

# 2018 YEAR END REPORT



Guided by the Our West Bayfront Community Plan, Our West Bayfront is a nonprofit neighborhood organization dedicated to improving quality of life in Erie's West Bayfront neighborhoods by promoting civic involvement, thoughtful development, historical preservation, and neighborhood pride. In 2018 dozens of community partners and hundreds of residents came together to bring this mission to life through an exciting variety of programs and initiatives. Together, we are moving the City of Erie, and our West Bayfront neighborhoods, forward block by block.

## HOUSING REPAIRS

Though the district is home to many historic buildings, the number of aging homes that need repair threatens the long-term stability of our neighborhoods. OWB works strategically to offer grants to property owners to address common issues such as roof repairs and window replacement. To date, OWB has received **\$127K in grant funds for home repairs matched by \$56K invested by West**

### Bayfront property owners.

In 2018 we launched the Gridley Park Renaissance Block Program with a \$150,000 grant from ECGRA. This program will assist approximately 25 property owners adjacent to Gridley Park in the heart of the West Bayfront.



## WESTERDAHL PARK

Westerdahl Park, a new "pocket" park on W. 4th & Poplar Streets, has been created with the involvement of dozens of community members and a visiting AmeriCorps National Community Conservation Corps (NCCC) team on a lot previously occupied by a blighted home. The park includes new community gardening beds which will be available for residents to use beginning in the spring. Neighbors contributed special touches such as an engraved bench,

solar lighting, and a Little Free Library. Named for the corner store that once served this West Bayfront neighborhood, the park is a sign of neighborhood renewal. We are thankful for the many residents, organizations, and funders that played a role to transform this lot into a community space we all can be proud of.



2  
properties  
acquired  
to rehab.

## PROPERTY RENOVATIONS

In March, OWB purchased the two-story building on the 400 Block of West 4th Street known to many as the old Howard Photography studio. Over the summer we began to prepare the building for renovations with the help of the NCCC team. The rehabilitation of this project will anchor the revitalization of the entire West 8th Street commercial corridor, which is already seeing the results of investments by entrepreneurs and property

owners. In addition to the West 8th Street project, OWB purchased a two-unit home on Walnut Street near Bayview Park which we intend to rehabilitate and provide as affordable rental housing to two families.



## GROWING IMPACT

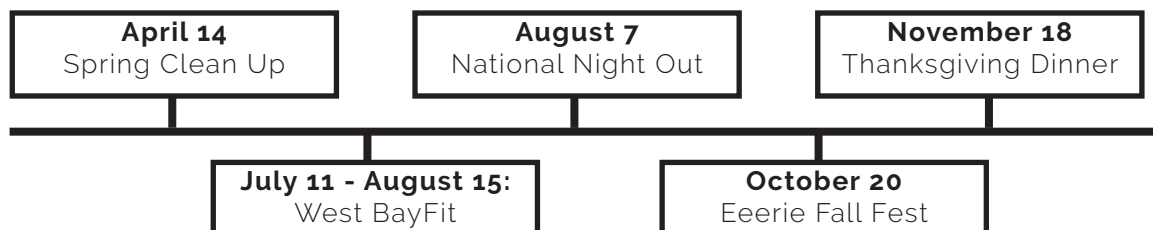
2K+

individuals  
participated in free  
community events.

2018 was an exciting year of broadening the scope and impact of our community events. These events are a true representation of the diversity, creativity, and energy that our neighborhoods have to offer. Events such as National Night Out in Gridley Park help to unite neighbors and they demonstrate the spirit of the West Bayfront to the entire region. Through stronger relationships and a rapidly expanding network of community partners, we look forward to an even more exciting calendar of 2019 West Bayfront events.

### A LOOK BACK AT 2018:

Visit our website  
for the 2019  
calendar of events!

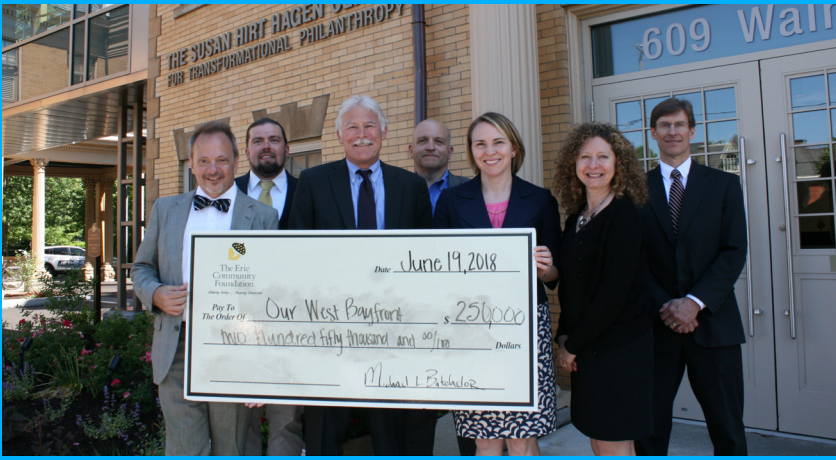


Special thanks to the many committed volunteers that make progress and growth in our West Bayfront possible.

Your work has made a **meaningful difference** in your community this year. We are inspired by your unending commitment to serving your neighbors and look forward to supporting your efforts in 2019.

THANK YOU





## GRANT FUNDS

# \$700K

awarded in grant funds since 2017 for OWB projects and events.

Since 2017, OWB has secured \$700,000 in grant funds allocated towards specific projects such as the Bayview Park Transformation, the renovation of the building located on 404 W. 8th St., and the renovation of the two-family residential home on Walnut. We are pleased that our funding partners share our optimism and have confidence in the community's vision for the West Bayfront neighborhoods, and we look forward to working collaboratively to achieve the goals we have set for the coming years.



## 2019 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Complete Gridley Park Renaissance Block
- Begin renewal projects along the W. 8th St. Commercial Corridor
- Enhance & grow West Bayfront events
- Work with the City of Erie to begin improvements at Bayview Park
- Rehab Walnut St. residential property
- Promote local businesses & assets
- Strategically deploy security cameras

# THANK YOU

to our major sponsors & partners. Thanks to you, we are a community in action to build a better Bayfront.

**UPMC  
HEALTH  
PLAN**



*Believe in the possibilities.*

**Marquette  
SAVINGS BANK**



# GET INVOLVED

Here are a few ways that you can get involved:



## Volunteer at an Event

There is always an opportunity to volunteer at events like West BayFit, National Night Out, or Eerie Fall Fest. Email [info@ourwestbayfront.org](mailto:info@ourwestbayfront.org) if you're interested!

## Attend a Community Meeting

Our West Bayfront Community meetings are great opportunities to stay informed and give us your input!

**April 2 | 6-7:30 p.m.**      **October 1 | 6-7:30 p.m.**  
Emerson Gridley School   Strong Vincent Middle School

Check our website for details on these and other neighborhood meetings!



## Invest Financially

We would not be able to maintain our impact without your generosity. Soon, you will be able to give online any time, or you can donate on **Erie Gives Day on August 13th!**

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- **\$10,500** granted and contributed towards OWB events
- **\$400,000** in grant funds awarded for OWB-owned property rehabilitation projects
- **\$2,539** in funds contributed on Erie Gives Day for Bayview Park
- **\$2,500** in unrestricted individual donations
- **\$110,000** in grant funds to property owners for repairs in 2018
- **\$9,000** spent on 2018 events
- **\$12,750** spent on vacant lot improvements
- **\$48,313** spent on property acquisition

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| • Candace Battles  | • Betsy Monsalve  |
| • Almitra Clerkin  | • Marco Monsalve  |
| • Walter Iwaneko   | • Mike Nolan      |
| • Mike Jaruszewicz | • Erika Ramalho   |
| • Erica Jenkins    | • Chuck Scalise   |
| • Marsha Marsh     | • James Sherrod   |
| • Floyd McClure    | • Jason Wieczorek |

## STAFF

- Anna Frantz, Executive Director
- Daniela Flores, Revitalization and Resident Liason VISTA



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