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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Neighborhood Connections Announces \$325,792 in Funding for 83 Projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland Neighborhoods

CLEVELAND (June 6, 2025) – Neighborhood Connections has approved \$325,792 in grants to support 83 projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland. Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC), the local public funder for arts and culture, will co-fund 24 of these resident-led arts and culture projects through a partnership with Neighborhood Connections.

Highlights of the grants include:

- **Record216** was awarded \$2,750 for Project Amplify. This initiative offers free recording sessions, live performances & artist development to empower young artists in Cleveland.
- **The Artist Collective** was awarded \$5,000 for the opening of the Creator Hub at The Brownhoist in St. Clair Superior, which will have workshops and a safe space for artists to grow, perfect their craft, and inspire.
- **W 58th St. Block Club** was awarded \$4,980 for Stitching Traditions, a 10-week sewing program with hands-on workshops, tools, and community support to teach practical skills for families in the Clark Fulton neighborhood.

“The work of residents in Cleveland and East Cleveland are using their wisdom, creativity, and local resources to improve their neighborhoods every day. These 83 grassroots groups and organizations are just the tip of the iceberg of the initiatives led by residents that are making a difference in improving the quality of life for all. We are pleased to provide this support to them as they “change the world right where they live’.”

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.

"Neighbor Up grant recipients continue to bring exciting and innovative arts and culture projects to life in their communities," said Jill M. Paulsen, executive director of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. "Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is proud to be a partner in these grassroots efforts."

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.

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Projects Funded in Spring 2025

Neighborhood Connections has approved \$325,792 in grants to support 83 projects in Cuyahoga County.

Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the local public funder for arts and culture, will co-fund 24 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	Project Summary
1000 Ties	Summer Hygiene Kit Distribution	Lee Harvard	1000 Ties , located in the Lee Harvard neighborhood, was awarded \$3,000 to distribute hygiene kits to over 1000 youth this summer.
17 Grands in All	Community Father's Day Event	Fairfax	Located in the Fairfax neighborhood, 17 Grands in All received \$3500 to bring men and their families together to listen, to meet with one another, and to learn about opportunities in the community to make living better for themselves and their families.
180 B.P.M. Arts & Future Tech Alliance*	Cleveland Youth Programming for Heritage Enhancement and Resilience (CYPHER)	Buckeye-Woodhill	180 BPM Arts , in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood, was awarded \$4,000 to work with youth through arts and tech to enhance heritage and build resilient communities.
A Life of Hope Outreach	Hope for the Future	Detroit Shoreway	A Life of Hope Outreach was awarded \$4978 to provide food and items for people in need and conversation in an atmosphere of hope in Detroit Shoreway.

A Place For Us	Concert in The Park 2025	East Cleveland	In East Cleveland, A Place for Us , awarded \$5,000, hosts an annual Concert in the Park in memory of relatives of a number of young people who have died in the community. This event celebrates their lives while also bringing neighbors together in a safe environment, and help each other, and have fun.
Acacia Park Wellness	Youth Mentoring Phase 1	Buckeye-Woodhill	Acacia Park Wellness , in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood, will host a 3-month mentorship for Black youth, ages 16-24, empowering them to advocate for youth needs and wellness. They received \$5,000.
Lakewood University	The Rise Project: Mentoring Young Women to Lead & Succeed	North Collinwood	In North Collinwood, Lakewood University's "Rise Project" intends to empower 15 young women in East Cleveland and Cleveland through mentorship, leadership, and business training. They were awarded \$5,000.
Arts & Culture Flourish*	Arts & Culture Community Expo	Lee Harvard	Arts & Culture Flourish , in the Lee Harvard neighborhood, was awarded \$4,000 to host a Community Expo that will highlight the works of local artist and musicians. They will also and the distribute book bags and school supplies to youth.
Beyond the Wishing Well	From Wishes to Reality: Building a Stronger Glenville	Glenville	In Glenville, with \$3500 from Neighbor Up, Beyond the Wishing Well will be organizing a community clean-up for Earth Day and a Back-to-School Giveaway.
Black Men Who Excel*	Piano lessons	Fairfax	Black Men Who Excel , in Fairfax, received \$3500 to provide piano lessons to students to learn this instrument while improving social/emotional learning.
Black Widow Management and Productions*	Positive representation in the media	Midtown	In Midtown, Black Widow Productions is offering an invitation to heal through storytelling, arts, and culture. They were awarded \$5000.
Buckeye Trauma Informed Coalition	The Legacy Link	Buckeye-Woodhill	The Buckeye Informed Trauma and Healing Coalition was awarded \$3500 to host gatherings focused on bridging the gap in understanding between multiple age groups especially focused on seniors and youth.
Camping for Wellness	Camping for Wellness	North Collinwood	Camping for Wellness will use a holistic approach to provide three retreat sessions for people in the North Collinwood neighborhood. They were awarded \$3500.

Chinese Women Association of Cleveland	Big Sister's Group	Asiatown	The Chinese Women Association of Cleveland's Our Big Sisters Group will support women through monthly workshops on health, legal aid, family, and finance in Asiatown. They were awarded \$5000.
CIPTT, Inc	Empowering Central Youth as Change Agents for Healthier Food Options: Social Media Campaign	Central	In Central, CIPTT received \$5000 to develop social media to engage Central teens to be change agents for healthier food choices and learn about urban gardening.
Cleveland Co-op Circles Organizing Collective	Cleveland Co-op Circles	Buckeye-Woodhill	Cleveland Co-op Circles was awarded \$4000 to host a series of bi-monthly events serving as the “front door” to the co-op movement in Cleveland.
Cleveland Cultural Gardens Community Night Committee	Community Night and Glenville's Got Talent	Glenville	The Cleveland Cultural Gardens Community Night Committee will plan and host an evening celebrating the community and the talents of residents. They were awarded \$3950.
Cleveland Literature and Education Venture for Empowering Readers (CLEVER)*	CLEVER Comics: Writing History, Drawing Futures	Buckeye-Woodhill	CLEVER , in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood, was awarded \$3500 to create graphic novels highlighting Cleveland’s Black historical figures to increase literacy and civic engagement.
Cleveland Silent Film Festival & Colloquium*	Free Monthly Silent Film Series at the Louis Stokes Auditorium, Cleveland Public Library	Downtown	The Cleveland Silent Film Festival and Colloquium is a free monthly program of silent films presented with live musical accompaniment by area musicians in Downtown Cleveland. They were awarded \$4325.
Collinwood Yardsale	Collinwood Sell Away Yard Sale 2025	North Collinwood	In Collinwood, the Collinwood Yardsale Initiative will organize a yearly community yard sale. They were awarded \$2500.
Cookin’ Fathers	Cookin’ Fathers Season 2	Midtown	In Midtown, Cookin' Fathers empowers fathers and families with the skills and knowledge needed for improved nutritional health and wellbeing. They were awarded \$5000.
Creative Solutions	Creative Solutions Community Garden	Union Miles	Creative Solutions , in Union Miles, received \$3000 to connect neighborhood residents through edible landscapes and home gardening.
Dunham Tavern Museum	The Summer Stop at Dunham	Midtown	The Summer Stop at Dunham, hosted by the Dunham Tavern Museum , will host regular events in the summer that will include music, food, and CSA pickup.
E C Grows Community Garden	Growing Together Phase 3 - "Water...Water "	East Cleveland	EC Grows Community Garden in East Cleveland was awarded \$3500 to support the building of an irrigation system in their garden.

East 142nd Street Club	Block Party	East Cleveland	East 142nd Street Club , located in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3,000.00 to build better relationships within the community between seniors and children, and encourage new and useful relationships. They are located in East Cleveland.
Echoes of The Sun*	Phase 1	North Collinwood	Echoes of the Sun , located in North Collinwood, was awarded 2,450.00 to unite music, art, poetry, gaming, and film to inspire creativity, connection, and cultural expression.
Extended Family*	Parade the Circle	East Cleveland	Extended Family , located in East Cleveland, was awarded \$3,500.00 to host an intergenerational parade series in collaboration with the Cleveland Museum of the Arts.
Family Wellness Network CLE	Generations United For Health	Lee Harvard	Family Wellness Network CLE , located in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$3,500.00 to host a Family Walk/Run, Cooking Event, and Eat Healthy-Be Active Community Workshops.
Ferris Coalition	Neighbors United	Union Miles	Ferris Coalition , located in Union Miles, was awarded \$2,500.00 maintain a clean and safe environment for residents in their community.
First Greater New Zion Temple of Health Ministry	G.R.A.C.E Senior Program	Union Miles	First Greater New Zion Temple of Health Ministry , located in Union Miles, was awarded \$3,800.00 to provide community and educate senior adults on the importance of health for longevity
Gardening in the District nonprofit	BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER	Glenville	Gardening in the District , located in Glenville, was awarded \$3,500.00 to show youths throughout Cleveland that this city is a great home while capturing the art it has to offer.
Giving Circle 2.0	Giving Circle 2.0	Kinsman	The Giving Circle 2.0 , located in Kinsman, was awarded \$2,880.00 to host a community event that celebrates the resilience and creativity of Cleveland residents.
Got Knack*	5th annual food for thought wellness fest	North Collinwood	Got Knack , located in North Collinwood, was awarded \$3,000.00 to host "Food for Thought", a vibrant celebration that combines a talent show, art installation, and food giveaway, in an artistic way,
Green Hathaway Initiative Neighbors	Community Engagement Block Party	Glenville	Green Hathaway Initiative Neighbors , located in Glenville, was awarded \$5,000.00 a Block Party that celebrates community, promotes food security, and showcases farm-to-table cooking with music and resources.

GWA Global Girls With Attitude*	Girls Go Global	East Cleveland	GWA Global Girls With Attitude , located in East Cleveland, was awarded \$5,000.00 to empower girls 10–13 with arts, culture, & mentorship, fostering global awareness, empathy, & appreciation.
H.O.P.E. Bereavement Fund Inc.	25th Annual Appreciation Day	Mt. Pleasant	H.O.P.E. Bereavement Fund Inc. , located in Mt. Pleasant, was awarded \$5,000.00 to provide educational opportunity; by means of mentoring, tutoring, and developing life skills.
Hasani*	Hasani Garden Camp	Bellaire Puritas	Hasani , located in Bellaire Puritas, was awarded \$4,000.00 to empower youth on sustainability, environmental stewardship, disaster preparedness, & artistic expression through arts.
Heartfulness Meditation Center	Cleveland's Rise to a City of Peace	Clark Fulton	The Heartfulness Meditation Center , located in Clark Fulton, was awarded \$2600 to work together to create Cleveland's Rise to a City of Peace.
Heritage: Outreach Task Group	HHP Home Repair & Contractors Community Open House	Fairfax	Heritage: Outreach Task Group , located in Fairfax, was awarded \$3,000.00 to Plan, host, and implement a community outdoors open house event that brings together the public and construction companies.
HERRON ROW STREET CLUB	BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT 2025	Mt. Pleasant	Herron Row Street Club , located in Mt. Pleasant, was awarded \$3,500.00 to beautify their neighborhood so they are proud of it.
incYOU Resource Foundation Inc,	incYOU Classroom Cruiser	North Collinwood	The incYOU Resource Foundation Inc. , located in North Collinwood, was awarded \$5,000.00 for The Classroom Cruiser, a mobile educational vehicle equipped with an assortment of resources required by students.
It's Okay To Think On a Weekday	It's Okay to Think : First wave	Buckeye-Woodhill	It's Okay To Think On a Weekday , located in Buckeye-Woodhill, was awarded \$3,500.00 to create a meetup space for young and old to connect, exchange experiences, and embrace 8 aspects of well-being.
Jardin 4 Life	A Triangle of Food Access	Clark Fulton	Jardin 4 Life was awarded \$4000 to support increased food production in their community garden in the Clark Fulton neighborhood.
MANNA STORE HOUSE	Community sharing is Community caring	Union Miles	Manna Store House , located in Union Miles, was awarded \$3,000.00 to distribute bookbags with school supplies, fresh food bags, snacks, plants and seeds, and tablets to STEM students.

Marshall Avenue Safety Group	Marshall Avenue Back To School Safety Fair	Kinsman	Marshall Avenue Safety Group , located in Kinsman, was awarded \$4,000.00 to host the 23rd Annual Back to School Fair for residents on Marshall Avenue.
Midwest Prowess*	Passion, Poetry, & Prowess: The Power of Artistic Expression	Clark Fulton	Midwest Prowess , located in Clark Fulton, was awarded \$5,000.00 to bring expression to inspire, connection, and empowerment through art, spoken word, and music.
MONEY CHAIN INVESTMENT GROUP	MCIG ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE	Fairfax	Money Chain Investment Group , located in Fairfax, was awarded \$4,000.00 to purchase school supplies for families in need of assistance.
Music in the Kentucky Garden Series*	Music in the Garden	Ohio City	Music in the Garden is a free, public concert series held at the gorgeous Kentucky Garden community garden in Ohio City. They were awarded \$3200.
Mustard Seed Works	Bee FruitFULL	Central	Mustard Seed Works , located in Central, was awarded \$5,000.00 to create a community apothecary and showcase 3 years of dedicated community building.
NAVVAN	Women's Self Care Essentials: Phase 3	Kinsman	NAVVAN , located in Kinsman, was awarded \$4,000.00, to bring understanding to communities & agencies on Period Poverty. How it affects families financially, emotionally & socially.
Neighborhood Buzz!	Senior Bingo Initiatives	Union Miles	Neighborhood Buzz! , located in Union Miles, was awarded \$3,000.00 to combine bingo with health education and/or exercises for those 60 and older.
Neighborhood Media Foundation	Transformation of the Erie Chinese Journal	Asiatown	Neighborhood Media Foundation , located in Asiatown, was awarded \$3,500.00 to modernize an AsiaTown-based community paper to foster better understanding inside and outside Cleveland's Asian communities
New Sardis Primitive Baptist Church	Teach the Young People	Mt. Pleasant	New Sardis Primitive Baptist Church , located in Mt. Pleasant, was awarded \$3,500.00 to facilitate seniors tutoring youth for two hours each week during the summer.
NuLife Charities	A Taste of Vegan	North Collinwood	NuLife Charities , located in North Collinwood, was awarded \$3,500.00 to host a vibrant community block party around plant-based living, local entrepreneurship, & cultural diversity.
Oh Sew Powerful, Inc.	Dashiki Dreams Juneteenth Jamboree	Lee Harvard	Oh Sew Powerful, Inc. , located in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$3,500.00 to host an intergenerational celebration of unity and heritage with a dashiki fashion show, history, foods, and arts and crafts.

PLANTING POSITIVE SEEDS AND RETENTION 216*	Planting Positive Seeds: Community Healing Through Gardening, Arts, and Self Reflection (PPSR216)	Lee Harvard	Planting Positive Seeds and Retention 216 , located in Lee Harvard, was awarded \$5,000.00 to host a community-driven project that transforms vacant land into an urban garden and cultural gathering space.
PLAY-WEAR CLOSET	PLAY-WEAR CLOSET BACK TO SCHOOL GIVEAWAY 2025	Union Miles	Play-Wear Closet , located in Union Miles, was awarded \$3,000.00 to provide school clothing and shoes to children ages 5 years old through 18 years old for children in Cleveland Metropolitan School District.
Queer Artist Coalition of Cleveland *	Sh'bang Fest	Clark Fulton	Queer Artist Coalition of Cleveland , located in Clark Fulton, was awarded \$3,000.00 to host a queer arts festival that connects the community through programming, performances, and arts events.
Record216*	Project Amplify: A Creative Neighborhood Without Borders	Ohio City	Record216 , in Ohio City, is organizing Project Amplify. This initiative offers free recording sessions, live performances & artist development to empower young artists in Cleveland. They received \$2750.
Release Grief and Heal*	Releasing Grief by Healing Thru Creative Art	North Collinwood	Release, Grief and Heal , in North Collinwood, was awarded \$5000 to educate individuals on how to process & navigate grief, loss, & other systemic issues that they face in everyday life.
RISE Community Advancement*	RISE and SHINE Summer Concert Series 2025	North Collinwood	Rise Community Advancement will offer live music and food, as well as practical nutrition info and food prep demos to the North Collinwood neighborhood on a regular basis. They were awarded \$5000.
Riverside Park Community Outreach Committee	Unlock the Magic of Healthy Living Phase II	Kamms Corner	Riverside Park Community Outreach , in Kamm's Corner, will advance a multi-cultural, interconnected community while prioritizing health and well-being. They received \$3,400.
Roberto Clemente Baseball League	Celebration and Growth 2025	Clark Fulton	The Roberto Clemente Baseball League , in Clark Fulton, was awarded \$4975 to increase the number of teams in their league to increase the number of children and youth able to participate in baseball this season.
S.O.S Camp Helena	Hawley Park Restoration Conversations: 100 Neighbors	East Cleveland	SOS Camp Helena is organizing Hawley Park Restoration Conversations in East Cleveland, which will gather 100 Intergenerational neighbors to dream of the neighborhood park's restoration. They received \$3500.

SENIORS AGING GRACEFULLY	Grandma's Club	Buckeye-Woodhill	Seniors Aging Gracefully will provide transportation and enrich the lives of seniors through field trips, arts and crafts, and social gatherings in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood. They were awarded \$5000.
SHINE Academy*	SHINE Academy	Hough	S.H.I.N.E Academy , in Hough, empowers girls through performance art therapy, mentorship, and self-expression, and resilience.
Southeast Cleveland Resource Center*	Fleet Music Fest	Broadway-Slavic Village	The Southeast Cleveland Resource Center is hosting the Fleet Music Festival, which seeks to unite the community through music.
Speak Into The Light	Don't be Rude Program	Buckeye-Woodhill	Speak Into the Light is hosting the Don't Be Rude program in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood. This program fosters manners and social skills by uniting children, young adults, and seniors in meaningful activities.
Super Garden Kidz	Epic Summer Programs	Brooklyn Centre	In Brooklyn Centre, Super Garden Kidz is continuing to offer quality programs to support and grow the Super Garden Kids in Brooklyn Centre
Team La Family Off-Roaders	Team La Family Off-Roaders Back to School Support	Clark Fulton	Team La Family Off-Roaders , in the Clark Fulton neighborhood will help families in need by ensuring kids have what they need to be successful in the new school year.
Tender Heart Crusades	Art in Motion: Empowering Change through Film and Dance	Hough	In Hough, Tender Hearts Crusades will organize a summer program (June 23 - Aug 8, 2025) that empowers youth through film and dance at the Rainey Institute.
The Artist Collective*	Cleveland creator hub	St. Clair Superior	The Artist Collective is opening the Creator Hub at The Brownhoist in St. Clair Superior, which will have workshops and a safe space for artists to grow, perfect their craft, and inspire.
The Spot Youth Empowerment Org.	Voter Education Empowerment Series	East Cleveland	The Voter Empowerment Series, organized by The Spot Youth Empowerment , was created to increase the number of knowledgeable voters among the youth in the city of East Cleveland.
The Westside Block Party	The Westside Block Party: Celebrating Southeast Asian Voices in Our Neighborhood	Cudell/Edgewater	The Westside Block Party celebrates Cleveland's Southeast Asian community in Cudell/Edgewater, fostering unity & understanding while honoring our culture

The Zuri Academy*	Literary Arts and Gardening	Mt. Pleasant	Literary Arts and Gardening provides both gardening and creative writing workshops during out of school and afterschool time in Mt. Pleasant. They are supported with a \$3500 grant.
Upcycle Parts Shop	Upcycle Parts Shop: Tiny Desk Series	St. Clair Superior	In St. Clair Superior, Upcycle Parts Shop will host the Tiny Desk Summer Series to create, connect and strengthen community! They were awarded \$5,000.
Urban City Codes Technology and Community Resources - urbancitycodes.org	Urban City Farms	Midtown	Urban City Farms is a community Initiative dedicated to urban sustainability, food security, and environmental awareness. Located in Midtown, they were awarded \$5000.
urbanvanguardz youth intervention and social club	St Clair Superior Fishing Club	St. Clair Superior	The St. Clair Superior Fishing Club will create an intergenerational fishing club with \$5000 in grant support.
Vibes Cutz LLC	Good Vibes Project	Buckeye-Woodhill	In Buckeye-Woodhill, the Good Vibes Project will provide grooming, mentoring services to positively impact youth self-image, and financial relief to underserved families. They were awarded \$4980.
W 58th St Block Club*	Stitching Traditions: Sewing for Families	Clark Fulton	Stitching Traditions will host a 10-week sewing program with hands-on workshops, tools, and community support to teach practical skills for families in the Clark Fulton neighborhood. They were awarded \$3,000.
West Boulevard Neighbors	The Good Neighbor Project	Stockyards	The Good Neighbor Project received \$3000 to help highlight the living history of community organizers and advocates working at the grassroot level in and around the Stockyards neighborhood.
WHG*	Youth Graphic Design Using Ai Program	Glenville	Wake Hustle Grind (WHG) received \$3500 to support students with hands-on training in AI-driven design, branding, and digital creativity in the Glenville neighborhood.
Woodbridge West	Woodbridge West Orchard Celebration: A Taste of Community	Clark Fulton	Woodbridge West is organizing an Orchard Celebration in the Clark Fulton neighborhood. This gathering will create an opportunity to for community members to learn more about one another and also organize to support the development of a new community orchard.