



BACKGROUND

Supportive Statements

"The Gordie Howe International Bridge project demonstrates Canada's commitment to investing in modern and resilient infrastructure that grows the economy and creates good jobs. The Bridge's Community Benefits plan is a leading example of how our government's infrastructure investments can support transformative social, economic and environmental changes in our communities. With the announcement of the latest round of the Community Organization Investment initiatives, four Sandwich/Windsor projects will receive funding; among these is an initiative highlighting early Black history and diversity through the creation of three short films and an event empowering Black, Indigenous and People of Colour in sports. Projects like these have wide-ranging positive social, economic and environmental impacts and help increase overall wellbeing while improving the lives of local residents."

- The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

"From its inception, one of the priorities for the Gordie Howe International Bridge is making sure the neighboring communities are helped during and after construction. Because of that shared commitment with our Canadian partners, we will grow recreational services in Southwest Detroit, provide enhanced bilingual and literacy education, and support the Clark Park Coalition's Winter Carnival. These are community benefits in every sense."

- Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer

"The Windsor-Essex Community Benefits Coalition is thrilled that local Sandwich Town organizations will be receiving funding from such an exceptional community partner that has supported community voices and initiatives from their beginning. This diverse investment in local history, athleticism, accessibility, and community building represents the tireless work of the Gordie Howe International Bridge team to ensure benefits for stakeholders, operators, users, and the general public. We are excited to continue collaborating with the Gordie Howe International Bridge team and hope that continued economic, social, and environmental prosperity through investments like these will continue for the entire lifecycle of the bridge via a legacy fund."

- Brady Holek, Community Benefits Coordinator, Windsor-Essex Community Benefits Coalition

"The Community Organization Investment grants by the Gordie Howe International Bridge project are delivering much needed services and enhancing quality of life in the Delray and Southwest Detroit community. This year's awardees exemplify the true spirit of partnership with our community - supporting recreation, family assistance, and community connection. These grants are an opportunity to invest positively in our community's future and we are grateful to the Gordie Howe International Bridge project team and to all of the applicants who are working to make our community a better place to live and thrive."

- Simone Sagovac, Project Director, Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition