



## 2024 COMMUNITY BENEFITS PLAN NEW INITIATIVES

A key feature of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project is the inclusion of a Community Benefits Plan. Launched in June 2019, the Community Benefits Plan reflects community priorities and includes two components – the Workforce Development and Participation Strategy and the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy.

The Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy is a \$23 million (CDN) direct community investment on both sides of the border. As of 2023, 38 projects in Windsor and Detroit were included in the strategy. The 13 new initiatives are a result of a process undertaken in 2023 that involved consultation, the identification of community investment priorities and a public Call for Proposals. As of 2024, the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy is comprised of 51 unique initiatives focused toward the communities of Sandwich/west Windsor and Delray/Southwest Detroit.

Valued at \$2.6 million (CDN), the new investment includes six initiatives in Canada and seven in the US. The project team will allocate the remaining Neighbourhood Infrastructure Strategy funds, totalling \$5.5 million (CDN), in 2024 and 2025. The new Community Benefits Plan initiatives include:

### CANADA

#### ARTS-BASED YOUTH PROGRAMMING

**Partner:** Art Windsor-Essex (AWE)

**Categorization:** Local history and culture

**Timing:** 2024-2025

Free arts-based programming will engage school-aged children in Sandwich and west Windsor. Workshops on various topics will be delivered where youth will learn about local history and culture through creative activities led by local artists connected to the neighbourhood. Results from the workshops will be showcased in Sandwich BIA businesses and AWE community display space.

#### GREEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT AT MARYVALE

**Partner:** The Summit Centre for Preschool Children with Autism

**Categorization:** Green initiatives

**Timing:** 2024

Green spaces on Maryvale's campus will be enhanced to include a naturally designed outdoor area and playground structure. The outdoor enhancements will provide a safe, controlled outdoor space for clients

#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMING

**Partner:** Assumption Cares

**Categorization:** Community safety

**Timing:** 2024-2025

Free services will be offered to Sandwich and west Windsor residents from an enhanced community hub, including community meals, fitness classes, food box distribution, open mic nights, events, workshops and training.

#### HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION ENHANCEMENTS AT THE DUFF-BÂBY MANSION

**Partner:** Les Amis Duff-Bâby

**Categorization:** Local history and culture

**Timing:** 2024-2025

The first floor of the Duff-Bâby Mansion will be transformed into a house museum reflecting more than 200 years of history. A new website and mobile app will support the transformation to

of the Summit Centre for Preschool Children with Autism and others on Maryvale's campus to develop skills and relax in nature.

stimulate interest and allow self-directed tours of the historically significant space.

### **SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

**Partner:** United Way Centraide Windsor-Essex County and COOK Up

**Categorization:** Community safety

**Timing:** 2024-2025

A free school lunch program will be delivered in two Sandwich schools at least one day a week throughout the school year. COOK Up will develop a framework encouraging local businesses to supply food for the program.

## **US**

### **MOBILE WI-FI AND CHARGING STATIONS**

**Partner:** Bridging Communities, Inc.

**Categorization:** Community safety

**Timing:** 2024

Five solar-powered cell phone charging and Wi-Fi stations will be strategically installed throughout Southwest Detroit offering residents the ability to charge cell phones and access the internet 24/7. The mobile stations will be monitored by residents, block clubs and community organizations.

### **UNITY HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRAMMING**

**Partner:** Graft Living Studios

**Categorization:** Green initiatives

**Timing:** 2024-2025

Funding will support renovations at Unity House community center in Southwest Detroit. Once renovations are complete, green programming including community gardening, education classes, workshops and events will be delivered in the space. The community center will also include a resource library with access to various rental items and an information kiosk to connect residents with broader services.

### **HEALTHY HABITS PROGRAMMING**

**Partner:** Community Health and Social Services (CHASS) Center

**Categorization:** Food security

**Timing:** 2024-2025

The Healthy Habits programming includes strategic components to address food security and support wellness in the community. Funding will be directed to CHASS' Mercado, providing prescriptions for fresh produce, nutrition and healthy eating programming and wellness activities for local youth and families.

### **INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE CAMP**

**Partner:** The Detroit River Project

**Categorization:** Wellness

**Timing:** 2024

Camp Freedom at Midnight is an international heritage camp that encourages young people from Detroit and Windsor to discover the history, culture and heritage of the Detroit River region. Funding will allow the year-round camp to offer an immersive educational experience with outdoor activities and other engaging programming to local youth.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMMING**

**Partner:** The Greening of Detroit  
**Categorization:** Green initiatives  
**Timing:** 2024-2025

Southwest Detroit youth and adults will be engaged in activities designed to promote environmental awareness and increase capacity to become environmental stewards in the community. Activities will include school-based programming for elementary and middle school-aged children, Green Corps summer youth employment opportunities for high school-aged youth and community programming and reforestation activities to engage local adults.

## **AMERICORPS URBAN SAFETY PROGRAMMING**

**Partner:** Wayne State University-Center for Urban Studies  
**Categorization:** Community safety  
**Timing:** 2024-2025

A series of community safety programs and interventions will be delivered throughout Delray and Southwest Detroit by local youth service corps members. Community safety will be promoted through events, patrols, business-focused safety initiatives, beautification of vacant spaces and providing automobile and home safety interventions to local residents.

## **CANADA & US**

### **COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING SUMMITS**

**Partner:** To be determined  
**Timing:** 2024

One-day events will be held in Sandwich and Southwest Detroit for local non-profit and charitable organizations to attend sessions that will enhance local knowledge of grant writing, reporting and organizational capacity building.

For more information about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project and Community Benefits Plan, visit [www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com](http://www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com) or call 1-844-322-1773. Follow us on X at [www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg](https://www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg), like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GordieHoweBridge](https://www.facebook.com/GordieHoweBridge) and connect with us on LinkedIn at [www.linkedin.com/company/wdba-apwd](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wdba-apwd).