

IMAGINE

an Erie in which...

Arts, culture, and creativity are woven into the fabric of everyday life and are integrated into every neighborhood.

Erie County is a magnet for artists and creative professionals where arts and culture organizations and creative industries thrive.

Every child in our County has the opportunity to be involved and participate in arts and culture through experiences in their schools, out-of-school programs, and with their families.

Cultural equity is leading the way to a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive community improving the social equity and cultural vitality of the County.

Arts and culture are recognized regionally as a leading contributor to quality of life that attracts and retains business investments and a high-quality modern workforce.



Erie Arts & Culture

Outcomes

Restore confidence in residents of Erie by creating strong emotional bonds between people and place.

Transition Erie out of an industrial focus with a renewed and positive image that embraces both the cultural and creative economy.

Foster a culture of transparency, collaboration, and resource sharing to reduce duplication of efforts among Erie's non-profit sector.

Reinforce Erie's pedestrian scale by improving Erie's visual landscape. Brand Downtown as a hub for creativity, innovation, and a gateway into Erie's neighborhoods.

Embrace Erie's diversity and improve inclusivity across the board. Amplify the voices and aspirations of the community.

Build the capacity of Erie's artists and cultural workers to better serve as leaders in their communities.

Goals

Erie is branded as a multicultural community of choice with broad opportunities to engage with the cultural sector educationally, socially, and economically;

Silos are dismantled that have previously restricted collaboration; Civic pride is increased in neighborhoods through strategic placemaking and the programming of underutilized public spaces;

Cultural events are utilized as a platform to distribute services and information that are relevant to the cultural, economic, wellness, educational, and environmental needs of communities;

The culture and history of Erie County, both past and present, are recorded, preserved, and shared;

A strong network is created that connects Erie's cultural institutions and providers of cultural experiences to communities throughout Erie County;

Cultural organizations reflect and embrace the diversity of Erie County in staffing, Board leadership, programming, and audiences/participants; and

A framework is established for a Percent-for-Public Art program in which funds are set aside through capital improvement projects to underwrite public art initiatives.

The New Horizons initiative is made possible through support by the Erie Community Foundation and Erie Insurance.



NEW HORIZONS

Concepts

New Horizons empowers residents, merchants, community organizers, artists, and culture-bearers to actively be involved in shaping the social character and built environment in their neighborhoods. The initiative, in the first three years, focuses on the following zip codes: 16501, 16502, 16503, and 16507. These are the neighborhoods that the City of Erie has identified in their comprehensive plan as the most in need of stabilization. Through this initiative, Erie Arts & Culture and its collaborating partners will enhance and activate public spaces by delivering accessible cultural programs and activities that tap into the creativity, imagination, experience, and wisdom of community members. Through the New Horizons initiative, we aim to identify and then directly address systems that have perpetuated neighborhood disparities.

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