BUFFALO COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

QUARTERLY REPORT Q1Y2024

BUFFALOCONNECTORS.ORG
Updated June 13, 2024

BLOCK EMPOWERMENT GRANT

We received five (5) applications from Eastside Block Clubs, each in the program geographic area; East Lovejoy Coalition of Neighbors Block Club, Easton Block Club, University District Block Club Coalition, Winslow Block Clubs, and Godfrey Block Club. All proposals were accepted; award notices have been sent via email.

View applications here.

The remaining funds in the amount of $25,000 were reallocated as follows:

$5,000 award to community garden project at Square Garden, facilitated by Fillmore Forward. Total project cost is $14,150. We propose to award this project and release funds when/ if the additional funds are raised in time to complete the project as outlined in the project proposal.

$5,000 contracted to Tool Library to work hands-on with all five block clubs for "on-the-ground" implementation and enhancement of each projects. Tool Library will bring the University of Buffalo CSTEP student volunteers to the awarded block clubs to support beautification and repairs, as a community destination for the program's annual cleanup.

$2,500 to purchase additional project enhancement supplies. Additional supplies vary per project. Additional funds also to be used for a ribbon cutting event for each project. Total allocated for each project is $500.

$5,000 allocated to the renovation of the new office of East Buffalo Development Corp. (EBDC) recently acquired. Our case for support stands on the community use of the property as well as free access to a private office for client meetings, kitchenette, and large attractive backyard space for outdoor gatherings.

View building before images here.

$2,000 for food demonstrations and sampling at all six (6) Farmer's Market event; conducted by Buffalo Go Green and Urban Fruits & Veggies Community Garden.

$500 volunteer and worker gear; aprons and sun hats for Farmer's Market volunteers and neon reflective vests for Regular Maintenance workers.

ACCEPTED PROPOSALS

Awarded Block Clubs

1. **Godfrey Block Club**
   install flood lights and home address numbers on 48 neighborhood homes.

2. **Winslow Block Club**
   community space / garden including planters, vegetation, shrubbery, and tree planting with lighting, sign refurbishment, camera installation, hardscaping, trash receptacles, and benches.

3. **Easton Block Club**
   yard beautification, garden planting, porches, front door, and fence repair for 11 neighborhood homes.

4. **University District Block Club Coalition (UDBCC)**
   yard beautification and garden planting for neighborhood homes.

5. **East Lovejoy Coalition of Neighbors (ELCON)**
   installation of two (2) trash receptacles and two (2) benches along Bailey Avenue.

BLOCK EMPOWERMENT GRANT - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Project Execution (June - October 2024)

- Held two (2) planning meetings with consultant company Barrett & Benetiz.
- Entered agreement with Tool Library; made $2,500 deposit.
- The project kickoff meeting is scheduled for June 12 from 6pm-7:30pm at the Edward Saunders Community (2777 Bailey).

Organizational Development and eTOD Awareness

- Entered agreement with The Solutionist; made $2,500 deposit. The Solutionists brings the support of fellow Univeristy of Buffalo Doctoral students.

Emergency Planning

- Held two (2) planning meetings with consultant organization Anchor/PUSH Buffalo; no payment needed, services donated.
- Pursuit, a local community-based financial institute (CDFI) agrees to host a planning for financial emergencies seminar; no payment needed, services donated.

BLOCK EMPOWERMENT GRANT - OTHER ITEMS

- Senior Power Package proposal to the Health Foundation of Central & WNY proceeds to next stage in the review process, submitted the required organizational and supporting documents.
- Purchased lead testing kits; three swabs per household/ 20 households per participating block club. The budget was reduced to $500 due to the number of applications. Test results will be anonymous.
- Allocated an additional $300 for refreshments at block club meetings
- View the Block Empowerment Grant flyer here
- View the print version of the application here
- View screen recording of the online application here
- View the outreach sign-in sheet here *(one of two events attended)*

UPDATE BLOCK EMPOWERMENT GRANT PROGRAM - $53,300

Buffalo Community Connectors Farmers Market

We have established partnerships with local farmers of color and The Lexington Coop to produce the bi-weekly markets July-Sept. Markets held every other Sunday starting July 14 through to September 22 from 12PM to 4PM located at 894 Kensington Avenue (near Bailey).

Partnering Farmers include; Home Beneath Our Feet, Groundwork Market Garden, Buffalo GoGreen / Urban Fruits & Veggies.

The effort aims to provide 50 families with a bag of 4 to 6 produce items AT NO COST.

Six (6) events total x 50 families; anticipating 300 total families to benefit.

Guests must show proof of residency, one bag per family. Guests will be given raffle tickets of various colors that corresponds to the five food categories. Guests will also receive one-way NFTA transit passes (if not needed, encouraged to give the pass to someone at a bus stop...to encourage more giving and connectedness between neighbors). Full-day NFTA transit passes will be raffled (the first round of NFTA passes purchased $550).

Market management conducted by Home Beneath Our; awaiting proposal not to exceed $3,000; including market management and at least a 4-person setup/breakdown crew for all events.

Food demonstrations with samples for eating in season by Buffalo GoGreen / Urban Fruits & Veggies.

Market categories; fruits, vegetables, leafy greens, herbs, and dry goods.

View produce variety here

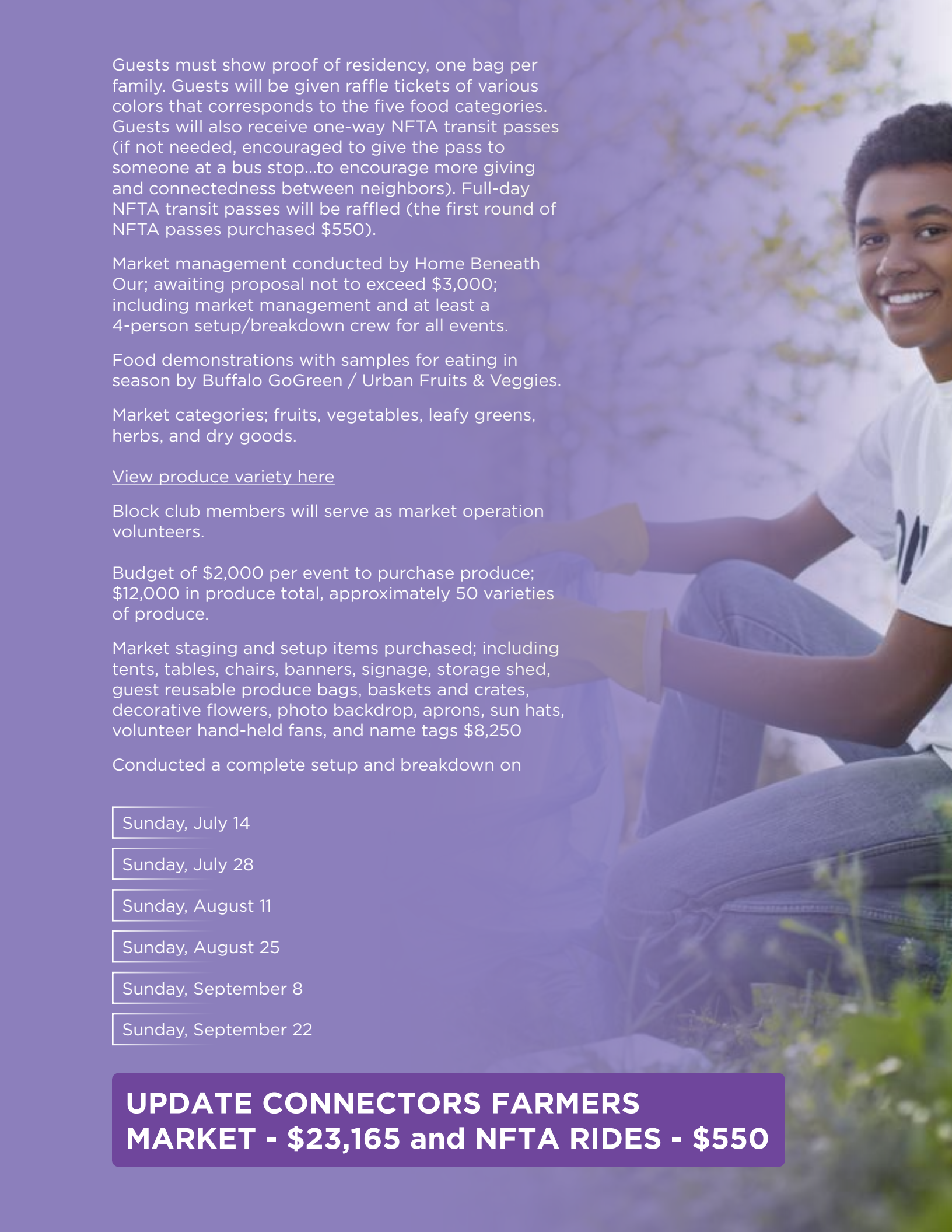
Block club members will serve as market operation volunteers.

Budget of $2,000 per event to purchase produce; $12,000 in produce total, approximately 50 varieties of produce.

Market staging and setup items purchased; including tents, tables, chairs, banners, signage, storage shed, guest reusable produce bags, baskets and crates, decorative flowers, photo backdrop, aprons, sun hats, volunteer hand-held fans, and name tags $8,250

Conducted a complete setup and breakdown on

- Sunday, July 14
- Sunday, July 28
- Sunday, August 11
- Sunday, August 25
- Sunday, September 8
- Sunday, September 22



UPDATE CONNECTORS FARMERS MARKET - $23,165 and NFTA RIDES - $550

REGULAR MAINTENANCE LITTER AND SNOW REMOVAL - $15,000

Regular Maintenance - Litter and Snow Removal

Selected contractor; Huffscaping for both litter and snow removal, contract amount $15,000. Service scope of work; bi-weekly litter removal starting June 1 - October 31 and two (2) events of snow removal November 1 - April 15 (2025).

Service area; along Bailey Avenue from Winspear to Rt. 33 Viaduct.

QUARTERLY CLEANUPS - $5,000

Quarterly Clean Ups

Selected contractor; Huffscaping in partnership with The RARE Place, a community development and volunteer organization.

Contract amount $5,000.

Saturday, August 3, 10am-2pm
Saturday, October 13, 10am-2pm

Registration and meet up location at Varsity Theatre - 3165 Bailey Avenue.
Additional event dates to be determined.

YOUTH BIKE RODEO - $5,000

Youth Bike Rodeo

Hosted and coordinated by GOBike; three (3) event dates confirmed, permits secured, registration form created, and flyer designed for the first event. Vendor payments made in a the total amount of $4,550 with $450 remaining (payment to instructors).

Event Schedule:

Bike Rodeo #1 Details

Where: Manhattan (Gleasner) Park (137 Manhattan Ave) | In the back of the parking lot at the south end of the park.

When: June 5th, 2024 | 5pm-8pm

Bike Rodeo #2 Details

Where: Manhattan (Gleasner) Park (137 Manhattan Ave) | In the back of the parking lot at the south end of the park.

When: July 10th, 2024 | 4pm-7pm

Bike Rodeo #3 Details

Where: Norfolk Ave Block Club #1 National Night Out (305 Norfolk Ave)

When: August 6th, 2024 | 6pm-9pm

GENERAL OVERHEAD - $7,000

General Overhead / Marketing / Lead Facilitation / Discretionary

View Buffalo Community Connector Logo/Brand Guide here

View branded items - $4,500

Made final payment to Telesco; $2,000

Press releases and marketing material are planned to be distributed week of June 17.

UPDATED MARKETING COST - $11,500

LEAD FACILITATION - $20,000