CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING COMMITTEE

CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

4th FLOOR

MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2026—10:00 A.M.

Committee Members

Michael J. Houser, Sr., Chair | Dist. 10

Pernel Jones. Jr., Vice Chair | Dist. 8

Patrick Kelly | Dist. 1

Robert E. Schleper, Jr. | Dist. 6

Sunny M. Simon | Dist. 11

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 19, 2026 MEETING**

5. **MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

   a) R2026-0340: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed $73,949.19, to the Murtis Taylor Human Services System for operational support for the Students of Promise Prentiss Place Transitional Living Facility for Women with Children from the District 8 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

   b) R2026-0342: A Resolution awarding a Community Development Fund Grant award in the amount not-to-exceed $763,610, to the City of Bay Village for the Cahoon Memorial Park Lakefront Project; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

   c) R2026-0343: A Resolution awarding a Community Development Fund Grant award in the amount not-to-exceed $175,000, to the Downtown Cleveland, Inc. for the Hotel Cleveland Exterior LED Lighting & Security Enhancement Initiative; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

   d) R2026-0344: A Resolution awarding a Community Development Fund Grant award in the amount not-to-exceed $500,000, to the Cleveland Zoological Society for the Primate Forest Project; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

6. **PRESENTATION**

   a) Office of Violence Prevention Update. – Myesha Watkins, Administrator, Office of Violence Prevention, Public Safety and Justice Services

7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

**Complimentary parking for the public is available in the attached garage at 900 Prospect. A skywalk extends from the garage to provide additional entry to the Council Chambers from the 5th floor parking level of the garage. Download the Metropolis smartphone app and create an account to have parking validated at meetings. Please scan the QR code posted in Council Chambers to input your license plate information for parking to be validated by Metropolis, a non-County entity. You will be responsible for the cost of parking if you are unable to utilize this online parking service.*

***Meeting rooms are equipped with a hearing assistance system. If needed, please see the Clerk to obtain a receiver.*

Committee Members
Michael J. Houser, Sr., Chair | Dist. 10
Pernel Jones. Jr., Vice Chair | Dist. 8
Patrick Kelly | Dist. 1
Robert E. Schleper, Jr. | Dist. 6
Sunny M. Simon | Dist. 11

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Houser called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Houser asked Clerk Richardson to call the roll. Committee members Houser, Kelly and Schleper were in attendance, and a quorum was determined. Committee members Jones and Simon were absent.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Schleper, and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2026 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

a) R2026-0285: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed $5,000, to Downtown Cleveland, Inc. for the WinterLand 2026 Project from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Hanna Gaul, Senior Director, Parks & Public Spaces for Downtown Cleveland Inc., addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0285. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kelly asked questions of Ms. Gaul pertaining to the total budget for the project, which she answered accordingly.

On a motion by Mr. Houser with a second by Mr. Schleper, Resolution No. R2026-0285 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

b) R2026-0286: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed $10,000, to the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation for the purpose of Rip City Boxing Program from the

District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Hope Fierro, Senior Community Engagement Manager, Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2026-0286. Discussion ensued.

Committee members had no questions for Ms. Fierro. Chair Houser expressed his support for the program.

On a motion by Mr. Houser with a second by Mr. Kelly, Resolution No. R2026-0286 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Houser adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m., without objection.

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2026-0340

Sponsored by: **Councilmember Jones**	**A Resolution** awarding a total sum, not to exceed $73,949.19, to the Murtis Taylor Human Services System for operational support for the Students of Promise Prentiss Place Transitional Living Facility for Women with Children from the District 8 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received $239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA"); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County's General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized $86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the "ARPA Community Grant Fund"); and

WHEREAS, of the $86 million for community grants, $66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 8 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of $73,949.19 to the Murtis Taylor Human Services System for the Students of Promise Prentiss Place Transitional Living Facility for Women with Children; and

WHEREAS, the Murtis Taylor Human Services System estimates approximately 80 youth will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, the Murtis Taylor Human Services System estimates approximately 19 permanent and temporary jobs will be created or retained through this project; and

WHEREAS, the Murtis Taylor Human Services System estimates the total cost of the project is $73,949.19; and

WHEREAS, the Murtis Taylor Human Services System requested $73,949.19 from the District 8 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of $73,949.19 to the Murtis Taylor Human Services System to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:**

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of $73,949.19 to the Murtis Taylor Human Services System from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the Students of Promise Prentiss Place Transitional Living Facility for Women with Children.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be

disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 8. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

_____ _____
County Council President Date

_____ _____
County Executive Date

_____ _____
Clerk of Council Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: November 24, 2026
Committee(s) Assigned: Community Development & Housing

Journal_____
_____, 20___

Cuyahoga County Council
2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.):
Murtis Taylor Human Services System (fiscal agent on behalf of Students of Promise and Prentiss Place)

Address of Requesting Entity:
13422 Kinsman Road / Cleveland, Ohio 44120

County Council District # of Requesting Entity:
District 8

Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:
Prentiss Place, 2435 North Taylor Road / Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:
District 10

Address of Entity:

Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request:
Bob Ivory

Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity:
10105 Brushwood Drive / Streetsboro, Ohio 44241

Email: Robert.c.ivory@gmail.com	**Phone:** 216.324.9154
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.: 23-7158458	**Date:** November 16, 2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

Project Name: Prentiss Place Transitional Living Facility for Women with Children – Operational Support

Students of Promise has served as a partner of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District and Warrensville Heights City School District for more than ten years, delivering educational services, interventions, social and emotional learning strategies, exposure opportunities and proven best practices aimed at closing the achievement gap among targeted youth. The Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District alone now faces a serious and growing challenge: homelessness among its students. More than 100 students and their families are currently identified as homeless (the District estimates at least 140 students across approximately 91 families), and that number is expected to rise without immediate intervention.

Murtis Taylor Human Services System continues to serve as the fiscal agent for both Students of Promise and Prentiss Place. In that role, Murtis Taylor will receive, administer, disburse and account for all County ARPA dollars awarded under this application, while Students of Promise operates the program. Together, the partners address the urgent need for emergency housing, shelter care and supportive services for women and their children in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District through Prentiss Place, a residential facility located at 2435 North Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights, the former convent of St. Louis Catholic Church and School. Prentiss Place is named in honor of the late State Senator C.J. Prentiss.

The renovation of Prentiss Place is complete once the installation of a required sprinkler and fire suppression system. The building has been converted into dormitory-style family living quarters, a full kitchen and dining area, a welcome center, staff offices, recreational and programmatic space, a laundry room, computer lab and a handicap-accessible accommodations and a stair lift for residents with special needs. A Conditional Use Permit from the City of Cleveland Heights (Planning Commission Proj. No. 25-16) designates the property as a transitional living facility for residential and programmatic use, with capacity for up to 30 residents (women and their children) at a time, referred from the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District and surrounding areas who need emergency shelter-care placement and temporary housing.

The facility provides temporary housing for women with children 17 years of age and under, with stays of 90 to 120 days. During their stay, families receive individualized case management, life skills development, financial literacy assistance, workforce development, access to community resources, school and community-based mentoring, college and career readiness and exposure opportunities for students, early childhood development, permanent housing placement and other supportive services tailored to their needs. Care is delivered through a trauma-informed and culturally competent approach that reflects the specific challenges faced by African American and Latino families and others who make up a large share of the community's underserved and diverse population. The primary goal is to stabilize families, equip them with the skills and resources needed for independent living, and secure permanent housing through case management and wraparound services provided by Students of Promise and its community partners, all within a safe, structured and nurturing living and learning environment.

Purpose of This Request

With renovation finished, this request of $73,949.19 is solely for the operation of Prentiss Place. ARPA dollars will help support the day-to-day costs of keeping the facility open, safe and fully staffed around the clock: (1) staffing and administrative costs, including case management, house managers and monitors, overnight supervision and program administration; (2) insurance; (3) utilities; and (4) maintenance and repairs.

Why the Project Is Needed

Prentiss Place fills a critical service gap in the and community, and it is a proactive response to the fact that youth homelessness widens the achievement gap. Students without stable housing struggle to focus on their education, access learning resources, and engage with peers and teachers in a healthy, stable environment. Children without stable housing face higher risk of developmental delays, mental health challenges, lasting damage to their self-esteem, and behavioral issues. Homelessness also limits students' participation in extracurricular activities that are critical to social-emotional development and long-term success, and the trauma of homelessness creates toxic stress that keeps them from thriving academically and socially. Stable operating support ensures these families have a safe place to land while they rebuild.

Timeline of Milestones and Tracking

• Upon award: Murtis Taylor Human Services System, as fiscal agent, executes the ARPA agreement and establishes a dedicated cost center so every ARPA dollar is tracked separately.

• Within the first 30 days: Funds are applied to staffing, insurance, utilities, maintenance and food/consumable costs according to the approved budget.

• Monthly: Murtis Taylor reconciles expenditures against the budget, and Prentiss Place reports occupancy, number of families and children served, length of stay, school attendance and enrollment stability, and exits to permanent housing.

• Quarterly and at close-out: A program and financial report is submitted to Cuyahoga County documenting expenditures and outcomes, with all ARPA funds expended by December 31, 2026.

Project Start Date:	**Project End Date:**
Upon execution of the ARPA award agreement (anticipated November 2026)	December 31, 2026

IMPACT OF PROJECT:

Who will be served:

Prentiss Place serves homeless women and their children 17 years of age and under, with priority given to students identified as homeless within the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District and surrounding areas, as referred and as vacancies permit.

How many people will be served annually:

An estimated 80 youth and their families will be served annually, based on an average stay of 90 to 120 days and a facility capacity of up to 30 residents at a time.

Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how:

Yes. Low- and moderate-income individuals and families are the focus of this project. Placement criteria will strongly reflect, but not be limited to, families with gross monthly income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level for initial eligibility. Families are served at no cost while they stabilize and transition to permanent housing.

How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:

Prentiss Place supports the community's goals for serving homeless families by providing comprehensive outreach, student and family engagement, school and community-based mentoring, exposure opportunities, college and career readiness, workforce development and assessment services. It also connects families to crisis mental health services, health and wellness classes, and permanent housing with supportive services.

If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary:

Operating funds will help retain the staff needed to run the facility 24 hours a day. The staffing plan calls for seven (7) full-time and twelve (12) part-time permanent positions, including a case manager, licensed social worker, house managers, house monitors, a chef, maintenance and security personnel, and at least one administrator.

Address of Entity:

If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:

Prentiss Place is an adaptive reuse of an existing 1962 building, which avoids new construction and reduces environmental impact. Beyond the physical site, the project is a critical resource for homeless women and their children: by meeting the immediate need for housing and providing comprehensive support, the facility helps families achieve stability and break the cycle of poverty. It answers the urgent need to address homelessness in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District and surrounding areas, where the crisis is harming student achievement and well-being.

If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:

By focusing on moving families into permanent housing, Prentiss Place emphasizes long-term independence rather than short-term fixes. Its success can encourage further public and private collaboration, inform housing policies that directly affect school-aged children, and spark new programs addressing the systemic barriers behind homelessness in both urban and suburban communities such as Cleveland Heights-University Heights.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total Budget of Project:

$73,949.19 (operational budget for the ARPA grant period), allocated as follows:

- Staffing and administrative costs: $28,625.00
- Insurance: $14,324.19
- Utilities: $15,000.00
- Maintenance and repairs: $16,000.00

Total: $73,949.19

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

Prentiss Place is pursuing ongoing operating support from the following sources (dollar amounts pending award decisions):

- Emergency Solutions Grant funding (Ohio Department of Development)
- The City of Cleveland Heights
- The State of Ohio American Rescue Plan Act dollars
- Congressionally Directed Spending
- The Huron Foundation
- The United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland
- The Cleveland Foundation
- The George Gund Foundation
- The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland
- The Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:
$73,949.19

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:
These one-time ARPA dollars will help stabilize Prentiss Place's operations while long-term funding is secured. The sustainability plan builds a diverse funding base by applying for Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) from both the City of Cleveland Heights and Cuyahoga County and pursuing additional federal, state, foundation and local grants. To further diversify revenue, the project will grow an individual donor program, hold coordinated fundraisers, and pursue corporate sponsorships and partnerships. Murtis Taylor Human Services System, as fiscal agent, provides the financial management and accountability needed to support these efforts.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

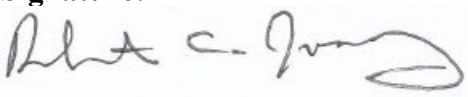
I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:
Robert Ivory

Signature:	**Date:**
	November 16, 2026

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:
City of Cleveland Heights Planning Commission Staff Report – Proj. No. 25-16, Prentiss Place Transitional Living Facility for Women with Children (July 9, 2025)

Murtis Taylor Fiscal Agent Agreement

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2026-0342

Sponsored by: **Councilmembers Kelly, Miller, and Houser** Co-sponsored by: **Councilmember Simon**	**A Resolution** awarding a Community Development Fund Grant award in the amount not-to-exceed $763,610, to the City of Bay Village for the Cahoon Memorial Park Lakefront Project; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

WHEREAS, the City of Bay Village requests a Community Development Fund Grant for the purpose of the Cahoon Memorial Park Lakefront Project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bay Village estimates the total cost of the project is $8,107,048; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bay Village requested $763,610 from the Community Development Fund Grant to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bay Village indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes:

A. $2,000,000 from State Capital – Strategic Investment;
B. $1,761,770 from NRAC-OPWC Clean Ohio Fund;
C. $750,000 from Lake Erie Community Grant
D. $500,000 from ODNR COTF Grant
E. $500,000 from NPS/ODNR LWCF Grant;
F. $450,000 from Cuyahoga County
G. $281,668 from ARPA Funds;
H. $100,000 from 2027-2028 State Capital; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide a Community Development Fund Grant in the amount of $763,610 to the City of Bay Village to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Community Development Fund is funded by the gross casino revenues distributed to Cuyahoga County; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Fund has available proceeds to fund projects that better Cuyahoga County, and Council has determined the Project

is an appropriate use of the County's Community Development Fund resources; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a Community Development Fund Grant in the amount not-to-exceed $763,610 to the City of Bay Village funded from the Community Development Fund for the purpose of the Cahoon Memorial Park Lakefront Project.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive and/or his designee is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. The Community Development Fund grant funds shall only be distributed once the awardee has secured all other funding sources necessary to complete the project, and subject to the terms of a grant agreement approved by the Department of Law.

SECTION 6. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 7. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 8. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga

County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 9. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by_____, seconded by_____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

_____ _____
County Council President Date

_____ _____
County Executive Date

_____ _____
Clerk of Council Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: November 24, 2026
Committee(s) Assigned: Community Development & Housing

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: November 24, 2026

Journal_____

Cuyahoga County Council
2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): City of Bay Village	
Address of Requesting Entity: **305 Dover Center Road** **Bay Village, OH 44140**	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: 27600 Lake Road, Bay Village, Ohio 44140	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project: District #1	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Paul Koomar	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity: Same address	
Email: pkoomar@cityofbayvillage.com	**Phone:** (440) 899-3415
Federal EIN: 34-6000207	**Date:** 11/06/2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(Include the project name, a description of the project, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project)

Cahoon Memorial Park Lakefront Project – Phase 1 Bay Point

This project is part of the Cuyahoga County Lakefront Public Access Plan and was developed by SmithGroup, the County's lakefront planner. The development of Bay Point will significantly advance the County Lakefront Public Access Plan by addressing erosion and enhancing public access along 2,000 feet of Lake Erie shoreline. Using nature-based solutions, it will protect eroding bluffs, restore beaches and wetlands, and create a thriving coastal habitat. Additionally, the project will add 7 new ADA-accessible lakefront acres and establish ADA-accessible multimodal trails, connecting to local and regional attractions and directly benefiting an estimated 1.2 million annual visitors to this area of the lakefront in Cuyahoga County.

SmithGroup developed a phased implementation plan based on feasibility, shoreline erosion protection, and improved public access. The initial phase focuses on the area of Bay Point. The project is based on comprehensive planning, including the 2020 Cuyahoga County Lakefront Public Access Plan, developed by the SmithGroup (incorporating public input and technical surveys), the 2017 NOACA Cahoon Park Connectivity Study, and the 2016 citywide master plan (implemented by Cuyahoga County). Bay Village has completed $6.1 million in ADA-compliant trails and bridges connecting retail establishments, the library, and park activity areas to the lakefront. These improvements are aligned with the previously mentioned plans and Bay Village will manage the project and maintenance with dedicated in-house resources, ensuring feasibility and cost-effectiveness.

The plans have been fully approved by Federal and State agencies, and the following permits have been issued making the project ready for bid.
2022-04-26 NHPA Section 106 review by OHPO and ODNR
2023-03-23 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Letter of No Adverse Effects
2025-08-08 ODNR Federal Consistency Decision Letter
2026-04-07 Ohio EPA 401 Water Quality Certification
2026-05-27 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit
2026-06-01 ODNR Shore Structure Permit
2026-06-01 ODNR Modification to Submerged Lands Lease

This project will leverage investments already made in the park linking the city's retail areas and park assets to the lakefront, creating a regional, accessible, outdoor recreation destination.

Estimated Project Timeline:

- 06/2026 - Permit & Environmental Reviews Complete
- 12/2026 - Final Design & Engineering Complete
- 05/2027 - Bidding & Construction Contract Award
- 10/2028- Substantial Completion
- 12/2028 - Final Checklist Items Complete

Project Start Date:	**Project End Date:**
May 2027 (Construction Contract Award)	**December 2028**

IMPACT OF PROJECT

(Include any community benefits, economic impact, and/or environmental impact)

The Cahoon Memorial Park - Bay Point Project is poised to become a flagship destination for Cuyahoga County and Bay Village, delivering wide-reaching community, economic, and environmental benefits. This transformative project extends Bay Village's connection to Lake Erie, creating a vibrant and resilient space for all.

Community Impact: Beyond recreation, the accessible lakefront offers direct educational opportunities for schools and organizations. The restored ecosystems will allow students to study ecology and conservation firsthand. The project will also offer a unique viewing experience. At this location, people will be able to see the sunrise east over the Cleveland skyline and then watch the sunset over the western horizon of Lake Erie. Crucially, the ADA-accessible trails will ensure that visitors of all abilities, including those with disabilities and senior citizens, can safely and comfortably access and enjoy the lakefront's scenic beauty and recreational opportunities.

Economic Impact: Shoreline stabilization at Bay Point will enhance lakefront access for 1.2 million annual visitors to Cahoon Memorial Park and Huntington Reservation. Bay Point's ADA trails will complete the lakefront connection to local businesses, increasing visitor traffic, supporting local business development, and improving the quality of life for all, in accordance with the city's masterplan.

Environmental Impact: The project will utilize engineered nature-based solutions, such as cobblestones and sand, to create a resilient coastal shoreline that protects the park's infrastructure from erosion while enhancing the natural beauty of the lakefront. The creation of offshore cobblestone areas will provide ideal spawning grounds for smallmouth bass, while a designated Monarch Butterfly habitat, complete with essential elements for their lifecycle and migration, will transform the park into a vital stopover for these beautiful creatures. Informative signage throughout the park will shed light on the unique ecosystem of Lake Erie. By embracing nature-based erosion protection and prioritizing ecological restoration, the Bay Point project will create a vibrant and resilient ecosystem that benefits both humans and wildlife.

Key Elements of the Project:

- Nature-based stabilization of the eroding bluff
- Ecological restoration of the Cahoon Creek – Lake Erie Confluence
- Full ADA access to the shoreline of Lake Erie
- Construction of a new coastal viewing pier and pedestrian bridge
- Expansion of multi-use ADA accessible trails for park connectivity

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total project budget including sources and uses of funds (list each source and dollar amount separately):

Construction Costs Estimate	
General Requirements (testing, mobilization, etc.)	$672,000
Debris Removal, Demo and Site Preparation	$511,404
Grading and Earthwork	$900,000
Utilities	$184,000
Site Work- Asphalt Trail	$277,740
Site Work- Stream Restoration	$502,800
Site Work- Cahoon creek Bridge	$500,000
Site Work- Other	$368,117
Furnishings	$72,000
Coastal, including Pier	$3,964,362
Landscape	$154,625
Total Budget	**$8,107,048**
Grant Funding Sources:	
State Capital - Strategic Investment	($2,000,000)
NRAC-OPWC Clean Ohio Fund	($1,761,770)
Lake Erie Community Grant	($750,000)
ODNR COTF Grant	($500,000)
NPS/ODNR LWCF Grant	($500,000)
Cuyahoga County	($450,000)
ARPA Funds	($281,668)
2027-2028 State Capital	($100,000)
Other Funding Sources:	
City of Bay Village: matching funds	($1,000,000)
Balance Needed for Completion of Phase 1	**$763,610**

Total amount requested from the County Community Development Fund:
$763,610

Have you applied or do you plan on applying for other financial assistance for this project from Cuyahoga County: (if yes, please provide the details):
Yes, Cuyahoga County has been a strategic partner in the development of this project. SmithGroup, the County's lakefront planner, has finished the construction-ready design for Bay Point. This funding request is the keystone to close the funding gap and move this project forward to the bidding phase.

Date by which County Funds are needed for the project to move forward effectively:

December 2026

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:
Paul Koomar, Mayor
City of Bay Village

Signature:	**Date:**
Paul Koomar	11/6/26

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2026-0343

Sponsored by: **Councilmembers Sweeney, Miller & Houser** Co-sponsored by: **Councilmembers Simon, Turner & Schleper**	**A Resolution** awarding a Community Development Fund Grant award in the amount not-to-exceed $175,000, to the Downtown Cleveland, Inc. for the Hotel Cleveland Exterior LED Lighting & Security Enhancement Initiative; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

WHEREAS, the Downtown Cleveland, Inc. requests a Community Development Fund Grant for the purpose of the Hotel Cleveland Exterior LED Lighting & Security Enhancement Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Cleveland, Inc. estimates the total cost of the project is $295,000; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Cleveland, Inc. requested $295,000 from the Community Development Fund Grant to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Cleveland, Inc. indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes $50,000 from the Cuyahoga County District 3 ARPA Community Grand Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide a Community Development Fund Grant in the amount of $175,000 to the Downtown Cleveland, Inc. to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Community Development Fund is funded by the gross casino revenues distributed to Cuyahoga County; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Fund has available proceeds to fund projects that better Cuyahoga County, and Council has determined the Project is an appropriate use of the County's Community Development Fund resources; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a Community Development Fund Grant in the amount not-to-exceed $175,000 to the Downtown Cleveland, Inc. funded from the Community Development Fund for the purpose of the Hotel Cleveland Exterior LED Lighting & Security Enhancement Initiative.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive and/or his designee is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. The Community Development Fund grant funds shall only be distributed once the awardee has secured all other funding sources necessary to complete the project, and subject to the terms of a grant agreement approved by the Department of Law.

SECTION 6. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 7. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 8. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter.

Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 9. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by_____, seconded by_____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

_____	_____
County Council President	Date
_____	_____
County Executive	Date
_____	_____
Clerk of Council	Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: November 24, 2026
Committee(s) Assigned: Community Development & Housing

Additional Sponsorships Requested on the Floor: November 24, 2026

Journal_____

Cuyahoga County Council

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): Downtown Cleveland, Inc.	
Address of Requesting Entity: 668 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: 24 Public Square, Cleveland, OH 44113	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project: District 7	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Silvia Iorio	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity: 24 Public Square, Cleveland, OH 44113	
Email: siorio@downtowncleveland.com	**Phone:** 216-906-4120
Federal EIN: 34-1775903	**Date:** November 16, 2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(Include the project name, a description of the project, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project)

Project Name: Hotel Cleveland Exterior LED Lighting & Security Enhancement Initiative

Studies show that over 5,000 pedestrians travel through Cleveland's Public Square on the average day, with up to 20,000 people daily traversing the space during major sporting and entertainment events. The southwest quadrant occupied by Hotel Cleveland and Tower City's main entrance provides the primary access to the square.

Hotel Cleveland's Exterior LED Lighting & Security Enhancement Initiative implements decorative sconces on the pedestrian path along the property. The lighting illuminates the full facade from the edge of the property east entrance to the west end of the building, vastly improving safety and security perception of the entire quadrant. A second phasing of the initiative includes LED lights added to the third level of the hotel, extending illumination to the parapet level, wrapping the property from Tower City to the west garage.

This initiative is a collaborative effort involving Downtown Cleveland Inc., Sherwin-Williams, Cleveland Police, and the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA). By increasing illumination quality and uniformity at street level, the project aims to deter crime, improve surveillance capabilities, and create a safer, more welcoming environment for residents, visitors, and transit users.

This plan also coordinates with Illuminate CLE, Destination Cleveland and the Public Square Improvement plan, serving local residents, visitors, hotel guests, retail customers and transit users. All illumination principles, design criteria and public lighting standards are guided by Illuminating Engineering Society best practices through IES G-1-22 (Guide for Security Lighting for People, Property, and Critical Infrastructure).

Timeline of Milestones/Tracking:

Phase I: Fourteen (14) existing decorative fixtures on east and north facades will be removed, rebuilt with updated LED components, new decorative backplates, and repositioned to address proper distribution across and beyond pedestrian walkways to roadway entry. Additional street and surface lighting will improve safety and access at the corner pedestrian walkway of Superior and West Roadway.

Phase II: Thirteen (13) high-powered LED lights will be added on the 3rd level and extend a tight, crisp linear source to the trim below the penthouse level. These fixtures will also provide a soft glow to the parapet level, wrapping the hotel property from Tower City property edge to the West garage. Design will allow for future safety and enhancement augmentation.

Phase III: Located on the penthouse of Hotel Cleveland, two new LED signs will pay homage to the original signage designed and built in 1918. Each sign will be 42 ft wide x 22 ft high, facing Public Square to the east and Superior Avenue to the north directly across from the new Sherwin-Williams world headquarters.

Project Start Date: July 2026	**Project End Date:** January 2027

IMPACT OF PROJECT

(Include any community benefits, economic impact, and/or environmental impact)

The primary goal of the above-described project is to enhance visibility, improve pedestrian and public safety, and contribute to the overall revitalization of Public Square. Residents, employees, visitors, and businesses benefit from the improvements of the project, with increased perceptions of safety due a more visible Public Square.

Public Square accounts for over 10,000 visitors annually. Downtown wide, 70% of visitor spending comes from out of the county. Public Square serves as the Central Park of downtown Cleveland, and the catalyst for improvement in our public spaces. Investing in safety and security enhancements impacts downtown economically, and therefore the county and region. This project promotes economic vitality and pedestrian activity in downtown Cleveland.

Further, enhancing street-level visibility and reducing dark zones supports crime prevention through improved lighting conditions. The project aligns with sustainability goals by reducing energy consumption, lowering maintenance costs, and minimizing environmental impact through the use of long-lasting LED fixtures.

Hotel Cleveland will maintain the lights, pay electricity costs and maintain overall enhancement of the property for the good of Public Square, and downtown stakeholders.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total project budget including sources and uses of funds (list each source and dollar amount separately):

$295,000.

Total amount requested from the County Community Development Fund:

$295,000.

Have you applied or do you plan on applying for other financial assistance for this project from Cuyahoga County: (if yes, please provide the details):

Not at this time.

Date by which County Funds are needed for the project to move forward effectively:

December 2026.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name:
Silvia Iorio

Signature:	**Date:**
Silvia Iorio	November 16, 2026

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2026-0344

Sponsored by: **Councilmembers Simon, Miller, Kelly, Gallagher & Houser** Co-sponsored by: **Councilmembers Turner, Sweeney & Schleper**	**A Resolution** awarding a Community Development Fund Grant award in the amount not-to-exceed $500,000, to the Cleveland Zoological Society for the Primate Forest Project; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Zoological Society requests a Community Development Fund Grant for the purpose of the Primate Forest Project; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Zoological Society estimates the total cost of the project is $120,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Zoological Society requested $500,000 from the Community Development Fund Grant to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Zoological Society indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes:

A. $39,150,000 from Philanthropic & Corporate Sponsors;
B. $55,350,000 from Cleveland Metroparks reserved capital dollars, reserved revenue sources, and levy funding;
C. $7,750,000 from other state and local government funding, including $2 million from the Cuyahoga County Districts 3, 5 and 11 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide a Community Development Fund Grant in the amount of $500,000 to the Cleveland Zoological Society to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Community Development Fund is funded by the gross casino revenues distributed to Cuyahoga County; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Fund has available proceeds to fund projects that better Cuyahoga County, and Council has determined the Project is an appropriate use of the County's Community Development Fund resources; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue.

NOW, THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:**

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a Community Development Fund Grant in the amount not-to-exceed $500,000 to the Cleveland Zoological Society funded from the Community Development Fund for the purpose of the Primate Forest Project.

SECTION 2. The Grant Agreement shall provide that an initial $250,000 of the award shall not be disbursed to the Cleveland Zoological Society until the Cleveland Metroparks enters into a Guaranteed Maximum Price agreement with a contractor and that contractor begins construction on Phase II of the Primate Forest Project.

SECTION 3. The Grant Agreement shall provide that an additional amount not-to-exceed $250,000 (the "Additional Disbursement") shall be made available contingent upon the following: 1) the Cleveland Metroparks has entered into a Guaranteed Maximum Price agreement with a contractor, 2) project construction has commenced, and 3) the City of Cleveland has provided matching funds. The Additional Disbursement shall be equal to the amount of matching funds provided by the City of Cleveland but shall not exceed $250,000.

SECTION 4. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 5. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 6. That the County Executive and/or his designee is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 7. The Community Development Fund grant funds shall only be distributed once the awardee has secured all other funding sources necessary to complete the project, and subject to the terms of a grant agreement approved by the Department of Law.

SECTION 8. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 9. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 10. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

SECTION 10. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by_____, seconded by_____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

_____ _____
County Council President Date

_____ _____
County Executive Date

_____ _____
Clerk of Council Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: November 24, 2026
Committee(s) Assigned: Community Development & Housing

Additional Sponsorships Requested on the Floor: November 24, 2026

Journal_____

Cuyahoga County Council

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): Cleveland Zoological Society, Cleveland (Non-Profit)	
Address of Requesting Entity: 3900 Wildlife Way, Cleveland, OH	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project: District 3, Councilman Martin J. Sweeney Cuyahoga County Council 2079 East Ninth Street - 8th Floor	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Nicole Stracensky, Vice President of Strategic Projects	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity:	
Email: stracensky@clevelandzoosociety.org	**Phone:** 216-635-3343
Federal EIN: 34-0816490	**Date:** 8/17/26

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(Include the project name, a description of the project, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project)

In partnership with the Cleveland Zoological Society, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is undertaking its largest-ever, $120 million dollar capital project to transform the Zoo and create an immersive experience unlike any other in North America. Primate Forest will not just create a new home for the Zoo's gorilla troop, orangutans, and the many species currently in The RainForest – it will reimagine the Zoo experience entirely, create a unified campus and streamlined guest entrance, and secure Cleveland Metroparks Zoo as both a sought-after tourist destination and a vital education resource in its region.

The 140,000-square-foot, world-class habitat will build upon the existing RainForest building and front entrance and encompass four interactive and innovative guest spaces: CrossCountry Mortgage Forest Home, Gorilla Forest, Orangutan Forest, and Tropical Forest. The first phase is scheduled to open in October 2026 and includes the CrossCountry Mortgage Forest Home, Orangutan Forest, and Tropical Forest. The Gorilla Forest construction is scheduled to begin in late 2026 with a 2028-2029 opening.

Cuyahoga County funds would be used for construction, fabrication, site work, and planning development of Primate Forest Phase II. The Gorilla Forest in Primate Forest is designed as a world-class, year-round destination that will drive increased visitation, regional tourism, and long-term economic impact. This innovative environment redefines primate habitat design by seamlessly blending indoor and outdoor spaces. Guests will wind through more than 35,000-square-feet of indoors, conditioned space on an ADA-approved walking path, viewing gorillas in multiple two-story habitats. An innovative Ethylene Tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE) roof will allow natural UV light to flood the space, supporting healthy animal cycles and the growth of full-scale trees and vegetation—resulting in an immersive forest setting. Primate Forest strengthens the zoo's competitive position, elevates its national profile, and generates meaningful economic benefits for the region and state.

Project Start Date: November 2026	**Project End Date:** May 2029

IMPACT OF PROJECT

(Include any community benefits, economic impact, and/or environmental impact)

Cleveland Metroparks and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo represent a significant contributor to Northeast Ohio's economy. Cleveland Metroparks Zoo welcomes over 1,300,000 visitors, generating $100 million annually in regional economic impact. Since 2016, the Zoo has seen a 13% increase in visitors from outside the state and a 30% increase in visitors from outside Northeast Ohio. Overall, Cleveland Metroparks creates $873 million in economic value each year, including $616 million in direct visitor spending (Trust for Public Land 2018). Primate Forest will benefit the local economy through increased employment and tourism and will expand the already impactful educational programs offered by the Zoo. The economic impact of this project is estimated at $218 million and to date construction has created over 500 jobs. Phase I construction has already created over 500 jobs, more than previously projected. Upon completion, Primate Forest will also be included in the Zoo's "Free Mondays," granting free admission for all residents of Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township. Primate Forest is the largest capital project in Zoo Society and Zoo history that will not only improve animal wellness but, for the first time, bring science, research, and animal care out front to educate the community on the Zoo's nationally recognized work and care for animals. Primate Forest will also highlight the restorative and necessary role forests and wild lands have in a healthy environment for humans and animals. This pioneering project is unlike anything in North America and will:

- Expand the already impactful educational programs offered by the Zoo with 500,000 students participating in our educational programs and camps over the past five years
- Grow the Zoo's current 1.3 million annual visitors by 30% and make it a premier year-round attraction in Northeast Ohio
- Create local economic impact estimated at $218 million
- Upon completion, be accessible to all in the region through the Zoo's "Free Mondays" which includes free admission for all residents of Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township

Total project budget including sources and uses of funds (list each source and dollar amount separately):

Source 1 (Philanthropy & Corporate Sponsorships): $39,150,000
Source 2 (Cleveland Metroparks reserved capital dollars, reserved revenue sources, and levy funding): $55,350,000
Source 3 (Government funding includes state and county funding): $7,750,000

Total amount requested from the County Community Development Fund: $500,000

Have you applied or do you plan on applying for other financial assistance for this project from Cuyahoga County: (if yes, please provide the details):

The Cleveland Zoo Society received $2,000,000 from the American Plan Rescue Act (APRA funds) for this project in 2022.

Date by which County Funds are needed for the project to move forward effectively: December 2026

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name: Nicole Stracensky

Signature: *Nicole Stracensky*	**Date: 8/31/26**