

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VISIT CANTON AWARDS \$388,611 FOR STARK COUNTY DESTINATION ENHANCEMENTS
11 Stark County organizations received grant funding for projects commencing in 2024.

Stark County, Ohio – Visit Canton, the Stark County Convention & Visitors' Bureau, awarded \$388,611.88 in 2024 Destination Enhancement Grants to 11 Stark County Organizations.

Visit Canton received 18 Destination Enhancement Grant applications, totaling over \$709,000 in funds requested. A committee of Visit Canton executive staff and board reviewed applications and approved support for 11 projects across Stark County.

President & CEO Allyson Bussey expressed, "We are excited to support these major enhancements that elevate Stark County's destination appeal. This was a very competitive process with many worthy projects submitted for consideration."

The following organizations, communities, and businesses received Destination Enhancement Grant awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000:

- **Canton Palace Theatre** | 100th Anniversary Capital Project – ADA Accessibility
\$50,000 – This project enables the Canton Palace Theatre to ensure individuals, regardless of their abilities, have equal access to the facilities. As part of the project, an additional 24 wheelchair-accessible seats, ADA-compliant restrooms, and staging enhancements will make the facility more accessible to patrons and performers with mobility issues.
- **Hartville/Lake Community Development (HLCD)** | Historic Downtown Gateway
\$50,000 – A new gateway marker will be placed in a park-like setting at the intersection of West Maple Street and Prospect Avenue on the northeast corner of the village square connecting Historic Downtown Hartville businesses to other major Hartville attractions including Quail Hollow Park, Maize Valley Winery & Brewery, and HRM Properties including Hartville MarketPlace & Flea Market, Hartville Hardware, and Hartville Kitchen.
- **National First Ladies Library & Museum** | Enhancing the Visitor and Wayfinding Experience
\$50,000 – At the First Ladies National Historic Site, home of the National First Ladies Library & Museum, the funds will support new wayfinding signage to connect the Saxton McKinley Home, the National First Ladies Library & Museum, and guest parking. A fountain will be added as a major enhancement to the First Ladies Park, a multi-purpose public park for educational programming and special events.

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- **Warehouse on the Canal** | Outdoor Event Venue Development & Public Art
Grant awarded in partnership with ArtsinStark.
\$50,000 – Exterior building renovations will transform an outdoor multi-purpose gathering space overlooking the canal in Canal Fulton to be utilized for events and community programming. A new community-focused public art mural will also be included in the major enhancements to the façade.
- **Akron-Canton Jellystone Park** | Clearwater Bark
\$46,124.54 – Clearwater Bark will be a private dog park open to camping guests and day pass visitors with a large zero-entry wading pool, variety of dog-oriented splash features, agility course, and ample space for pet-friendly play. This will be the first dog-friendly waterpark to open in Northeast Ohio.
- **Hall of Fame Village** | Winter Blitz Enhancements
\$41,176 - Expansion of holiday light display and on-field experiences during the Winter Blitz including on-field igloos, an additional 140 lighted trees, and new branded scaffoldings for Touchdown Tubehill.
- **720 MARKET LLC** | Holiday Village at Oakwood Square
\$38,000 – The Holiday Village of Shops will become an annual holiday shopping event throughout November and December at Oakwood Square Plaza. Local shopping and themed activities will be featured within a village of decorated sheds in partnership with resident retail, restaurants, bars, and entertainment at the Plain Township Amphitheater.
- **McKinley Presidential Library & Museum** | Enhancing Guest Experience & Interactive Displays
\$20,448.08 – Guests of the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum will experience new interactive hands-on displays including a new PixelPeg interactive display that will be inclusive to all guests. New exterior signage will elevate the guest experience for the Museum and visitors of the McKinley Monument.
- **Factory of Terror and Ohio Christmas Factory** | Enhancing Guest Experience
\$20,000.00 – Installation of new exterior signage and fence scrim for the parking lot and perimeter to enhance guest experience at the Factory of Terror and Ohio Christmas Factory
- **Umbrella Alley** | Seasonal Art Experiences & Enhancements
Grant awarded in partnership with ArtsinStark.
\$12,500.00 – New seasonal artwork will be installed in Umbrella Alley in Downtown Louisville that will allow the alley to become a destination to experience public art year-round when the umbrellas are not on display.
- **Stark Parks** | Bipolar Butterfly Project Art Installation at Petros Lake Park
Grant awarded in partnership with ArtsinStark.
\$10,359.26 – Site prep and installation of the new public art piece, Bipolar Butterfly Project, in partnership with Stark MHAR, at Petros Lake Park. This public art piece will complement the existing Mindfulness Walk at the Park.

All projects awarded grant funds are set to begin in the 2024 calendar year and are scheduled to be completed within two years of receiving the grant award.

The Destination Enhancement Grant supports projects that enhance destination assets in concert with Visit Canton's mission to attract visitors and generate visitor spending. Applicants could request up to \$50,000. The [complete Destination Enhancement Grant criteria and application process](#) are available to view here.



About Visit Canton:

The Stark County Convention & Visitors' Bureau, d.b.a. Visit Canton, is funded by a lodging tax administered through the Stark County Commissioners. The organization's mission is to promote travel to Stark County. Visit Canton facilitates operations that support the travel and tourism industry in Stark County.

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