

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

QUARTERLY REPORT
SUMMER 2023



PONT INTERNATIONAL
**GORDIE
HOWE**
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

The Community Benefits Plan is a key component of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project. With a commitment to transparent and accountable implementation, the project team is proud to report on Community Benefit Plan activities and accomplishments each quarter. For more information on Community Benefits Plan initiatives visit GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com.

NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION INVESTMENT AND INITIATIVE UPDATES

In July 2023, the project team invested **\$200,000 (CDN)** into 14 projects that will be delivered in Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit, as part of the **2023 Community Organization Investment (COI)** initiative. This is the fourth funding release of this five-year initiative. The projects will be delivered between July 2023 and June 2024. Visit the project website for a list of funded projects and organizations.

Urban Neighborhood Initiatives (UNI) – Creative Placemaking in Southwest Detroit (2022 COI)

UNI developed an empty lot in Springwells to include a native plant garden, a patio and shipping container for an outdoor cooking area and a Gaga Ball pit. Local youth and residents participated in the design and build of the community wellness lot through UNI's *Land Stewardship Program*.

Art Windsor-Essex (AWE) – Look Again! Outside: Sandwich (2022 COI)

In spring 2023, five artwork reproductions from **AWE's** collection were installed around Sandwich. Artwork was co-curated by Sandwich resident, Reginald S. Tolson, and selected based on connections to the community's past, present and future. The reproductions will be used in educational programs and materials. AWE hosted a guided art walk in summer 2023 to celebrate the installation of the artwork in the community.

Top: 2023 Community Organization Investment funding recipients gathered on July 11, 2023, at Journey Home Hospice Windsor for the announcement of the selected projects.

Middle: Local youth and residents helped transform an empty lot in Southwest Detroit through UNI's Land Stewardship Program.

Bottom: Frederick Verner's View of Sandwich, December 1879, can be seen on Sandwich Street as part of AWE's Look Again! Outside series.



We acknowledge that the land in Canada where the Gordie Howe International Bridge project is being constructed sits on Anishinaabe Territory. The Anishinaabeg in the Windsor area are known as the Three Fires Confederacy which consists of the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Nations. This land has also served as a place of refuge for the Huron/Wendat people.

INITIATIVE UPDATES CONTINUED



The *TreeKeepers Kids* program planted 26 trees in Delray/Southwest Detroit in spring 2023.



John McGivney Children's Centre's main entrance painted in the colours of the Progressive Rainbow Flag.

Youth Environmental Program – Greening of Detroit – TreeKeepers Kids

In spring 2023, the **Greening of Detroit** delivered the *TreeKeepers Kids Program*, a place- and science-based education program delivered in three Southwest Detroit schools. Over 130 students from junior kindergarten through grade six participated in class programming and helped to plant 26 trees at their schools or nearby parks.

Girls Group Programming – Sandwich Teen Action Group (STAG)

STAG updated its *Girls Group Program* space to include new couches, a computer and appliances. STAG continues to deliver daily programming to benefit young women aged 14-18, including outings and activities, guest speakers and educational trips, providing these young women with opportunities and a safe space after-school.

Southwest Detroit Youth Programming – Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC)

After-school and summer programming by **DHDC** engaged approximately 90 Southwest Detroit youth and young adults in academic, social emotional and mental health opportunities. Weekly in-person activities focused on science, tech, engineering, arts and math (STEAM), digital arts and media and content creation taught using a culturally appropriate, trauma-informed and healing-centered approach. The multi-faceted development program will continue through 2024.

John McGivney Children's Centre – Rainbow Painting on Pavement (2023 COI)

Three paved areas at the **John McGivney Children's Centre** were painted in the colours of the Progressive Rainbow Flag to honour the LGBTQ2S+ community and create a welcoming place.

MALDEN PARK OBSERVATION AREA

Construction of the Malden Park Observation Area began in September 2023. Opening to the public in early November, the observation area will provide an attractive, safe location, using an existing high elevation in the region, for residents, students and tourists to observe the construction of the Gordie Howe International Bridge. Applicable community feedback collected through a summer 2022 survey on the accessibility of the initial designs was incorporated into the observation area design.

IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY INVESTMENTS

In spring 2023, the project team surveyed the community to better understand the current programming priorities for Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit. Following the consultation, a *Call for Programming Proposals* was issued to collect possible Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy funding opportunities. It is anticipated that the selected projects will be announced in early 2024.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

OVER 10,000 WORKERS ORIENTED ON THE PROJECT

Over 10,000 individuals have been oriented to work on the project in Windsor and Detroit since construction start in 2018. This milestone reflects the positive impact the Gordie Howe International Bridge project has on the local workforce and job opportunities made possible for local residents.



OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Between **April** and **August 2023**, the project team hosted or participated in the following activities:

- the Community Stories Committee Quarterly Meeting
- the University of Windsor Engineering Job Fair
- the 2023 Construction Science Expo
- the University of Windsor's Turtle Island Pow Wow
- the Southwest Skilled Trades Meet and Greet hosted at SER Metro
- the Windsor Essex Local Immigration Partnership Spring Council Meeting
- the Clark Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Call for Programming Proposals information sessions
- tours of the Canadian project site with Women's Enterprise Skills and Training (WEST) students and University of Detroit Mercy students
- Workforce WindsorEssex's Workforce Advisory Committee Meeting
- AWE's Look Again! Outside Sandwich Tour
- SER Metro Summer Career Fair

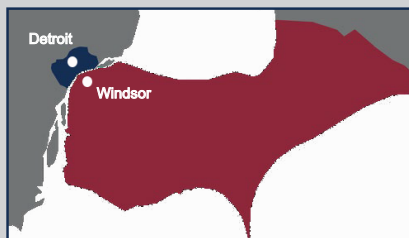
In **September 2023**, the project team launched the process to identify volunteer members of the Local Community Group.

CUMULATIVE TOTALS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018 TO JUNE 2023

10,150+

individuals oriented to the project in Canada and the US

42% are local*



*"Local" is defined as being within the City of Detroit or within 100 kilometres of the City of Windsor



265+

local* businesses engaged on the project



620+

pre-apprentices/apprentices assigned to the project



310+

co-operative learning experiences provided on the project

UPCOMING

INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- Opening of the Malden Park Observation Area
- Community tree plantings in Sandwich hosted by Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)
- Content development for the Windsor-Detroit Cross-River Tour in partnership with the University of Windsor and University of Michigan
- Launch of the 2024 Community Organization Investment initiative
- the Delray Home Improvement Program
- Discussions with the City of Detroit to determine cycling infrastructure investments in Southwest Detroit
- Behind-the-scenes work to deliver the Windsor trail connection, \$1 million (CDN) Sandwich Street Enhancements and trailhead and garden in Detroit
- Engagements with local workforce and educational organizations
- Determining new and expanded Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy investments



Women's Enterprise Skills and Training (WEST) of Windsor program participants tour the Canadian project site in July 2023.

ABOUT COMMUNITY BENEFITS

On the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, **community benefits are identified opportunities that can advance economic, social or environmental conditions for local communities.** In developing the Community Benefits Plan, it was key that the initiatives selected for implementation would provide positive outcomes for the Windsor-Detroit region and specifically focus on enhancing the Sandwich and Delray communities, the neighbourhoods closest to the project area.

Community benefits initiatives are delivered by the project team, a collaboration between Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, Bridging North America and the State of Michigan.

The Community Benefits Plan is comprised of two components:



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY focuses on collaborating with stakeholders and community members through consultation to develop a community betterments strategy based on priorities identified through public consultation, including: community partnerships, community safety and connections, economic benefits, and/or aesthetics and landscaping.



THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY is geared toward engaging businesses and individuals and focuses on supporting workforce, training and pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship opportunities.

THE GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PROJECT is a once-in-a-generation undertaking. Not only will the project deliver much-needed transportation improvements for international travellers, it will also provide jobs and opportunities for growth to the Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan region and includes features that make this project truly distinctive. A key project element is the inclusion of a Community Benefits Plan.

The project consists of four components:



THE BRIDGE



CANADIAN PORT OF ENTRY



US PORT OF ENTRY



MICHIGAN INTERCHANGE

For more information about the progress of the Community Benefits Plan connect with us:

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