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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Neighbor Up Network Announces \$254,297 in Funding for 66 Projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland Neighborhoods**

**CLEVELAND (December 17, 2024)** – The Grant Making Committee of the Neighbor Up Network has approved \$254,297 in grants to support 66 projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland. Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC), the local public funder for arts and culture, will co-fund 19 of these resident-led arts and culture projects through a partnership with Neighborhood Connections. The McGregor Foundation, a private foundation that supports seniors, will co-fund 9 of these resident-led initiatives. Neighborhood Connections, a grassroots funder, co-funded all 66 of these grant proposals.

Highlights of the grants include:

- **SHED Projects** was awarded \$3500 to host a six-week program in celebration of Semana Santa, featuring the internationally acclaimed Familia Linares, renowned folk artists from Mexico City. This event will be a vibrant fusion of art, tradition, and community engagement, deeply rooted in the rich cultural heritage of Cartonería—the traditional Mexican craft of paper sculpture.
- **St. Clair Mobile Art Cart** was awarded \$2,000 to host community spaces for art journaling for both youth and adults in St. Clair Superior, with the goal of getting people to let go of self-judgment and become open to art as therapy.
- **The Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, North Coast Chapter** was awarded \$5,000 for a proposed program in North Collinwood's local libraries to teach students and community members about the history of the Tuskegee Airmen and inspire them. The team will also let youth know about job opportunities available to them in aviation.

“We are honored to support these groups and organizations doing amazing work in Cleveland and East Cleveland,” says Neighborhood Connections Director Tom O’Brien.

“When a few people come together with good intentions and a plan, great things can happen. These organizations and groups are living examples of this belief.”

Since 2003, Neighborhood Connections has invested more than \$15 million in resident-led projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland.

Neighbor Up grants are offered several times each year to groups of residents in Cleveland and East Cleveland and, for projects related to the pandemic, to residents in Cuyahoga, Lake, and Geauga counties, to do projects that improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Groups are encouraged to work with partners and to propose creative solutions to challenges in their community.

### **About the Neighbor Up Network**

*Neighbor Up is a powerful network of over 3500 members. The Neighbor Up Network connects individuals in Cleveland and East Cleveland by building bridges across lines of difference to one another for mutual support, collective action, and to share good information about opportunities and resources. Neighbor Up members create and curate intentional spaces, practices, and networks of mutual support to build the robust community connections we need for a greater quality of life and a more just, equitable Cleveland. For more information, visit [NeighborUpCLE.org](https://NeighborUpCLE.org).*

### **About Neighborhood Connections**

*Neighborhood Connections is a nationally recognized community-building program established in 2003. Its mission is to fuel the power of neighbors to create, together, an extraordinary world right where they live. For more information, visit [NeighborUpCLE.org/neighborhood-connections/](https://NeighborUpCLE.org/neighborhood-connections/)*

### **About Cuyahoga Arts & Culture**

*Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) is the region’s largest funder for arts and culture, helping hundreds of organizations in Cuyahoga County connect millions of people to cultural experiences each year. Since 2006, CAC has invested more than \$257 million in 500 organizations, making our community a more vibrant place to live, work and play. CAC is a separate government entity and a political subdivision of the State of Ohio. For more information, visit [cacgrants.org](https://cacgrants.org).*

### **About the McGregor Foundation**

*The McGregor Foundation, established in 2002 as a private grantmaking foundation, evolved from a history of more than 140 years of providing distinguished care for seniors through The McGregor Home. The McGregor Foundation carries McGregor’s mission of “supporting seniors in need and those who serve them” throughout all of Cuyahoga County, beyond the organization’s East Cleveland campus. For more information, visit [mcgregorfoundation.org](https://mcgregorfoundation.org).*

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