



Enhancing our Region's
Quality of Life

Community Enhancement Program
Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC)

Summary of Awards for CY2021

CEP Board

Sally Gruppen, Chair
- City of Zeeland
Russ TeSlaa, Vice Chair
- Holland Twp
Stephen Spoelhof
- Park Twp
Gary Dewey
- Laketown Twp
Jay Peters
- City of Holland

Future Search 2020 (Model Communities) – Complete. This CY 2020 grant was extended to 12/31/21 due to COVID concerns. The CEP grant initially supported a “Future Search” model of community engagement, but was pivoted toward a “Model Community” process instead, which entailed smaller group and 1 on 1 engagement, due to COVID. Ultimately, the newer process worked better than expected to pinpoint the top need perceived by area business and residents: post-secondary education and training. Collaboration towards discovering this priority involved ODC Network and West Michigan Chamber of Commerce. A video and a report for the community will be available in the near future.

Hope College (Fish Sampling & Storage) –Complete. This CY 2020 grant was extended to 12/31/21 due to COVID concerns. Two students caught 50 fish (specifically Sheepshead) for processing/freezing for future heavy metals analysis, as part of a larger study to be completed and published at a later date. Ultimately, this data will give a more complete picture of heavy metal concentration in fish caught in the Lake Macatawa watershed. Two students were able to present a poster on the overall project at a Geological Society conference in Portland, Oregon in 2021 --- garnering publicity for our area municipalities/townships and their commitment to environmental stewardship. Expenses were approximately \$800 less than needed; the extra money was returned to CEP.

Holland Symphony – Complete. This CY 2020 grant was extended to 12/31/21 due to COVID concerns. A well-known Mariachi band from Los Angeles was brought to Holland to play a free, joint concert with the Holland Symphony at Kollen Park in August. The goal was to blend cultures through music, and exceeded expectations – the crowd was enormous (estimated at 1500 plus)! Collaborators included City of Holland, MACC staff, and Juanita Bocanegra and Shandra Martinez as liaisons to local Hispanic networks. The Lakeshore article promoting the concert and why it was important was the most read article of that week!

ODC Network – Complete. The Sally Smoly Nature Playscape was constructed near downtown Holland at Window on the Waterfront. It is a year-round playground for all children in the area, and was enthusiastically supported by downtown retailers. It will be enjoyed by visiting grandchildren of Freedom Village residents, students at the ODC's Seedlings Discovery Preschool located in Pillar Church two blocks away and thousands of Tulip Time visitors. Constructed of natural materials, it encourages children's interaction with nature. Collaborators included the City of Holland, GMB Architects, MEDC/Patronicity fund-raising program, and many, many donors.

Ready for School – Complete. “Welcome to Summer” kits were put together to bridge the before and after traditional in-person Ready for School 4-6 week summer program, for area families to interact/play/learn with their pre-school children, while exploring community assets including Mt. Pisgah, Holland State Park, Pump House Museum, and the Trestle Bridge. 62.3% of participating families gave the kits a 5/5 rating. Collaborators included Velo City Kids, Howard Miller Library, Herrick Library, the Children’s Advocacy Center, Holland and Hamilton schools, and Kelly Goward of the MACC. One participant shared that the kits were a great way for her ex-husband to engage with their son this past summer!

Historic Ottawa Beach Society – Complete. This was a continuation of a project started in 2020 --- development of a permanent digital interactive display of “Holland’s Earliest Amusements”, featuring interpreted photographs, diagrams and drawings of Lakewood Farm & Zoo and Jenison Electric Park. Attendance has been high in spite of COVID, and sales of the book on the display’s subjects have also been strong. Several visitors have relayed personal stories about pictures in the display, and a future project may be in the works to capture these histories. Collaborative involvement partners include Ottawa County Parks & Recreation, The Globe Foundation, Holland-based In-Depth Editions, the current owners of the Lakewood Farm property, Holland Museum, Joint Archives of Holland, and Lakewood Elementary School. Interestingly, the great grandson of George Getz, heard about the project, and discovered several hundred photographic negatives of the Zoo which he donated, and became the basis of the display!

Holland Historical Trust (Holland Museum) – Complete. This grant provided stipends for five summer interns at the Holland Museum – who worked on an interpretive plan for the outdoor exhibition now on display at the Padnos Transportation Depot for the Pere Marquette Caboose. They gained “real life” experience collaborating with various museum departments and other organizations to achieve this goal, including the Pere Marquette Historical Society, Padnos Transportation Depot, and a graphic designer. One intern shared that this opportunity helped improve his/her speaking skills and the confidence to take the lead on a community project.

Zeeland Historical Society – in progress

Park Theatre – in progress

Boys and Girls Club –in progress.

Holland Chorale – project delayed until October 2022 due to COVID. No moneys were received, but will be honored in CY2022.