



Media Contacts:

Tom O'Brien, Neighborhood Connections, 216-965-1393, tobrien@neighborhoodgrants.org

Jake Sinatra, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, 216-306-0112, jsinatra@cacgrants.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Neighborhood Connections Announces \$254,297 in Funding for 66 Projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland Neighborhoods

CLEVELAND (December 17, 2024) – Neighborhood Connections has approved \$254,297 in grants to support 66 projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland. Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC), the local public funder for arts and culture, will co-fund 19 of these resident-led arts and culture projects through a partnership with Neighborhood Connections.

Highlights of the grants include:

- **SHED Projects** was awarded \$3,500 to host a six-week program in celebration of Semana Santa, featuring the internationally acclaimed Familia Linares, renowned folk artists from Mexico City. This event will be a vibrant fusion of art, tradition, and community engagement, deeply rooted in the rich cultural heritage of Cartonería—the traditional Mexican craft of paper sculpture.
- **St. Clair Mobile Art Cart** was awarded \$2,000 to host community spaces for art journaling for both youth and adults in St. Clair Superior, with the goal of getting people to let go of self-judgment and become open to art as therapy.
- **The Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, North Coast Chapter** was awarded \$5,000 for a proposed program in North Collinwood's local libraries to teach students and community members about the history of the Tuskegee Airmen and inspire them. The team will also let youth know about job opportunities available to them in aviation.

“We are honored to support these groups and organizations doing amazing work in Cleveland and East Cleveland,” says Neighborhood Connections Director Tom O’Brien. “When a few people come together with good intentions and a plan, great things can happen. These organizations and groups are living examples of this belief.”

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture granted \$60,500 to Neighborhood Connections in 2024 to support community-based arts and culture activities organized by and for Cuyahoga County residents.

CAC defines arts and culture broadly to include nature, science, cultural heritage, and history in addition to other art forms. Through this partnership with Neighborhood Connections, CAC has co-funded more than 490 resident-led arts and culture projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland since 2013.

“As always, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is proud to support this valued partnership with Neighborhood Connections,” said Jill M. Paulsen, executive director of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. “These grant recipients continue to demonstrate the impact of public funding for arts and culture and the value of connection, creativity, and community.”

Since 2003, Neighborhood Connections has invested more than \$15 million in resident-led projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland.

Neighbor Up grants are offered several times each year to groups of residents in Cleveland and East Cleveland and, for projects related to the pandemic, to residents in Cuyahoga, Lake, and Geauga counties, to do projects that improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Groups are encouraged to work with partners and to propose creative solutions to challenges in their community.

About Neighborhood Connections

Neighborhood Connections is a nationally recognized community-building program established in 2003. Its mission is to fuel the power of neighbors to create, together, an extraordinary world right where they live. Our small grants program is one of the largest in the country. For more information, visit NeighborUpCLE.org.

About Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) is the region’s largest funder for arts and culture, helping hundreds of organizations in Cuyahoga County connect millions of people to cultural experiences each year. Since 2006, CAC has invested more than \$257 million in 500 organizations, making our community a more vibrant place to live, work and play. CAC is a separate government entity and a political subdivision of the State of Ohio. For more information, visit cacgrants.org.

###



Projects Funded in Fall 2024

Neighborhood Connections has approved \$254,297 in grants to support 66 projects in Cuyahoga County.

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the local public funder for arts and culture, will co-fund 19 resident-led arts and culture projects (noted with “*”) through a partnership with Neighborhood Connections. Learn more at www.NeighborUpCLE.org.

Group or Organization Name	Project Name	Neighborhood	Summary
Abrepaso Flamenco	Feria de Cleveland	Clark Fulton	Abrepaso Flamenco was awarded \$1,450 to host Feria de Cleveland an all day cultural event in the Spring that emulates the Spring fairs of Spain that celebrate community and Spring
Arab Americans of Cleveland	Civic Engagement Series	Cleveland	Arab Americans of Cleveland, based in Downtown, was awarded \$5000 to create a Civic Engagement Series to educate Arab Americans about the importance of voting and civic engagement in Cleveland.
ARCHWOOD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST	Archwood Ave. Fresh Foods	Brooklyn Centre	Archwood United Church of Christ, located in Brooklyn Centre, was awarded \$2100 to provide a venue for neighbors to get fresh and affordable produce, socialize and enjoy a free meal.

Beetestants	East Cleveland Citywide Spelling Bee	East Cleveland	Beetestants has been funded \$4,986 to host an East Cleveland City Wide spelling bee challenge for students in grades K- 8, with tutoring prior, who reside in East Cleveland.
Blakk Jakk Dance Collective*	Dance Program for Youth, Teens, and Adults	East Cleveland	Blakk Jakk Dance Collective was awarded \$3500 To establish a dance program to enhance the well-being of youth- and adults through high-quality instruction and technology.
Breadwinners Academy	Financial Literacy Block Party	Lee Harvard	Breadwinners Academy, located in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$5000 to empower the Lee Harvard community with financial resources and engagement opportunities, centered around a financial literacy block party.
Bushnell Court Youth Center Inc	Revive and Thrive Community Garden	Buckeye-Woodhill	Bushnell Court Youth Center Inc was awarded \$3500 to build a community garden with programming to teach skills and responsibility to youth in Buckeye-Woodhill.
CAIR-Cleveland and Northern Ohio Chapter	Southwest Asian & Northern Africans & Muslim Racial Justice & Equity Training Workshop Series	Cleveland	CAIR-Cleveland and Northern Ohio Chapter was awarded \$3500 to host a series of racial justice and equity trainings and workshops for the Black and Southwest Asian & North African communities in Cleveland in order to build community together and bridge existing misunderstandings and stereotyping.
Canaan Community Garden	Garden Fixup	Lee Harvard	Canaan Community Garden, located in the Lee Harvard area was awarded \$5,000 for project that would help senior citizens build relationships with children and young adults through gardening.
CHARP	The Lee Harvard Block Party	Lee Harvard	Lee-Harvard Block Party project, awarded \$3500 to host the second annual block club party event that celebrates the rich legacy of the neighborhood.
CHESS with Big Tray	CHESS-Community, Healthy Relationships, Empowerment, Self-Love, Strategies	Lee Harvard	C.H.E.S.S with Big Tray, serving Lee-Harvard was awarded \$5000 to bridge the generational gap with chess in hopes of building relationships to make our neighborhoods safer.

Cleveland Asia Town Square Dancers*	Phase II	Asiatown	The Cleveland Asia Town Square Dance Group was awarded \$3500 for their Phase 2 project. The group offers healthy, recreational dance sessions for all Cleveland residents.
Cleveland Glory Waist Drum Team*	Waist Drum Dance in AsiaTown	Asiatown	Cleveland Glory Waist Drum Team, located in Asiatown, was awarded \$3,500 to enrich lives of community members by practicing waist drum, connecting with community, and promoting culture.
Cleveland Inner City Boxing	Equipment & Ring Repair	Fairfax	Cleveland Inner City Boxing was awarded \$5000 to make needed repairs and improvements to their boxing ring located in the Fairfax neighborhood
Cleveland Phoenix Club	New Year's Gala	Asiatown	Cleveland Phoenix Club was awarded \$3500 to host AsiaTown 2025 New Year Gala, a vibrant celebration that will bring together Cleveland and East Cleveland's Chinese residents and businesses
Cleveland Women of Color in Economic and Community Development Professional Association	Association 2025 Events	Lee Harvard	The Cleveland Women of Color in Economic and Community Development Professional Association was awarded \$3500 to convene their inaugural events intended to build community and professional ties between women of color in Cleveland that work in economic and community development. The team will also look at the current landscape for women of color in management in Cleveland and research what can be done to better support women of color in these fields.
Community Partner	Cedar Central Job Connection	Central	The Community Partner team was awarded \$3500 to work in the Central neighborhood with teachers, parents, and mental health professionals to identify youth who have experienced trauma or other difficulties and could benefit from classes that will help them build life and job skills.

Concerned Citizens Community Council*	Comedy For The Community	Mt. Pleasant	Concerned Citizens Community Council, located in Mt. Pleasant, was awarded \$4,800 to host a comedy workshop that unites CMSD students 11-18 and seniors aged 60 and above to collaboratively explore the art of comedy.
Cultivate Cle	My Incredible Crown	Clark Fulton	Cultivate CLE was awarded \$5,000 for My Incredible Crown program in the Clark Fulton neighborhood. The program focus is empowering girls to embrace their natural hair by teaching them about the cultural significance of their hair.
D.S.U.T. Corp	Domestic Violence Prevention and Advocacy Program	Glenville	Focusing on the Glenville neighborhood, D.S.U.T. Corp was awarded \$3,500 for its programming providing resources to domestic violence survivors. The team will also provide anger management and conflict resolution courses with the intent to teach people healthier coping skills and prevent domestic violence.
Dave Kasper Music*	Bird Reserve	East Cleveland	David Kasper Music was awarded \$5,000 to continue its Bird Reserve program whose mission is to help educate and create opportunity with performance in an environment of poverty and low social economics.
Detroit Shoreway & Cudell Better Streets Committee	Bike Fix-A-Thon 2025	Cudell	Detroit Shoreway & Cudell Better Streets Committee was awarded \$2450 for a free, open-to-all Bike Fix-a-Thon in Spring 2025 in the Cudell neighborhood to foster community and empower residents with free bicycle repairs.
Diamond Makerz	All Hands On Deck	Union Miles	Diamond Makerz, in the Union Miles neighborhood, was awarded \$3449 to bring youth together with senior citizens to assist the seniors in connecting to electronic devices and the internet.
E. 63rd St Block Club	E. 63rd St. Block Club Annual Spring Clean Up	Broadway-Slavic Village	The E. 63rd St Block Club was awarded \$2,428 for their annual spring clean-up in Slavic Village that engages both neighbors and students.

E.R.A.C.E	Our Lives Matter	South Collinwood	E.R.A.C.E, located in South Collinwood, was awarded \$4500 to build partnerships to create an accessible, well-coordinated 5k and walk event that promotes health, community, and active lifestyles.
East Cleveland Senior Walkers	Senior Walkers	East Cleveland	East Cleveland Senior Walkers were awarded \$3,493 to support their efforts to create more community among older adults in the city of East Cleveland.
Fashion Week Cleveland*	Put it On Wax Initiative	Union Miles	Fashion Week Cleveland, located in Union Miles, was awarded \$5,000 to honor individuals with custom life-size wax sculptures. A cultural and educational immersive exhibition.
Food With Purpose	Cooking with Purpose	Buckeye-Woodhill	The Food with Purpose initiative was awarded \$5000 to address health disparities in minority community via food education and cooking classes in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood.
Friends of Dudley Triangle	Revitalize Dudley Triangle Pocket Park	Detroit-Shoreway	Friends of Dudley Triangle was awarded \$4900 to revitalize Detroit Shoreway's Dudley Triangle Pocket Park through a series of events and community-building activities that promote safety, connection, and collective ownership.
Glenville Panthers Youth Sports and Mentorship	Glenville Panthers Power BBQ: Building Strength On & Off the Field	Glenville	Power BBQ is a community-centered initiative designed to unite our youth, families, and mentors in a positive and supportive environment. They received \$3500
Healing Hands Alliance	Qigong Meditation Circles	East Cleveland	The Healing Hands Alliance was awarded \$3500 to Teach Qigong and form intergenerational healing circles, to facilitate bonding and understanding across East Cleveland.
Hot Sauce in My Bag	Hot Sauce in My Bag Healing Brunches	Buckeye-Woodhill	Hot Sauce in My Bag was awarded \$4000 to bring an intergenerational group of women together for healing in Buckeye-Woodhill. Brunches will be dedicated to increasing fellowship between women through sharing stories, history, and dreams for their community and how the group members can help one another.

Hough Heritage Tenant Council	Hough Heritage Senior Ball	Hough	The Hough Heritage Tenant Council, located in the Hough neighborhood was awarded \$ 1,415 to host a semi formal Senior-Ball open to all senior residents in the building.
I Am More Than My Zip Code	Hidden Treasures	Cleveland	I am More Than My Zipcode's was awarded \$5000 is to expose youth and families in the Larchmere/Buckeye/Woodhill and surrounding areas, to opportunities to value and be optimistic regarding our City.
Kymmie's House*	Healing Music	Union Miles	Kymmie's House, in Union Miles, was awarded \$3406 to organize some community gatherings that are fun, have music, and bring people together to build trust.
Learning to Overcome Violence & Envy Development Foundation*	Where Technology Meets Creativity	Lee Harvard	Learning to Overcome Violence, in the Lee Harvard neighborhood, was awarded \$3500 to offer youth workshops to learn tech in art, business, and daily life.
Lee Seville Miles Citizens Council	Civic Legacy Leap!	Lee Harvard	Lee Seville Miles Citizens Council, located in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$5,000 to revitalize their Citizens Council by connecting generations through civic engagement.
Loiter!	Loiter Community Engagement Project	East Cleveland	Loiter!, located in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3500 to host Loiter Cafe Community Brunches
Looking Glass Project*	Self Love Through the Looking Glass	St. Clair Superior	The Looking Glass Project, in St. Clair Superior, will offer to young adults a 6 week course where participants will create a 30-page or more self-portrait coloring book. They were awarded \$3158.
Loretta's Helping Hands	Senior to Senior Mobile Group	Broadway-Slavic Village	Loretta's Helping Hands, located in the Broadway - Slavic Village neighborhood was awarded \$5,000 to empower seniors to be healthily on a budget while showing them new activities that support motor skills
Love Train Ministries	Ladies and Gentlemen on the Rise Phase 2	St. Clair Superior	Love Train Ministries, located in St. Clair Superior, was awarded \$4500 to cultivate a safe, healing space in a community garden for residents in the St. Clair Superior neighborhood.

Loves Legacy Inc.	Second Annual Agape Project	Old Brooklyn	Loves Legacy Inc. was awarded \$3500 for an intergenerational community party in Old Brooklyn celebrating "built and chosen" families where children can shop for parents/caregivers and seniors will share holiday stories.
Men and Women of Central	Community Empowerment Workshops (CEW)	Central	Men and Women of Central received \$3500 to host weekly empowerment workshops where they encourage and promote civic engagement and personal development.
MillCreek	The Good Continues...Again	Broadway-Slavic Village	Mill Creek resident group was awarded \$5000 in Broadway-Slavic Village to continue building social cohesion, fostering community and creating trust among neighbors.
Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition	NEOBHC African American Men's Community Engagement	Cleveland	Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition (NEOBHC), located in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$4000 to unite men from the greater Cleveland area to discuss mental health and wellness.
Old Brooklyn Pedal for Prizes	Pedal for Prizes	Old Brooklyn	Pedal for Prizes, located in Old Brooklyn, was awarded \$5000 to hold a free community event for residents to explore Old Brooklyn and its points of interest by bicycle.
Operation Lean on Me	Christmas Letters With Santa	Old Brooklyn	Operation Lean on Me was awarded \$3430 to host Letters with Santa in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood.
OWLS Cleveland	Bridging the GAP	Tremont	OWLS (older, wiser, livelier) was awarded \$5,000 for their initiative connecting Seniors through socialization, informed connections, resources, communication and fun.
Poetic Movement*	Literary Leaders Program	East Cleveland	Poetic Movement, located in East Cleveland, was awarded \$5000 to host a four week after-school program of spoken word writing, reading and poetry for East Cleveland Children.
Residents of Abington Arms*	Arts & Movement for Wellness	University Circle	Residents of the Abington Arms apartments were awarded \$5000 to supports arts and health related programing for residents.

ReSoFrik FM*	Cleveland Poetry in Black and White	East Cleveland	ReSoFrik FM, located in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3500 to organize Cleveland Poetry in Black and White, an initiative intended to beam a spotlight on poets who are rarely given a platform.
Saint Martin de Porres Lionettes*	Lionettes Majorette Dance Team 2024-25	St. Clair Superior	Saint Martin de Porres Lionettes, located in St. Clair - Superior, was awarded \$5000 to provide a safe place to learn dance. Skills that can be grown and taken to college.
San Diego Community Garden	Let's Seal the Deal	Bellaire-Puritas	San Diego Community Garden, located in the Bellaire Puritas Neighborhood was awarded \$1400 to seal 31 raised beds and replace the pergola roof over the picnic table.
Second Mt. Olive Reopen	SMO Neighboring Outreach	Glenville	Second Mt. Olive Reopen, located in the Glenville neighborhood, was awarded \$3500 dollars to bring together neighbors and build strong, meaningful connections between generations through a series of neighboring events.
SHED Projects*	Semana Santa	Brooklyn Centre	SHED Projects was awarded \$3500 to host a six-week program in celebration of Semana Santa from April 12 to May 24, 2025, featuring the internationally acclaimed Familia Linares, renowned folk artists from Mexico City. This event will be a vibrant fusion of art, tradition, and community engagement, deeply rooted in the rich cultural heritage of Cartonería—the traditional Mexican craft of paper sculpture.
Slavic Village Stakeholders	2024 Slavic Village HoliDazzle	Broadway-Slavic Village	The Slavic Village Stakeholders are organizing a holiday event, the Slavic Village HoliDazzle, a free public event for the Broadway-Slavic Village community 2 weeks before Christmas to gather & enjoy a free meal, live holiday music, & shop.
Smart Mount Pleasant Kids*	Arts & Literacy Project	Mt. Pleasant	Smart Mount Pleasant Kids was awarded \$3500 to create a play that will enhance literacy, creativity, unite the community, reduce violence and promote education.

St. Clair Mobile Art Cart*	Art Block Mobile	St. Clair Superior	Art Block Mobile was awarded \$2,000 to host community spaces for art journaling for both youth and adults in St. Clair Superior, with the goal of getting people to let go of self-judgment and become open to art as therapy.
Tarajia Resilience*	Giving Scholars Hope Through Arts	Buckeye-Woodhill	Tarajia Resilience was awarded \$3500 to provide youth the opportunity to display their talents through various forms of art, specifically food, visual art, and music. Located in Buckeye-Woodhill, they envision starting from the grassroots level to build a community event that includes a dinner and art show.
Teen Start Program	Intergenerational Smart Technology Project: Help Seniors, Fostering Connections	Buckeye-Woodhill	The Teen Smart Project project will connect youth and seniors to improve seniors' knowledge of smart phone usage and promote positive engagement in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood.
Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, North Coast Chapter*	North Coast Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen exhibit (round table discussion)	North Collinwood	The Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, North Coast Chapter was awarded \$5,000 for a proposed program in North Collinwood's local libraries to teach students and community members about the history of the Tuskegee Airmen and inspire them. The team will also let youth know about job opportunities available to them in aviation.
Wildfire Gardening Network	Community Gardening and Environmental Building Up of Adults and Youth	Mt. Pleasant	Wildfire Gardening Network was awarded \$5,000 to support a community garden in Mt. Pleasant and its programming. Elders will be teaching children to work in the community garden/farm with the goal of building community and intergenerational relationships.
William E Sanders Family Life Center	Teen Summit	Lee Harvard	William E. Sanders Family Life Center in the Lee-Harvard neighborhood was awarded \$3500 to provide safe, fun, educational activities on a weekly basis for youth ages 11-18.

Workforce Awareness	Workforce Awareness with Solutions	St. Clair Superior	The Workforce Awareness and Solutions program, located in St. Clair Superior, was awarded \$3,500 to raise awareness and offer practical solutions for workers, shedding light on declining skilled trades and service workers.
Wymore Street	Wymore Cleanup	East Cleveland	Wymore Street Block Club from East Cleveland was awarded \$2187 to do street clean ups to enhance the community's appearance, foster neighborly connections & promote a cleaner environment.
Yellowcake Shop*	Hi, Fashion: a week of sustainable fashion fun	Detroit-Shoreway	Yellowcake shop was awarded \$3500 to host an event for the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood—where Yellowcake is located—to support sustainable fashion. The event would also encourage community building through a clothing swap and skill-sharing, such as how to mend clothes.