organizations are planning to offer a binational Detroit River Canadian Cleanup event, in response to the need beyond their annual cleanups. The event will include two cleanup locations in Sandwich, Windsor including Black Oaks Heritage Park/Ojibway Shores and the area between Queen's Dock Park and McKee Park.

AMERICAN INITIATIVES

THE BID IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

Organization: West Vernor & Springwells Business Improvement District (BID)

Funding: \$20,000 (CDN)

Initiative Type: Programming

West Vernor & Springwells BID will design and implement a social media campaign to promote the West Vernor and Springwells businesses at specific times of the year including Cinco De Mayo, Dia de Los Muertos, holiday shopping and Southwest Restaurant Week. The social media campaign aims to attract more customers to businesses operating near the Gordie Howe International Bridge construction sites.

BIG NEIGHBOURHOOD – SANDWICH

Organization: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Windsor Essex

Funding: \$4,500

Initiative Type: Event & Programming

Big Brother Big Sisters of Windsor Essex will create a targeted outreach campaign to find new in-school mentors, Big Brothers and Big Sisters to serve 75 more children and youth from the Sandwich area. The campaign will include four outreach and recruitment events held in the community to allow potential volunteers to better understand the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and the need for mentors in the neighbourhood.

GRAND OPENING EVENT: DUFF-BÂBY MANSION

Organization: Les Amis Duff-Bâby

Funding: \$2,400

Initiative Type: Event

Les Amis Duff-Bâby will host a grand opening event at the Duff-Bâby Mansion to commemorate the partnership that was recently established between the City of Windsor, Ontario Heritage Trust and Les Amis Duff-Bâby. This partnership will permit regular public access to the historically significant structure and site. The grand opening event will feature reenactments, events for children, tours of the house, walking tours of the Sandwich community and more.

SOUTHWEST EXPANDED SENIORS SERVICES

Organization: Bridging Communities, Inc.

Funding: \$15,000 (CDN)

Initiative Type: Programming

Bridging Communities will increase the social interactions of seniors in Delray through enhanced supportive services. Services would include conducting monthly wellbeing checks to ensure seniors' needs are being addressed and hosting community events, such as cooking classes, speed dating, dinner dances, trivia nights and other social events, to allow seniors to make connections with their peers.

FOOD PANTRY EQUIPMENT & REPLACEMENT EXPANSION PROGRAM

Organization: Ste. Anne de Detroit Catholic Church
(Food Pantry)

Funding: \$15,000 (CDN)

Initiative Type: Infrastructure

Ste. Anne de Detroit Catholic Church Food Pantry is experiencing an increased demand for food as well as household and personal care items. The organization will use funds to purchase equipment to enhance and expand the pantry's food storage and handling capabilities to serve a growing number of individuals and families seeking food assistance.

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, along with quarterly reports on initiative progress and results. Updates on initiatives funded through the 2020 Community Organization Investment, will be posted during the delivery period.

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