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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Neighborhood Connections Announces \$273,778 in Funding for 81 Projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland Neighborhoods**

**CLEVELAND (December 9, 2025)** – Neighborhood Connections has approved \$273,778 in grants to support 81 projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland. Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC), the local public funder for arts and culture, will co-fund 16 of these resident-led arts and culture projects through a partnership with Neighborhood Connections.

Highlights of the grants include:

- **Big in the Arts Outreach** was awarded \$3,250 to host workshops for young people in Lee Harvard to learn about film making and playwriting.
- **The Returning Artists Guild, Cleveland**, located in St. Clair Superior, was awarded \$3,250 to host a community conversation, panel discussion, and artist showcase based on the ramifications of incarceration.
- **Universal Love ENT**, located in Union Miles, was awarded \$4,000 to allow youth the space to explore art-based activities that promote creativity, social connections & self-expression.

“The Neighbor Up Action Grant Committee is honored to provide financial and technical support, as well as other resources, to these 81 amazing grassroots groups and organizations. The groups and organizations that received funding are creating spaces for community members to come together to build trust, support one another, learn from each other, and act together on issues they care about,” said Tom O’Brien, Director of Neighborhood Connections. “Neighborhood Connections, through the 31 members of the Action Grant Committee, is proud to support community members to create more space for what they value.”

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture granted \$60,500 to Neighborhood Connections in 2025 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 510 resident-led arts and culture projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland since 2013.

"Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is proud to partner with Neighborhood Connections in providing accessible funding to grassroots organizations within our community" said Jill M. Paulsen, executive director of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. "These groups continue to demonstrate the importance of equitable grantmaking to organizations and projects of all sizes."

Since 2003, Neighborhood Connections has invested more than \$18 million in resident-led projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland.

Neighbor Up Action Grants are offered two times each year to groups of residents in Cleveland and East Cleveland and to create and implement initiatives 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](http://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 \$270 million in over 500 organizations, making our community a more vibrant place to live, work and play. For more information, visit [cacgrants.org](http://cacgrants.org).*

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## Projects Funded in Fall 2025

Neighborhood Connections has approved \$273,778 in grants to support 81 projects in Cuyahoga County.

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the local public funder for arts and culture, will co-fund 16 resident-led arts and culture projects (noted with “\*”) through a partnership with Neighborhood Connections. Learn more at [www.NeighborUpCLE.org](http://www.NeighborUpCLE.org).

Organization Name	Project Name	Neighborhood	Summary
82nd Stay-Connected	82nd Stay-Connected Memorial Day Block Party Celebration	St. Clair Superior	East 82nd Stay Connected, in the St. Clair Superior neighborhood, was awarded \$4,000 to support their Annual Memorial Day Block Party honoring elders, uniting neighbors, and strengthening their community through celebration.
Abington Arms*	Arts & Movement for Wellness Year II	University Circle	Abington Arms residents, located in University Circle, was awarded \$3,250 to host Arts & Movement. Funding will support on-site wellness classes, arts workshops, and trips to University Circle arts venues and other partners.
Amber Walls Interiors	Amber Walls Interiors Drywall Finishing for Beginners	Glenville	Located in Glenville, Amber Walls Interiors was awarded \$3,250 to teach women drywall finishing with the intention of participants finding employment in this field after the training.

Big in the Arts Outreach*	Arts for Change	Lee Harvard	Big in the Arts Outreach was awarded \$3,250 to host workshops for young people in Lee Harvard to learn how to do film making and playwriting.
Breadwinners Academy	Financial Literacy Block Party: Level Up Edition	Lee Harvard	Breadwinners Academy received \$3,250 to host gatherings to give residents the tools and opportunities to take action toward their financial goals in the Lee Harvard neighborhood.
BSA Pack 110	Support for Cub Scout Pack 110	Ohio City	Located in Ohio City, BSA Pack 110 received \$3,950 to support the creation of a new Pinewood Derby track.
C.H.A.N.G.E. Volunteers, Inc.	Adopt a School for Christmas!	East Cleveland	C.H.A.N.G.E Volunteers, in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3,220 to host a holiday event for students at an East Cleveland school this year.
Casualties of Homicide Society	Hearts United: Healing Our Streets	Mt. Pleasant	In Mt. Pleasant, Casualties of Homicide Society received \$2,920 to bring grieving families and communities together to heal, connect, and stand united against violence.
CDC Collab	Detroit Shoreway/Cudell Neighbor Night	Detroit Shoreway	The CDC Collab was awarded \$3,000 to support Neighbor Nights in the Detroit Shoreway and Cudell neighborhoods. Neighbor Nights are "parties with a purpose", bringing neighbors together to support one another, get connected to good information, and to act collectively together on issues they care about.
Clean House Inc	Back Yard Vegan	Buckeye-Woodhill	Clean House Inc, in Buckeye-Woodhill, was awarded \$3,250 to provide a sober environment for the Buckeye Area, utilizing mental stabilization techniques.

Cleveland Phoenix Club	AsianTown 2026 Mid-Autumn Festival GALA	Asiatown	Cleveland Phoenix Club, in Asiatown, was awarded \$4,000 to host 2026 Mid-Autumn Gala, a vibrant celebration that will bring together Cleveland and East Cleveland's Chinese residents and organizations.
Cleveland Roots*	Taking control of our food and our health: expanding garden access in Clark-Fulton	Clark Fulton	Cleveland Roots, in Clark Fulton, was awarded \$4,000 to install 10 raised garden beds in Clark Fulton yards, provide 5 free gardening classes, and expand food freedom.
Comité Mexicano	Dia del Nino 2026	Clark Fulton	Comité Mexicano, in Clark Fulton, was awarded \$4,000 to host Children's Day: a day filled with gifts, music, art, and cartoon characters.
Comma Club Community	Everybody's Turkey Drive	North Collinwood	Comma Club Community, in North Collinwood, was awarded \$3,250 to unite residents to build community and help families access food during the holiday season.
Community Garden at St. Colman*	St. Colman Community Garden	Detroit Shoreway	Community Garden at St. Colman, in Detroit Shoreway, was awarded \$3,250 to transform vacant property into a community garden.
D.O.C. Studios*	Community Mode Monday	Hough	D.O.C Studios, in Hough, was awarded \$4,000 to host a twice monthly creative home base to allow adults to grow in the arts and community connections.
Diamonds & Pearls Chapter Inc	Cleveland Senior Integration Connections Care	Clark Fulton	Diamonds and Pearls Chapter Inc, in Clark Fulton, was awarded \$3,250 to provide beauty services, activities, and companionship to seniors on Cleveland's west side to help improve well being

Ecovillage Neighboring	West 65th & Pear Ave. Community Movie Nights	Detroit Shoreway	Ecovillage Neighboring in Detroit Shoreway was awarded \$2,000 to host family friendly movie nights at West 65th and Pear to bring neighbors together.
Enlightened Heart Space	Healing Activation	Central	Enlightened Heart Space, located in the Central neighborhood, was awarded \$4,000 to provide individuals with hands-on techniques and coping strategies that help to reduce substance abuse and alcohol misuse.
Exquisite Hair Boutique Salon LLC	Crowning Confidence	Buckeye-Woodhill	Exquisite Hair Boutique Salon LLC, in Buckeye-Woodhill, was awarded \$3,250 to nurture self-esteem, mental wellness, and cultural pride through the arts
Fashion Week Cleveland*	Put It On Wax Initiative	Union Miles	Fashion Week Cleveland in Union Miles was awarded \$4,000 to honor hometown heroes with life-size wax sculptures
Fifth Christian Church Disciples of Christ	FCC Annual Community Outreach Day	Lee Harvard	Fifth Christian Church Disciples of Christ, in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$3,250 to provide school supplies, mental health, and physical health services.
Foragers	Jr Healers Club	Brooklyn Centre	Foragers, in Brooklyn Centre, was awarded \$3,250 to lead an interactive workshop series for 10-15 kids on herbalism designed to foster hands on learning
Friends of Davinwood Park	Davinwood Park Restoration Project	Kamms Corner	Friends of Davinwood Park, in Kamms Corner, was awarded \$2,100 to enhance the neighborhood park for community enjoyment and improve the environmental impact.

Grace Chapter #11	Harvest of Hope: A Day of Food, Health & Community	Mt. Pleasant	Grace Chapter #11 in Mt. Pleasant was awarded \$3,250 to provide a holiday meal and health resources to 350 residents.
Hands that Speak Volumes, Inc.	Bridging Generations: A Deaf Community Gala	East Cleveland	Hands That Speak Volumes Inc, in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3,840 to initiate a vibrant, intergenerational event created to reconnect, reengage, and celebrate the Deaf community.
Harvard Square Center	The Harvard Community Computer Class & Repair Program	Mt. Pleasant	Harvard Square Center in Mt. Pleasant was awarded \$4,000 to offer a community class that will teach computer skills, promote self-sufficiency, and promote self-esteem.
Hayzel Greene*	Ink to Impact - Storytelling That Changes Communities	Buckeye-Woodhill	Hayzel Greene, in Buckeye-Woodhill, was awarded \$3,250 for a community arts program offering writing and film workshops, ending in the production and screening of a short film.
Henry Johnson Center	The Cyber Castle	North Collinwood	Henry Johnson Center, in North Collinwood, was awarded \$3,250 to use hands-on, gamified events to make cyber safety concepts memorable for all learners.
Herman Park Block Club	HPBC Support 2026	Detroit Shoreway	Herman Park Block Club, in Detroit Shoreway, was awarded \$1,929 to inspire the Herman Park residents to connect through a block club.
I AM Inspiring Amazing Mothers INC	EmpowerHer	St. Clair Superior	I AM Inspiring Amazing Mothers INC, in St. Clair Superior, was awarded \$3,250 for providing mental health support to single mothers coping with the trauma of family separation.

I Choose Me ICME	Grow 2 Glow	Fairfax	I Choose Me ICME, in Fairfax, was awarded \$4,000 to emphasize wellness, nurturing mind, body, and spirit with access to fresh food and mindful somatic movement.
Islamic Center of Cleveland	Kitchen Connect	East Cleveland	Islamic Center of Cleveland, in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3,250 for pairing youth with mentors to teach cooking skills, fight local food insecurity and foster community.
Jarvis Gibson Foundation	Holiday Angels	Mt. Pleasant	Jarvis Gibson Foundation, in Mt. Pleasant, was awarded \$4,000 to host an annual event rewarding 100 scholars in CMSD schools with a Christmas shopping spree for good behavior, attendance, and grades
John F. Kennedy High School Alumni Association	Senior to Senior	Lee Harvard	John F. Kennedy High School Alumni Association, in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$3,250 to build leadership, confidence, respect, and interpersonal connections.
Karaoke and Conversation	Karaoke & Conversation	Central	Karaoke and Conversation, located in Central, was awarded \$4,000 to educate the community on the importance of voting and the direct correlation between voter turnout and community revitalization.
LAMP Learning & Mentoring Program	LAMP Learning & Mentoring Program	Buckeye-Woodhill	LAMP Learning and Mentoring Program, in Buckeye-Woodhill, was awarded \$3,250 to improve life skills and strengthen critical thinking and literacy aptitude for the youth they serve.
Lee Harvard Memorial Project	Resilient Lee	Lee Harvard	Lee Harvard Memorial Project, in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$3,250 to mend the two communities' relationships by hosting cross-community events.



Lee Heights Community Development Corporation	The White Empowerment TEA	Lee Harvard	Lee Heights Community Development Corporation, in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$3,003 to host a tea party promoting character development, self-empowerment, and community connection.
Legacy Builders*	Finding Your Voice	University Circle	Legacy Builders for Finding Your Voice, in University Circle, was awarded \$3,250 to create workshops for senior members of the community to view scenes of plays and reflect on their own lives for healing.
Legacy Builders	Legacy Builders Demonstration Project	Lee Harvard	Legacy Builders for Legacy Builders Demonstration Project, in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$3,250 to assist elder community members with documenting and preserving memories for themselves, their families and communities.
LIBBEY Worx	R.A.Y. of Light	Buckeye-Woodhill	LIBBEY Worx, in Buckeye-Woodhill, was awarded \$4,000 to host a 12-week wellness program rooted in ancestral wisdom and community.
Little Lumpy's Center for Educational Initiatives	The Great Lakes African American Writers Conference	East Cleveland	Little Lumpy's Center for Educational Initiatives, in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3,250 to celebrate the importance of African American literature and provide resources and inspiration to aspiring artists.
Major Care Ministries Inc.	Four Square Trades	St. Clair Superior	Major Care Ministries Inc, in St. Clair Superior, was awarded \$4,000 to train underserved communities in construction trades to secure jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, and build careers.
McCall Consulting & Associates Inc	Simply Senior Saturdays "Not just for women, men too"	North Collinwood	McCall Consulting and Associates Inc, in North Collinwood, was awarded \$4,000 to engage individuals and address issues that are being faced by navigating the various factors associated with aging.

Muse Musement	The Urban Garden Project	Lee Harvard	Muse Musement, in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$3,250 to transform a vacant lot into a sustainable space that has fresh produce, new opportunities and a green space for local residents
Nannys On The Move	Nutritional Awareness (growing and building foundation home grown fruits and vegetables	East Cleveland	Nannys on the Move, in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3,250 to provide healthy fruits and vegetables to East Cleveland.
Naomi Women of Distinction	Lifeline Cleveland	North Collinwood	Naomi Women of Distinction, in North Collinwood, was awarded \$3,250 to empower local women and girls who are facing mental health challenges by offering a pathway to discover hope and resilience.
New City Cleveland	Winter WorkDay	Buckeye-Woodhill	New City Cleveland, in Buckeye-Woodhill, was awarded \$4,000 to employ youth to clear snow, aid seniors, and improve safety in the neighborhood.
NXTGEN Collective	NXTGEN Mixers	Kinsman	NXTGEN Collective, located in Kinsman, was awarded \$4,000 to host (6) events in multiple neighborhoods to provide young adults (18-35) with HIV prevention education, hygiene kits, clothing, and overall health awareness.
Operation Lean On Me	2nd Annual Letters with Santa	Old Brooklyn	Operation Lean On Me, in Old Brooklyn, was awarded \$3,250 to help local families with holiday gifts, food, and activities, bringing the community together.
Opportunities for Overcomers	Champions for Change	East Cleveland	Opportunities for Overcomers, located in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3,250 to empower individuals facing personal and social challenges by providing structured group therapy sessions combined with volunteer opportunities.

Pedal for Prizes	Old Brooklyn Pedal for Prizes 2026	Old Brooklyn	Pedal for Prizes, located in Old Brooklyn, was awarded \$3,250 to host a free annual event at which participants can win raffle prizes by exploring Old Brooklyn by bicycle.
Project Pink	Girl Talk	Midtown	Project Pink, located in Midtown, was awarded \$2,990 to host a tea-party style gathering for women to connect, share, and heal through sisterhood, softness, and conversation.
ReachOut 360	Reach Fest 2026	St. Clair Superior	ReachOut 360, located in St. Clair Superior, was awarded \$4,000 to empower individuals facing personal social challenges by providing structured group therapy sessions combined with volunteer reach out.
ReSoFrik FM.*	Cleveland Poetry in Black and White (Season 2).	East Cleveland	ReSoFrik FM, located in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3,250 to showcase poets who are rarely given a platform.
Ricks Brothers Foundation	Community Baby Shower	Buckeye-Woodhill	Ricks Brothers Foundation, located in Buckeye-Woodhill, was awarded \$3,250 to host The Community Baby Shower, supporting maternal health and infant wellness through resources and outreach.
Rocky River United Methodist Church*	Pieces of Peace: a Cudell Healing Mosaic Project	Cudell/Edgewater	Rocky River United Methodist Church, located in Cudell/Edgewater, was awarded \$3,250 for an art and healing initiative that invites neighbors to contribute to a mosaic made from broken tiles.
S.O.S. Initiatives	Smart Food Answers Helping Mitigate Waste & Hunger in Cleveland	Lee Harvard	S.O.S. Initiatives, located in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$4,000 to feed food insecure households and houseless individuals while mitigating restaurant food waste.

Sanctuary Enrichment Center	Sanctuary Enrichment Center eSport Collab	Union Miles	Sanctuary Enrichment Center, located in Union Miles, was awarded \$4,000 to provide a structured, competitive video gaming program that promotes teamwork and digital skill development.
Sankofa Circle International	Seeds of Sovereignty: A Skillshare and Workshop Series by Collinwood Friends Garden	South Collinwood	Sankofa Circle International, located in South Collinwood, was awarded \$2,934 to foster food sovereignty and empowerment through gardening, skill-sharing, and community care.
Sixwayz LLC	School Supply Giveaway	Shaker Square	Sixwayz LLC, located in Shaker Square, was awarded \$3,250 to provide students with essential backpacks and school supplies as well as offer free haircuts.
SMBC Community Development Center	Project STAR (Serving Together And Reviving)/Help Us Save Us and Community Engagement	East Cleveland	SMBC Community Development Center, located in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3,250 to host workshops designed to decrease aggressive and violent activities and increase neighborhood engagement.
T.R.E.I.N. Academy/BVOU Behavioral Health Multi-Resource Center	Neighborhood job readiness and Workforce Development workshops for young adults in the community	Glenville	T.R.E.I.N. Academy/BVOU Behavioral Health Multi-Resource Center, located in Glenville, was awarded \$4,000 to host a program focused on job readiness and career advancement.
Tarajia Resilience	Arts and Culinary	Buckeye-Woodhill	Tarajia Resilience, located in Buckeye-Woodhill, was awarded \$3,250 to support students through the school year via tutoring and outreach.
TBP Organization	Safety Summit 2025: Protecting our Community through Safety Awareness	Lee Harvard	TBP Organization, located in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$2,895 to bring awareness to neighborhood safety through education, resources and dialogue.

Teaching Young Women in Society Truth	Reaching at-risk females from the city of Cleveland Through Arts Education	East Cleveland	Teaching Young Women in Society Truth, located in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3,250 to mentor at risk females ages 12-21, helping them learn the importance of arts education.
The Arteriel Group*	Solace Fare	St. Clair Superior	The Arteriel Group, located in St. Clair Superior, was awarded \$4,000 to celebrate unsung Black artists in the St. Clair Superior neighborhood through storytelling and exhibits.
The Cleveland Climate Institute*	Cleveland Climate Watch: Phase 1	Buckeye-Woodhill	The Cleveland Climate Institute, located in Buckeye-Woodhill, was awarded \$2,751 to build a community-powered sensor network that empowers residents to collect and share local climate data.
The Creation Station/Antioch Baptist Church*	Creation Station	Fairfax	The Creation Station/Antioch Baptist Church, located in Fairfax, was awarded \$3,250 to provide a safe space for neighbors to discuss civics & current events as artistic expression.
THE FUTURE LEADERS ACADEMY	BRIDGING GENERATIONS: COOKING AND STORIES TOGETHER	Buckeye-Woodhill	The Future Leaders Academy, located In Buckeye-Woodhill, was awarded \$3,250 to bring neighbors together, building meaningful relationships and learning new culinary skills
The Prolific Achievers Academy, Inc	Rooted Rhythm	Kinsman	The Prolific Achievers Academy, Inc, located in Kinsman, was awarded \$3,000 to host seasonal events focused on nourish the body and spirit with healing, local food access, and community empowerment.
The Returning Artists Guild, Cleveland*	RAG: Community Conversation	St. Clair Superior	The Returning Artists Guild, Cleveland, located in St. Clair Superior, was awarded \$3,250 to host a community conversation, panel discussion, and artist showcase based on the ramifications of incarceration.

The Sparrow's Fortune	Xpressions Public Writing Workshops	Hough	The Sparrow's Fortune, located in Hough, was awarded \$3,250 to host writing sessions discussing key components of Social Emotional Learning, making literacy and emotional regulation accessible.
The Tate Foundation	The Tate Summer Program	South Collinwood	The Tate Foundation, located in South Collinwood, was awarded \$3,250 to host a summer program designed to assist youth with tackling adversities through education.
The Tavern Coffee House	Building Up Buckeye	Buckeye-Woodhill	The Tavern Coffee House, located in Buckeye-Woodhill, was awarded \$1,300 to rehab and build two free little libraries in the Buckeye community.
Universal Love ENT*	Ready, Set, Craft	Union Miles	Universal Love ENT, located in Union Miles, was awarded \$4,000 to allow youth the space to explore art-based activities that promote creativity, social connections & self-expression.
Val Woods CPR LLC*	Team Cardiac The Heartbeat of Heroes: Literacy & Life-Saving Arts Initiative	East Cleveland	Val Woods CPR LLC, located in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3,600 to use literature and performing arts to engage children in reading and life-saving preparedness.
Way of Escape Ministries	Holiday Community Giveaway: Every Young Person Deserves A Gift	St. Clair Superior	Way of Escape Ministries, located in St. Clair Superior, was awarded \$4,000 to strengthen families' connections with a Christmas giveaway.
We're N This Together	We're Thinking About You	North Collinwood	We're N This Together, located in North Collinwood, was awarded \$2,746 to provide transportation and other resources to residents in their community.

Young Diverse Readers	I Love St. Clair-Superior Mother's Day Block Party	St. Clair Superior	Young Diverse Readers, located in St. Clair Superior, was awarded \$3,600 to host a celebration that strengthens community bonds within the St. Clair-Superior neighborhood.
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