



# FutureHeights

## Neighborhood Mini Grants

2023  
Year-end Report



A photograph of two women standing in a garden. The woman on the left is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and black pants, and is holding a small wooden birdhouse. The woman on the right is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and black pants, and is standing with her hands on her hips. The birdhouse is small, yellow with a green roof and a green door. They are standing on a gravel path in front of a green lawn and trees.





# About the program (cont'd).

***WHEN is it happening:*** We offer two rounds of the Neighborhood Mini-Grant every year: once in the spring and once in the fall.

***HOW TO APPLY:*** Apply for a mini-grant using a Google Form. Every season has a new application link – please click [here](#) to find the current option. Reach out to Sarah at [swolf@futureheights.org](mailto:swolf@futureheights.org) for application assistance.

***DUE DATES:*** Applications are due March 15th (for the spring round) or September 15th (for the fall round) by midnight.

***Special thanks*** to our supporters and partners, the Cedars Legacy Fund for providing ongoing support for the Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program.

**FutureHeights Mini-Grants**

*Make your dream  
neighborhood  
project a reality*

**Applications due September 15th**

Questions? Email Sarah at [swolf@futureheights.org](mailto:swolf@futureheights.org)

Details at [futureheights.org/programs/community-building-programs](https://futureheights.org/programs/community-building-programs)

**FutureHeights**

Neighborhood  
Mini Grants



# 95 projects have been funded for a total of \$65,930 (as of Fall 2023)

2023: 20 projects, \$15,392

2022: 14 projects, \$9,700

2021: 14 projects, \$10,452

2020: 11 projects, \$6,000

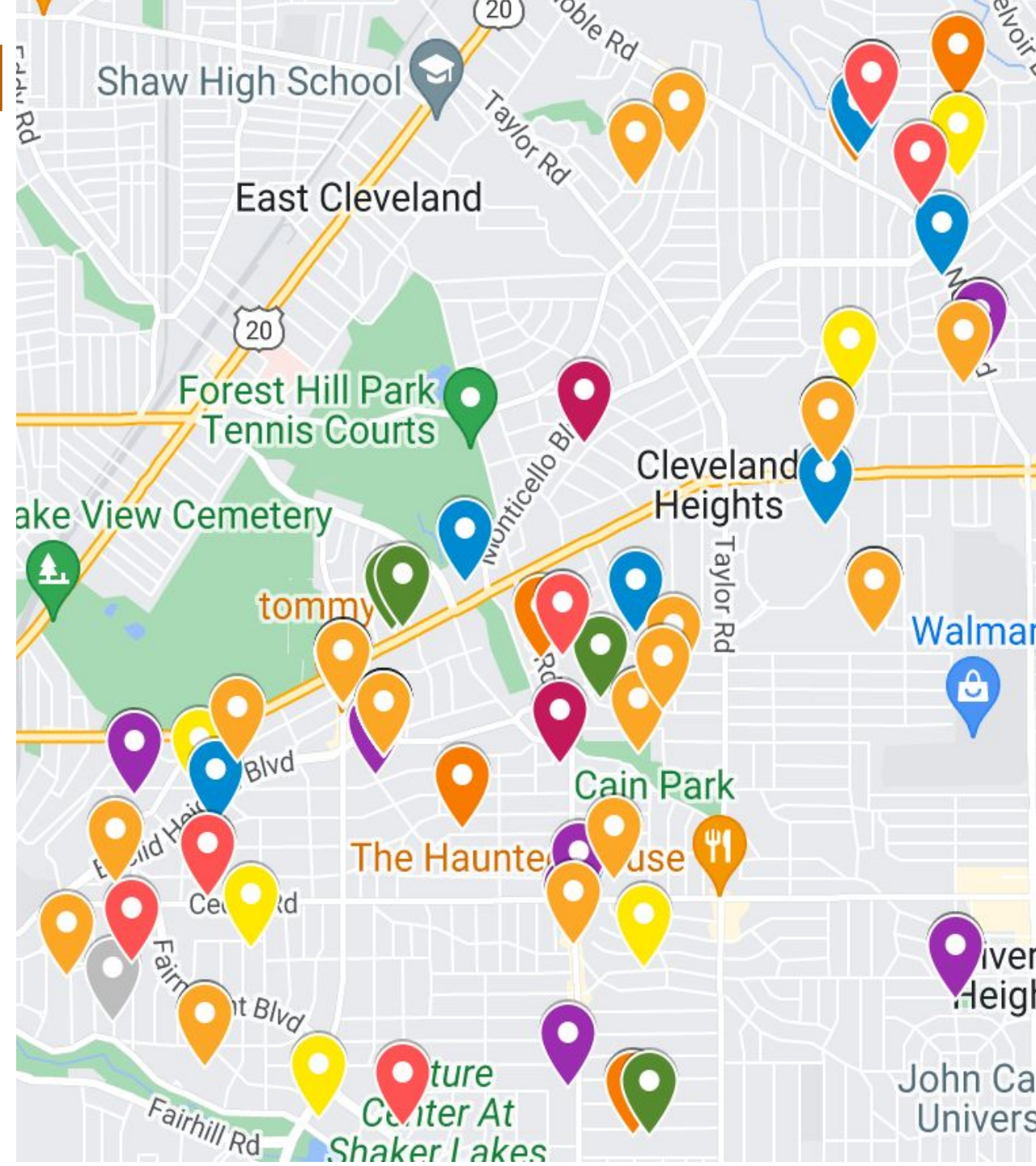
2019: 8 projects, \$6,000

2018: 10 projects, \$5,002

2017: 7 projects, \$4,775

2016: 9 projects, \$7,205

2015: 2 projects, \$1,404





# Annual Allocation of Neighborhood Mini-Grant Funds by Category

CATEGORY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Gardening and Beautification	\$990	\$4,420	\$1,400	\$4,147	\$2,000	\$500	\$3,750	\$2,500	\$2,750	\$22,457
Arts & Placemaking/Marketing and Branding	\$414	\$1,910	\$2,000	\$355	\$2,254	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$1,392	\$14,825
Community Events			\$325	\$500		\$175	\$1,000	\$1,850	\$5,250	\$9,100
Community Outreach & Service		\$875	\$400		\$996	\$400	\$1,202	\$750	\$2,000	\$2,671
Youth Empowering and Engagement			\$650		\$750	\$2,425	\$2,702	\$4,350	\$6,000	\$16,877
TOTAL	\$1,404	\$7,205	\$4,775	\$5,002	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$10,452	\$9,700	\$15,392	\$65,930



# FutureHeights is proud to announce the 2023 Awarded Projects

In total, the Spring round of grants awarded \$10,500 to 13 projects and \$4,892 to 8 projects in the Fall. 2023 marks biggest year of Neighborhood Mini-Grants ever with a grand total \$15,392 allocated to 21 unique projects, each certain to make an impact in their Heights neighborhoods.

FutureHeights is proud to uplift these citizen-driven projects through the allocation of Neighborhood Mini-Grant funds and is grateful to the Cedars Legacy Fund for their continued support, which makes the program possible.



Roxboro Elementary Learning Garden



This Art is for the Birds



High Tunnel Outdoor Classroom



# SPRING 2023 AWARDS

## **PROJECT: “This Art is for the Birds” by Artful; AWARD: \$1,000**

This Summer 2023 event began with arts workshops and resulted in an outdoor Greek theatre-style production at Coventry PEACE Park. Funds were utilized for two high school interns and performing artists.

## **PROJECT: “Heights Middle School Shorts” by Building Heights; AWARD: \$1,000**

This Summer 2023 program provides CH-UH middle school aged children the opportunity to participate in a week-long camp where they write, direct, and produce their own short films. This program has a track record of being a meaningful community program that promotes the arts and engages youth. Funds were used to bring quality instructors and provide other materials for the campers.

## **PROJECT: “Come Home With Me” by Gallery 2602; AWARD: \$1,000**

This Summer 2023 solo-exhibition by artist Antwoine Washington was hosted in the Coventry neighborhood. Funds supported the production of exhibit materials as well as an event photographer.

## **PROJECT: “Nela View Road Tree Watering” by Heights Tree People; AWARD: \$1,000**

For this project, the applicant collaborated with the City of CH and Start Right CDC to plant a total of 47 trees on Nela View Road in the Noble/Caledonia neighborhood. Grant funding would be used to water the newly planted trees.



# SPRING 2023 AWARDS (cont'd)

**PROJECT: “Community Building through Shared Events” by Millikin Neighbors; AWARD: \$1,000**

This group brings a wide array of activities and entertainment to the Millikin Playground, a place they have taken effective stewardship of since the school stopped being in use. Funds are used to support bringing various artists, musicians, dance groups, etc. to host community-building events during the summer months.

**PROJECT: “Reducing Trash on Lennox Road” by Neighbors on Lennox Road; AWARD: \$1,000**

This project looks to install two new trash receptacles in the Cedar-Fairmount neighborhood in an effort to reduce littering. Grant funds would be used to purchase the waste receptacles. This group also plans to do organized litter pickups as well.

**PROJECT: “Neighborhood Book Fair” by Start Right CDC; AWARD: \$1,000**

This project will create a Book Fair that will help promote reading and literacy in the Caledonia neighborhood, where there is no library within walking distance. Grant funds would be used to buy books to provide the children in the neighborhood.

**PROJECT: “Art Workshop Series for Cognitively Disabled Adults” by StudioCat at Artful; AWARD: \$1,000**

For this project, 12-15 disabled adults in Cleveland Heights were invited to participate in an 8-week art-making class at Artful followed by a gallery exhibit displaying their work that the community could visit. Funds supported the facilitation of the classes.



# SPRING 2023 AWARDS (cont'd)

**PROJECT: “Berkeley Road Block Party” by Berkeley Road Street Club; AWARD: \$500**

This project is an annual Block Party in the Boulevard neighborhood. Funds were used to purchase food and other items.

**PROJECT: “Coventry Living Room Project” by Coventry Living Room Working Group; AWARD: \$500**

This project is the creation of an "outdoor living room" in the Coventry neighborhood that serves as a gathering and performance space for the community. Funds were utilized for art supplies.

**PROJECT: “Update the High Tunnel Outdoor Classroom” by Gearity PTA; AWARD: \$500**

This project aims to upgrade the quality of the garden at Gearity Elementary School in University Heights. Funds were used for gardening materials and related maintenance.

**PROJECT: “Noble Cigar Box Guitar Project” by the Noble Cigar Box Guitar Project; AWARD: \$500**

This annual program (now in its third year) provides Heights middle school aged children with the opportunity to learn to build and play their own cigar box guitars. Their program is growing and they have seen the kids respond positively to the musical instruments. This program is intergenerational and has even involved former participants to come back the next year as volunteers. Funds are used to purchase the materials necessary to build the cigar box guitars.

**PROJECT: “Roxboro Elementary Learning Garden” by Roxboro PTA; AWARD: \$500**

This group started a learning garden at Roxboro Elementary School. The garden space would also include mindfulness activities like yoga and the veggies yielded would be available to the entire community. Funds were used to build the initial raised garden beds.



# FALL 2023 AWARDS

## **PROJECT: “Explore and Connect” by Lake Erie Ink; AWARD: \$1,000**

This 3-day program will take place during Spring Break 2024. Here, students from Noble and Oxford will learn more about their neighborhood by conducting interviews with Heights leaders. Students will then write about their experiences and have their work on display around the neighborhood. Funds will support the program facilitation and supplies.

## **PROJECT: “Noble Pride – A Thoughtful Makeover” by Noble Elementary PTA; AWARD: \$1,000**

PTA members will collaborate with students, school staff, and neighbors to give the exterior of the elementary school a makeover. They believe that the perception of safety is tied to a sense of cleanliness and care for a space – and how that can have a ripple effect out into the surrounding neighborhood. PTA members view this project as a reflection of neighborhood pride while encouraging respect, humility, and compassion for all stakeholders. Funds will support paying an artist to work with the group to create some public art, hosting a celebration, and purchasing materials to help with the neighborhood cleanup aspect of the project.

## **PROJECT: “Heights Halloween Festival” by Dobama Theatre; AWARD: \$750**

This annual event is a beloved tradition that seems to be growing every year and allows for Dobama Theatre to develop connections with youth and families in the community. Funds will support the inclusion of festival artists and performers.

## **PROJECT: “Cecil Place Connections” by South Overlook Neighbors; AWARD: \$542**

This group aims to transform a currently underutilized space at the end of Cecil Place along South Overlook Road into a usable community space by removing overgrown shrubs and weeds and installing a park bench. Grant funds will be utilized to purchase a bench and other materials that will aid in their cleanup efforts.



# FALL 2023 AWARDS (cont'd)

**PROJECT: “Noble Pride – A Thoughtful Makeover” by Noble Elementary PTA; AWARD: \$1,000**

PTA members will collaborate with students, school staff, and neighbors to give the exterior of the elementary school a makeover. They believe that the perception of safety is tied to a sense of cleanliness and care for a space – and how that can have a ripple effect out into the surrounding neighborhood. PTA members view this project as a reflection of neighborhood pride while encouraging respect, humility, and compassion for all stakeholders. Grant dollars will support paying an artist to work with the group to create some public art, hosting a celebration, and purchasing materials to help with the neighborhood cleanup aspect of the project.

**PROJECT: “Lantern Festival” by Coventry PEACE Inc.; AWARD: \$500**

This popular event, coming up on Saturday, December 9, has seen steady growth over the last few years and is expected to draw even more this year. Their programming includes lantern making (a family-friendly activity) as well as a community-participation parade through Coventry Village. Grant funds will support the inclusion of artists and performers at the Festival.

**PROJECT: “Coventry Village Holiday Festival” by Coventry Special Improvement District; AWARD: \$500**

This annual December holiday event, scheduled this year for Saturday, December 9, draws attention to the business district and supports the local economy. For this year’s festivities, event organizers are working to engage even more with the merchants, especially restaurants that are typically closed in the evening when the festival occurs. Funds support the purchase of materials needed to execute the event.



# FALL 2023 AWARDS (cont'd)

## **PROJECT: “The Heights Community Land Trust” by Boulevard Neighbors; AWARD: \$350**

A Community Land Trust is a model for perpetually affordable home ownership in which a nonprofit owns and manages the land, individuals own the homes on the land, and the land is managed by a board of directors including the homeowners, other community members and people with expertise. The homes are bought at an affordable price, with a deed restriction requiring that they sell it at an affordable price, albeit with some equity, which allows the owner to build equity while ensuring that the property remains perpetually affordable. Boulevard Neighbors’ goal is to start a pilot project with a single property by the summer of 2024, with the potential to expand to additional properties if this pilot project is deemed successful. Funds will support the group’s creation of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

## **PROJECT: “Cain Park Beautification, 2024 Phase” by Friends of Cain Park; AWARD: \$250**

This popular event, coming up on Saturday, December 9, has seen steady growth over the last few years and is expected to draw even more this year. Their programming includes lantern making (a family-friendly activity) as well as a community-participation parade through Coventry Village. Grant funds will support the inclusion of artists and performers at the Festival.

# ARCHIVE OF PAST AWARDS

## **2015**

Project: Flower Planting for Beautification  
Group: Noble Neighbors  
Award: \$990

Project: Raft Co-Exist  
Group: Raft Co-Exist  
Award: \$414

## **2016**

Project: Boulevard Elementary Outdoor Classroom Enhancement  
Group: Forest Hills Homeowners Association & Boulevard Elementary  
Award: \$830

Project: Oxford Community Garden  
Group: Oxford Community Garden  
Award: \$1,000

## **2016 (cont'd)**

Project: Yard Signs  
Group: Noble Neighbors  
Award: \$910

Project: Garden Shed and Pocket Park  
Group: Montford Community Garden  
Award: \$1,000

Project: [Project name unknown]  
Group: Coventry Village SID  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Forest Hill Historical Signage Beautification Program  
Group: Forest Hills Homeowners Association & Boulevard Elementary  
Award: \$250

Project: Garden Shed Repair  
Group: Oxford Community Garden  
Award: \$480



# ARCHIVE OF PAST AWARDS

## **2016 (cont'd)**

Project: Community Garden Upgrade  
Group: Fairfax Community Garden  
Award: \$500

Project: Cleveland Heights Peace Park Garden  
Group: Urban Oak School  
Award: \$610

Project: Driver's Education Scholarships for Refugees  
Group: The Welcome Hub  
Award: \$1,000

## **2017**

Project: Hanukkah: Light Menorah Party for Special Needs Children  
Group: Bikur Cholim of Cleveland  
Award: \$325

Project: Replace Deteriorating Fence Project Fairfax  
Group: Community Garden  
Award: \$500

## **2017 (cont'd)**

Project: Driver's Education Scholarships for Refugees  
Group: The Welcome Hub  
Award: \$875

Project: Lego Robotics  
Group: Young Entrepreneurs  
Award: \$400

Project: Cleveland Soup & Bread Experiment  
Group: Cleveland Soup & Bread Experiment  
Award: \$400

Project: Perennial Garden  
Group: Noble Neighbors  
Award: \$900

Project: Noble Promotional Video  
Group: Noble Neighbors  
Award: \$1,000

# ARCHIVE OF PAST AWARDS

## **2018**

Project: Talent of the Heights  
Group: Noble Neighbors  
Award: \$500

Project: Beautify the Hill  
Group: Saint Alban's Episcopal Church  
Award: \$750

Project: Lower Shaker Lake Public Space Reclamation  
Group: CUE  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Gardening Set Up  
Group: Montford Community Garden  
Award: \$327

Project: Beautifying the Delisle Center's Outdoor Spaces  
Group: Friends of the Delisle Center  
Award: \$1,000

## **2018 (cont'd)**

Project: Costume Exchange Pop-Up  
Group: The Olde Vaudevillian  
Award: [Unknown]

Project: GardenWalk of Cleveland Heights  
Group: GardenWalk of Cleveland Heights  
Award: [Unknown]

Project: Plawk Noble  
Group: Litter Busters  
Award: [Unknown]

Project: "Tri-P" Project  
Group: Oxford Community Garden  
Award: [Unknown]

## **2019**

Project: Cleveland Heights Aging Well at Home Guide Group:  
Cleveland Heights Aging Well at Home Initiative  
Award: \$720



# ARCHIVE OF PAST AWARDS

## **2019 (cont'd)**

Project: Heights Performing Arts Camp 2019

Group: Heights Performing Arts Camp

Award: \$750

Project: Millikin Playground Enhancements

Group: Maple, Crest, Wood, & Parkhill Neighbors

Award: \$945

Project: Bradford Road Pollinator Path (BPP)

Group: Bradford Road Neighbors

Award: \$1,000

Project: Play Yard

Group: Beth El - the Heights Synagogue

Award: \$809

Project: Boulevard Learning Garden Enhancement Project

Group: Boulevard PTA

Award: \$1,000

## **2019 (cont'd)**

Project: Asset Based Community Development Mapping Project

Group: Coventry Collaborations

Award: \$276

Project: Eddington Pocket Park

Group: North Coventry and Eddington Friends

Award: \$500

## **2020**

Project: Noble Nook

Group: Noble Neighbors

Award: \$500

Project: Millikin Playground Enhancements

Group: Maple, Crest, Wood & Parkhill Neighbors

Award: \$500

Project: Community Event Summer 2020

Group: Cumberland Neighbors

Award: \$175

# ARCHIVE OF PAST AWARDS

## **2020 (cont'd)**

Project: Free Little Library  
Group: Noble Neighbors  
Award: \$500

Project: Heights Performing Arts Camp 2020  
Group: Heights Performing Arts Camp  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Placemaking Ambassador Program - Season Two -  
Garden Beds  
Group: Cedarbrook Society  
Award: \$500

Project: Delmore Community Orchard  
Group: Delmore Community Orchard within Noble Neighbors  
Award: \$500

Project: CLE Deals for the EYEJ Youth Council  
Group: EYEJ Youth Council/EYEJ: Empowering Youth, Exploring  
Justice  
Award: \$600

## **2020 (cont'd)**

Project: Boulevard Mutual Aid Project  
Group: The Euclid Heights Boulevard Block Club  
Award: \$400

Project: Coventry Parking Garage Light/Art Installation Group:  
Coventry Village Special Improvement District  
Award: \$500

Project: Youth Who Vote Series  
Group: Heights Youth Council  
Award: \$825

## **2021**

Project: 50th Celebration Pt 2  
Group: University Heights Symphonic Band  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Community Building & Playground Improvement  
Group: Millikin Neighbors  
Award: \$500



# ARCHIVE OF PAST AWARDS

## **2021 (cont'd)**

Project: Free Circus Days  
Group: Wizbang Theatre  
Award: \$500

Project: Heights Middle School Shorts  
Group: Building Heights  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Noble Cigar Box Guitars  
Group: Noble Neighbors  
Award: \$500

Project: Public Gardening  
Group: Cedarbrook Society  
Award: \$500

Project: Ring Way  
Group: Cedar Fairmount Arts  
Award: \$1,000

## **2021 (cont'd)**

Project: Rocks of Kindness  
Group: Friends of “Art in the Park”  
Award: \$202

Project: Sunset Park  
Group: Lower Edgehill Neighborhood Association  
Award: \$500

Project: Walter Stinson Park Restoration  
Group: Friends of The Walt  
Award: \$750

Project: EYEJ Meet and Greet  
Group: EYEJ: Empowering Youth Exploring Justice  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Green Space Beautification and Sustainability Awareness  
Group: Cleveland Heights Green Team (CHGT)  
Award: \$1,000

# ARCHIVE OF PAST AWARDS

## **2021 (cont'd)**

Project: Noble-ity Bench Project  
Group: Noble Neighbors  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Replacing Border Boards Along Garden Pathways  
Group: Fairfax Community Garden  
Award: \$1,000

## **2022**

Project: Lantern Festival  
Group: Coventry PEACE Campus  
Award: \$1,000

Project: GardenWalk Cleveland Heights  
Group: GardenWalk Cleveland Heights  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Word Gardeners  
Group: Lake Erie Ink  
Award: \$1,000

## **2022 (cont'd)**

Project: Community Building & Playground Improvement  
Group: Millikin Neighborhood Group  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Lunch Bunch Programming  
Group: Boulevard Elementary School PTA  
Award: \$750

Project: 3rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration in Coventry Village  
Group: Coventry Village SID  
Award: \$500

Project: Cain Park Native Plant Beautification  
Group: Friends of Cain Park  
Award: \$500

Project: Noble Gardners' Market  
Group: Noble Neighbors  
Award: \$500



# ARCHIVE OF PAST AWARDS

## **2022 (cont'd)**

Project: Grandview Community Calendar  
Group: Grandview Luminaries  
Award: \$350

Project: Noble Cigar Box Guitar Project  
Group: Noble Cigar Box Guitar Project  
Award: \$350

Project: Sustainability Awareness and Activism  
Group: Cleveland Heights Green Team  
Award: \$750

Project: Raised2Grow  
Group: Oxford Community Garden  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Pivot: Hydroponic Sowing and Growing in an Urban  
School Library  
Group: Roxboro Elementary School  
Award: \$1,000

## **2023**

Project: This Art is for the Birds  
Group: Artful  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Heights Middle School Shorts  
Group: Building Heights  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Come Home With Me  
Group: Gallery 2602  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Nela View Road Tree Watering  
Group: Heights Tree People  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Community Building through Shared Events  
Group: Millikin Neighborhood Group  
Award: \$1,000

# ARCHIVE OF PAST AWARDS

## **2023 (cont'd)**

Project: Reducing Trash on Lennox Road  
Group: Neighbors on Lennox Road  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Neighborhood Book Fair  
Group: Start Right CDC  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Art Workshop Series for Cognitively Disabled Adults  
Group: StudioCat at ARTFUL  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Berkeley Road Block Party/Community Building  
Group: Berkeley Road Street Club  
Award: \$500

Project: Coventry Living Room Project  
Group: Coventry Living Room Project Working Group  
Award: \$500

## **2023 (cont'd)**

Project: Update the High Tunnel Outdoor Classroom  
Group: Gearity PTA  
Award: \$500

Project: Noble Cigar Box Guitar Project  
Group: Noble Cigar Box Guitar Project  
Award: \$500

Project: Roxboro Elementary Learning Garden  
Group: Roxboro Elementary School PTA  
Award: \$500

Project: Explore & Connect  
Group: Lake Erie Ink  
Award: \$1,000

Project: Noble Pride - A Thoughtful Makeover  
Group: Noble Elementary PTA  
Award: \$1,000

# ARCHIVE OF PAST AWARDS

## 2023 (cont'd)

Project: Halloween Festival 2023

Group: Dobama Theatre

Award: \$750

Project: Cecil Place Connections

Group: South Overlook Neighbors

Award: \$542

Project: Lantern Festival

Group: Coventry PEACE Inc.

Award: \$500

Project: Coventry Village Holiday Festival

Group: Coventry Village SID

Award: \$500

Project: The Heights Community Land Trust

Group: Boulevard Neighbors

Award: \$350

## 2023 (cont'd)

Project: Cain Park Beautification, 2024 Phase

Group: Friends of Cain Park

Award: \$250





**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” - *Margaret Mead***