

OUR WEST BAYFRONT



September, October 2023

Neighborhoods in action to build a better bayfront community.

New Mural Completed!

In partnership with Our West Bayfront, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center and Erie Arts and Culture, artist Sarah Jacobs and students from the MLK, Jr. Center created and completed a mural at the Bayfront Mini-Mall, located at West 4th and Cherry Streets. Long-time residents of the neighborhood were invited to share their experiences of the neighborhood and students were able to learn about that history as they created their own art that reflected their future in the community. Students helped design the mural, and contributed their own drawings that line the border of the mural.



This work continues improvements made at We the People Park, where in 2020, OWB and the MLK, Jr. Center worked with residents to transform this area into a community gathering space with artwork, seating, and landscaping. Funding for the new mural was provided by Our West Bayfront, the MLK, Jr. Center, and Pennsylvania Council of the Arts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit ourwestbayfront.org for more details

West Bayfront PorchFest

Saturday, Sept. 30. 12 to 5 PM
Across the West Bayfront

Eerie Fall Fest

Saturday, Oct. 21, 11 AM to 2 PM
Gridley Park

Sign up to volunteer at any
OWB event:

www.ourwestbayfront.org/volunteer/

Volunteer Spotlight



In July, a team of volunteers from the Second Presbyterian Church of Newark, Ohio spent several days in the OWB neighborhoods assisting property owners with repairs and cleanup projects. The team of adults and youth were connected to OWB thanks to Erie's First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant.

We were grateful to have their help and hope they visit Erie again soon!

Lift Liberty Street Update

Work continued over the summer along Liberty Street, thanks to a team of National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) volunteers. The NCCC team, who came from across the country to work in Erie for seven weeks this summer, landscaped the ends of each of the median strips along Liberty Street's signature boulevard, from West 2nd Street all the way to West 10th Street. Sidewalk repairs are slated to begin soon at about six properties, and discussions are underway about other pedestrian improvements to improve walkability along this important corridor.

This work is occurring alongside improvements to nearly two dozen properties, which are receiving matching grants thanks to an ECGRA Renaissance Block grant and resources from the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Erie.



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Summer Events Thank You!

As we look towards an exciting fall events schedule, we are grateful for a wonderful summer we had! Thank you to all of the volunteers, partners, and sponsors who supported another robust and lively events calendar! If your organization is interested in learning more about how to become a partner or sponsor for our 2024 calendar, please contact Anna Frantz at anna@ourwestbayfront.org or by calling (814) 871-7050.

A special thank you to UPMC medical staff members Don Holsten, Chase Rowland, and Lindie Steward. These committed volunteers responded quickly to neighbors in need at Gridley Park National Night Out. We are grateful for their quick thinking and their expertise!



Welcome, Eric!

We are excited to have Eric Kassah join the OWB team as an AmeriCorps VISTA through Lake Effect Leaders. A graduate of the masters program from Gannon University, Eric will focus on environmental sustainability issues in the community. Welcome, Eric!



Erie Gives Day Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Erie Gives Day! We set a goal of reaching 150 donors. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to reach 166 donors, who raised nearly \$14,000! We are excited to put this support towards projects such as Gridley Park improvements and property renovations.



OWB to Renovate Home with Funding from Young Erie Philanthropists



On September 15th, the Young Erie Philanthropists (YEP) presented Our West Bayfront a \$40,000 grant to support OWB's Community Home Rehabilitation Project. OWB will use this grant, YEP's

largest to date, for materials and supplies to renovate a home on West 7th Street and make it available for purchase at an affordable price.

OWB will invite teams of volunteers to assist with the renovation of the home, dramatically reducing the construction costs and creating new ways for people to help make positive change in the OWB community. We are thrilled to begin this project in early 2024 and grateful for the generous support from YEP and their sponsors.

If you are interested in volunteering for this unique project, visit ourwestbayfront.org/opportunities/ to sign up for updates about this project.

Thank you to our major partners and supporters!



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