



**E·C·G·R·A**  
ERIE COUNTY GAMING REVENUE AUTHORITY

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT  
FOR  
JUNE  
2022**



## Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 7, 2022  
12:00 noon  
Via ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84634863444>

Meeting ID: 846 3486 3444  
Password: Not Required

### AGENDA

1. Comment from the Public
2. ARPA Review
  - a. Small Business
  - b. Community Facilities
  - c. Placemaking
3. Investment Playbook
4. Good of the Order

# Erie County Investment Playbook

## ECGRA Board Briefing

### Funding Support Summary

#### Introduction

The recent historic increase in competitive funding from the federal government has created an unprecedented opportunity for equitable economic development. In Erie County, the need for revitalization is as profound as the opportunity. In response to this unique moment, Erie community leaders have come together to form **Erie Inclusive Recovery**. This collaborative initiative will strive to connect opportunity to need by bringing together funding and knowledge.

This initiative will take a **collective impact** approach. Such initiatives often involve a shared agenda, shared measurements, and a dedicated staff – all working toward a common commitment. Erie Inclusive Recovery's cross-sector approach will help all of those involved to achieve more together than they could on their own. Instead of working in silos, committed Erie stakeholders will apply their efforts to shared goals:

- Fostering economic growth
- Promoting neighborhoods
- Creating a vibrant, diversified economy that benefits all

Specifically, the initiative will help organize disparate public, private and civic stakeholders around a common vision of Erie County's success.

#### Erie County COVID-19 Report, July 2021

In January 2021, ECGRA is appointed by County Council to facilitate the Economic Impact and COVID Revitalization Committee (EICRC). Members of the committee were selected to assist in gathering data, listening sessions held over zoom, and recruiting expert testimony. Four months and sixteen meeting later, the committee heard from stakeholders across Erie County representing local government, business, nonprofits, and civic leaders. Research and listening sessions yield a series of recommendations. The report concluded by calling on our local leaders to get organized through experts that could get us ready for the flood of federal dollars being proposed by the federal and state governments.

## **Initial ECGRA Investment - \$25,000 to support The Investment Playbook**

Interested in identifying ways to support Erie County's opportunities for growth, the ECGRA, Erie Insurance, the Jefferson Educational Society (JES) and The Erie Community Foundation (ECF) partnered to commission the Erie Inclusive Recovery Investment Playbook in September 2021. The playbook was created by Bruce Katz and Florian Schalliol of New Localism Associates. The playbook is intended to serve as a tool to help Erie organize effectively, seeking federal dollars for local projects that will benefit the entire community.

The result was a proposed strategic plan including a series of transformational investments and a guide for Erie to leverage maximum funding. The investments are based on five principal dimensions/goals:

- Entrepreneurship
- Innovation
- Community regeneration
- Workforce development
- Infrastructure

These investments (as proposed by New Localism Associates) were the result of stakeholder meetings. They were reviewed and revised by the steering committee. As this initiative continues to respond to Erie County's changing needs, this playbook will act as a living document – the result of expertise drawn from active individuals and organizations.

## **ECGRA's Role**

- ECGRA facilitated Erie County's first COVID-19 Impact Task Force and subsequently published the first impact report of the subject.
- ECGRA is a partner and funder on the creation of the Investment Playbook known as Erie Inclusive Recovery.
- ECGRA's executive director serves on the Playbook's Steering Committee.
- It is in ECGRA's interest to promote alignment with investment priorities, so projects are not competing for limited local resources.
- The Playbook is aligned with ECGRA's funding priorities including the Transformative Grant Program funded through ARPA.

- Also essential is an initial investment the Nerve Center, a the structure that will convene disparate players around a common agenda and facilitate delivery of prioritized investments.

## Recommendations

- **Staff Recommendation:** ECGRA should continue to serve on the Playbook Steering Committee with the other funders of Erie County.
- **Staff Recommendation:** Fund the NERVE Center at a level not to exceed \$81,000 per year for 2 years. 81k is one third of the cost. The other partners at this same level are ECF and Erie Insurance. Total ECGRA Funding: \$162,000. After that, future support should be reviewed by ECGRA based on established performance metrics.
- **Staff Recommendation:** Fund projects in the Playbook consistent with ARPA funding goals, ECGRA's annual grant programs, and MRIs in support of collective impact projects.

## Playbook Steering Committee

To meet the ambitious investment goals laid out by the Playbook, this initiative and the organizations that support it agree to work towards a shared agenda.

The steering committee is the decision-making body and is made up of early stakeholders, most of whom were interviewees for the original playbook. As a microcosm of broad community interests, representation will continue to expand. Participants currently include:

- The City of Erie (Mayor Joe Schember and Renee Lamis, Chief of Staff)
- Erie County Government (CE Brenton Davies and Doug Smith, Dir of Admin)
- Erie Insurance (Christina Marsh, Chief Community & Economic Development Officer)
- The Erie Community Foundation (Karen Bilowith, President)
- Erie County DEI Commission (Gary Lee, CEO)
- Jefferson Educational Society (Ferki Ferati, President)
- Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership (James Grunke, President/CEO)
- Erie County Gaming and Revenue Authority (Perry Wood, Executive Director)

This committee will continue to meet regularly as the initiative progresses.

## **Delivery Teams**

To promote representation of multiple organizations, and to promote targeted efforts and discussions, the Playbook also includes a series of delivery teams. Each team focuses on implementing the prioritized projects, aligning resources, and coordinating/launching the projects. The delivery teams include a plethora of organizations.

## **Support Staff/Administration**

A Director, will report to the steering committee and assist that committee in organizing projects, exploring financial and funding packages, and aligning priorities with allocation of federal funding.

The Playbook will be administered through a fiscal agency agreement with The Nonprofit Partnership (NPP). The Director will be an NPP employee.

## Erie Inclusive Recovery

### Position Profile

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#### **Position Description: Erie Inclusive Recovery Director**

##### **About Erie Inclusive Recovery:**

Erie Inclusive Recovery (EIR) is a community and economic development strategy intended to leverage federal funding opportunities, enhance public, private and philanthropic collaboration and increase equitable economic development strategies across Erie County.

- EIR will use a collective impact approach, creating a cross-sector coalition with shared goals to:
- Foster economic growth
- Promote neighborhoods
- Create a vibrant, diversified economy that benefits all

Specifically, the initiative will help organize disparate public, private and civic stakeholders around a common vision of success and a series of priority transformative investments (contained within the Investment Playbook).

The Erie Investment Playbook is a roadmap to guide the work of EIR. It is informed by more than fifty community stakeholders and will continue to evolve. It includes general, aspirational goals as well as specific transformational projects. If implemented well, the Playbook has the potential to drive market momentum in Erie's Bayfront and Downtown, and Erie County as a whole. This strategy is designed to advance community equity in impoverished neighborhoods and help build a small business ecosystem rooted in supplier diversity, entrepreneurial support, and capital access.

##### **Job Summary:**

The Erie Inclusive Recovery Director (Director) will be responsible for supporting the Erie Inclusive Recovery (EIR) Steering Committee and its efforts to implement the Investment Playbook.

The Director will work in a leadership role to identify, create, manage, and promote an inclusive, evolving local project pipeline; encourage aligned, complementary efforts; and aid in the areas of identifying potential funding resources, reviewing, and improving project grant applications, supporting organizational capacity gaps and identifying subject-matter experts to assist, when needed.

The Director will support the development of a common framework to inform the strategic Delivery Teams and communicate progress to the Steering Committee and other Stakeholders. This position will report directly to the Steering Committee Chair .

#### **Essential Functions:**

- Provide facilitation of and communication between and among the EIR Steering Committee, Delivery Teams, and other Stakeholders.
- Develop and update Project Pipeline tracking to include inventory, status, partners, and funding sources as informed by Steering Committee priorities and Delivery Team projects.
- Catalogue funding opportunities/facilitate proposal development
- Develop and manage networks of relationships across projects
- Build and maintain relationships with local, state, and federal funders
- Convene and facilitate work sessions with Delivery Teams to ensure continual progress and successful project outcomes
- Identify project/organizational capacity gaps and provide support in those areas, coordinating with local and external subject-matter experts when appropriate
- Work with EIR Steering Committee to establish contractual terms and conditions and serves as primary liaison to other contractors (lobbying firm, etc.).
- Prepare and maintain risk log to record risks and issues related to the EIR Strategy implementation, particularly related to community-facing issues. Monitors resolution of each issue.
- Work with the Steering Committee to help ensure investments stay aligned with the broader goals of the community as informed by community engagement as well as existing and future strategic planning efforts
- Create metrics to promote accountability and help inform prioritization efforts and identify investment opportunities
- Communicate the mission, goals, and progress of the EIR Strategy
- Oversee day-to-day activities and perform other duties as needed or assigned

#### **Skills and Capabilities**

- Ability to work across sectors: Fluency in a wide set of economic and community development and issues including public and private finance; real estate development; urban planning; local, state, and federal policy; education; housing; public health; and economics. Ability to converse and translate across sectors to facilitate collaboration and buy-in across stakeholders.
- Big-picture thinking and detail-orientation: Ability to develop community organizations and big picture strategies across projects.
- Ability to build trust, maintain credibility and confidence.



- Familiarity with the Erie community and its non-profit organizations.
- Tact and diplomacy in addition to handling substantial amounts of confidential material with discretion and operating with independent judgment and initiative.

**NPP Payroll calculations based off current insurance rates**

7.65%      3.2931%

Coverage Type	Gross Salary	FICA	SUI	Health	life/dental	Emp. Contribution	401K	per year
Single	\$ 110,000.00	\$8,415	\$329	\$7,682	\$894	(\$517)	\$7,700	\$134,503
Emp/Dep	\$ 110,000.00	\$8,415	\$329	\$15,741	\$906	(\$885)	\$7,700	\$142,207
Family	\$ 110,000.00	\$8,415	\$329	\$24,614	\$2,672	(\$2,580)	\$7,700	\$151,150

**Other Start Up Costs**

Director/Admin Support	\$ 152,000.00
Director Compensation	\$ 2,500.00
IT/Office Set Up	\$ 30,000.00
Travel	\$ 25,000.00
Discretionary Budget	\$ 209,500.00
NPP Admin	\$ 35,000.00
New Localism Associates	\$ 244,500.00
	\$ 81,500.00
	Year One
	Per Funder

**Other Professional Services**

Grantwriting Support	\$ 100,000.00
Lobbying/Copmmunications	\$ 100,000.00
Project Financial Development	\$ 150,000.00

## Perry Wood

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**From:** Tammi Michali  
**Sent:** Monday, June 6, 2022 3:07 PM  
**To:** Perry Wood  
**Subject:** Save the Date

To: Local Elected Officials  
Re: Briefing on Erie County's Investment Playbook

Please save **Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2pm** for a briefing for elected officials and staff on the final DRAFT of the Erie County Investment Playbook. The final report is expected to be published in late June. We prefer that you attend in person, although a zoom option will be provided. This invitation is nontransferable.

*What is the Investment Playbook?* A list of 25 projects that have been identified through stakeholder interviews to be some of the promising candidates for state and federal funding. This Playbook is not set in stone, but it is a guide to organizations that actively working to improve Erie County's economy, neighborhoods, and workforce.

*What makes the Playbook relevant?* A steering committee of leaders from the City, County, ECGRA, Erie Insurance, Erie Community Foundation, Chamber, and Jefferson have joined collectively to assist with the development and implementation.

*What can I expect to learn?* Bruce Katz, the Playbook author, will be joining us to review the national context of Playbooks being created across the US, the process that went into Erie County's Playbook, and how Erie County is in an advantageous position to be competitive at the state and federal levels with a Playbook.

We ask that you kindly RSVP your attendance to Tammi Michali ([tmichali@ecgra.org](mailto:tmichali@ecgra.org)) by close of business on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Perry N. Wood  
Executive Director  
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA)  
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Erie, PA 16510

Ph (814) 897-2690

# REGIONAL AFFILIATE FORUM

7:45-8:00	Registration & Breakfast
8:00-8:10	Opening Remarks Karen Bilowith, Erie Community Foundation
8:10-8:40	Community Partner Introductions Laurie Root, United Way Tina Mengine, ECRDA Perry Wood, ECGRA Boo Hagerty, UPMC Michelle Patalon, Erie Insurance Brenton Davis, Erie County Executive Kim Thomas, DCED
8:40-9:30	Regional Affiliate Presentations Corry Community Foundation Findley Lake Community Foundation North East Community Foundation Union City Community Foundation
9:30-9:40	Break

At this point in the program, we welcome our community partners to return to their own busy schedules as the affiliates turn to Foundation-specific discussion. Thank you for joining us!

9:40-10:30 Open Discussion



Hosted by the Erie Community Foundation  
May 25, 2022 • Manufacturer & Business Association

# Program



## Through Your Eyes June 18 – August 13, 2022

*Through Your Eyes* is a photography exhibit featuring images submitted by the Erie community, showing their favorite locations, features, plants, animals and activities at Asbury Woods.

We hope the *Through Your Eyes* exhibition will provide new insights into how Asbury Woods is valued by individuals in our community and inspire others to consider the importance of protecting such places.

Get in on the exhibit action by starting to share your Asbury Woods photos, stories and experiences on social media using our hashtag #MyAsburyWoods.

### Opening Reception:

**Friday, June 17 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Brown's Farm Barn, 5774 Sterrettania Road, Fairview, PA 16415  
Free, open to the public.

Enjoy a look at the exhibit, light snacks, and samples from Erie Beer.



### Viewing Hours:

**June 18 – August 13**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.,  
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Exhibit is free and open to the public.

### Programming:

Deepen your experience by participating in various hikes offered throughout the summer, each focusing on different aspects of Asbury Woods. Learn from experts and connect with other photographers in the area, and capture the beauty of Asbury Woods.

See our website for more details and to register:  
[www.asburywoods.org/exhibit](http://www.asburywoods.org/exhibit)

This exhibition is sponsored by:



Support for this program is provided in part by the United Arts Fund of the Erie Arts Endowment.



Erie Arts & Culture

Dear ECGRA Staff & Board -

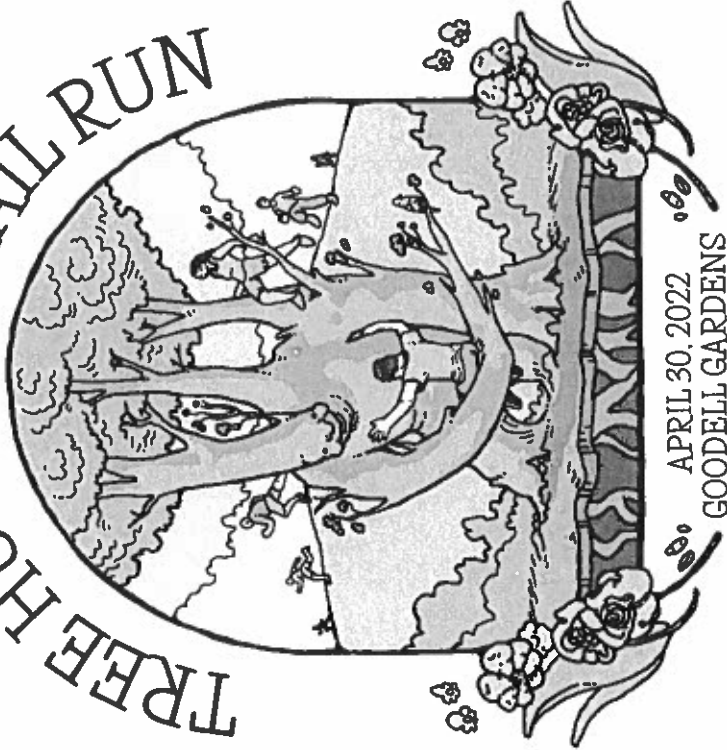
Thank you so much for your continued support of Goodell Gardens!

Your generosity through two grants - Special Events & Community Assets - allowed us to host our inaugural Tree Hunger Trail Run on April 30.

This wonderful community event will continue for years to come, thanks to your support!

With gratitude,  
Amber

# TREE HUNGER TRAIL RUN



APRIL 30, 2022  
GOODELL GARDENS  
EDINBORO, PA

