

# 2022 Virtual Presentation Event



21st Century Fund

*A fund of the Community Foundation  
for Greater Buffalo*

## Semi-Finalist Project Descriptions

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### AQUARIUM OF NIAGARA



**Project Name:** The Reimagined Niagara Gorge  
Discovery Center

**Project Description:** The Aquarium of Niagara will use 21st Century grant funds to help support the renovation of the vacant Niagara Gorge Discovery Center which will transform the facility into a space where visitors can form organic connections with regional wildlife, with an emphasis on the Great Lakes region. The Reimagined Niagara Gorge Discovery Center will significantly enhance the community's access to public greenspace and support healthy living and a higher quality of life. This project will help correct a decades-long injustice within the Western New York Community. The Robert Moses Parkway, that once segregated Niagara's neighborhoods from its natural resources, has been removed. Unimpeded by manmade barriers, the AON is now less than a quarter mile from the Niagara Gorge and the newly created Niagara Scenic Parkway/Empire State Trail, as well as within walking distance of Niagara Falls State Park, two international border crossings and the Niagara Falls tourism district.

### BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE NORTHTOWNS OF WNY

**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**



**Project Name:** Town Clubhouse Improvements

**Project Description:** BGCNT's Town Clubhouse serves as a daily 'safe place' for 180 youth from the Riverside and Black Rock neighborhoods of Buffalo. The Town Clubhouse provides daily after-school academic support, socialemotional education, arts and enrichment and fitness and nutrition programs for kids who might otherwise struggle or fail in school, face troubled home situations alone, and have nowhere to play and enjoy being a kid. This project will provide a Clubhouse that physically matches the warmth, safety and acceptance kids feel and experience at the Town Club. A 21st Century Fund award will sand, refinish and seal the Town Club's gym floor; install security locks (6 external and 18 internal doors) and cameras and a public address/communication system that help kids stay safe; and replace inefficient and unreliable window units and the building's century-old boiler with 8 modular heating/AC units that enable programming in rooms that otherwise become oppressively hot or extremely cold.

## BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY BOTANICAL GARDENS SOCIETY, INC.



**Project Name:** Botanical Gardens Expansion Project

**Project Description:** The Botanical Gardens opened to the public in 1900. It is the only Botanical Gardens in WNY. With exponential visitor growth (146,694 in 2019), increased demand for education programs (20,846 in 2019) and the need to address facility issues, the Gardens commissioned Toshiko Mori Architect to complete a master plan. The master plan calls for the demolition of 17,880sf of non-historic structures and adding 33,000sf including new classrooms, exhibits, a butterfly conservatory, visitor amenities and greenhouses. Audiences are expected to grow to 220,000 in 2025. The annual economic impact will grow from \$5.1M to \$9.1M affecting adjacent neighborhoods where average poverty rates are 24.3% compared to NYS poverty rate of 15.3% (2017). Expanded education space will serve approximately 32,000/yr. Funds from the 21st Century Fund will be used for the demolition of 7 non-historic structures, preparing the site for the new construction. The grant from the 21st Century Fund would also be used to announce the "public phase of the Botanical Gardens' Capital Campaign inviting the whole community to participate.

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## BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Project Name:** Modernizing a 120-Year-Old Auditorium

**Project Description:** Every year, the Buffalo History Museum's auditorium hosts upwards of 8,000 guests at 50+ events – half Museum events and half nonprofit community organizations events, provided free by the Museum. If those organizations were to rent other facilities for those events, they would need to pay upwards of \$7,500. By providing fellow nonprofits with space and technology at little to no cost, the Museum grows its own audience and increases capacity for partner organizations in the region. Including an assistive listening system and video conferencing abilities in this project will allow the Museum to continue to work towards their goal of inclusion and access. Enhancements to the chairs, carpeting, and curtains also contribute to the acoustic setting, making it easier for all guests to enjoy programming in the auditorium, as well as making it a comfortable space.



## CRADLE BEACH CAMP

**Project Name:** Accessible Swimming Pool Renovation and Restoration

**Project Description:** Each summer, nearly 800 children with disabilities or economic challenges come to Cradle Beach and learn to swim and have fun in a fully-accessible swimming pool, equipped with ramps, lifts and other modifications that enable all kids with a wide range of physical abilities to have fun together. The current pool is approximately 25 years old and is impacted by the winter elements, acid washing each summer and the high use during summer months. This project will provide needed resurfacing, cleaning, repair and a safe seasonal covering for the pool, extending its viability and safety for many years. The pool renovation will have a direct impact on Cradle Beach's 800 summer campers, but also on hundreds of children and family members who come to the camp during off-season family camping excursions, respite care weekends, and other events hosted on the 66-acre campus on the shores of Lake Erie in Angola, NY.



## KEVIN GUEST HOUSE

**Project Name:** Building for our Future

**Project Description:** The Kevin Guest House has hosted 60,000+ patients' families seeking medical care in Buffalo since 1972. After adding a 4th guest house in 2018 on the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, KGH serves 2,000 guests annually. 90% reside in NY, most from the 8 WNY counties where specialized treatment is not available. KGH typically has 90% occupancy. Guest accommodations include a mix of 6 full apartments, 4 suites w/private bathrooms, and the original house with 10 rooms, shared bathrooms & common spaces. During the pandemic, shared common spaces & bathrooms in the aging original properties revealed greater risks to immunocompromised guests, with old HVAC systems and decades old materials being difficult to thoroughly clean. This grant will allow the KGH to add private bathrooms in the main house, make durable upgrades in structure & safety and materials that are easier to clean and meet healthcare standards now requested to serve the most compromised patients & caregivers. The goal is to upgrade the original 3 buildings to the standard of the 2018 expansion for long-term health, safety & comfort of guests.



## MERCY FLIGHT INC.

**Project Name:** Implementation of a Lifesaving Air Ambulance Enhancement in Rural WNY

**Project Description:** Mercy Flight plans to implement an Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) approach system across WNY. This enhancement will allow its helicopter air ambulances to provide lifesaving transportation even in inclement weather by relying on instrument readings rather than solely on visual cues, thereby decreasing travel time and increasing positive patient outcomes. This project will install IFR approach systems at four strategic locations – Wyoming County Community Hospital (Warsaw), Olean General Hospital (Olean), Bertrand Chaffee Hospital (Springville), and Medina Memorial Hospital (Medina). This placement will allow Mercy Flight to create intercept points so that if someone in a roughly 15-mile radius of each IFR approach location has a traumatic injury or illness, we'll be able to fly to them when weather conditions might previously have prevented it. This placement will create a service area that includes rural areas of Wyoming, Orleans, Cattaraugus, and Southern Erie Counties, serving over 500,000 residents.



## SHEA'S PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**Project Name:** Historic Light Restoration Project

**Project Description:** Since 1999, Shea's has funded more than \$35 million to restore their majestic theatre to the way it was when it opened over 96 years ago. That includes thousands of volunteer hours and years of meticulous research and hard work to bring each and every element of the theatre back to life. More than 95% fully restored, there is a final, critical element still left to address: the historic lighting restoration that's includes 35+ ornate globe lights and alabaster lamps that adorn and illuminate the ceilings, domes, walls, and hallways of Shea's Buffalo Theatre. In addition, there are over 60 Wall Sconces and over 2 Dozen Hanging Chandeliers of various sizes which are in need of repair, restoration and in many instances, replacement of the ornate crystals. The 21st Century Fund award will complete this unique and distinctive project at a cost of \$105,575, and most importantly, in advance of Shea's 100th Anniversary.

