



Michigan City -
**RIDING A WAVE
OF VIBRANCY
AND MOMENTUM**



2024
annual
REPORT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER



Clarence Hulse

Executive Director

Tide of energy invigorates housing, developments, inclusion

Vibrancy was the word of the year for our city and team in 2024.

Our economic inclusive initiative, Vibrant Michigan City, has continued to flourish with the addition of new team members. An Economic Recovery Corps Fellow will be assisting with the agenda items outlined in the finalized playbook.

Erin Meisner joined our team as Community Development Manager to focus on not only the initiative, but also additional socio-economic opportunities, including the rebooted Michigan City Neighborhood Leadership Academy. The program has community members rolling up their sleeves to dig into what their own neighborhoods need to cultivate a more vibrant future. Participants learned about government processes first-hand and created projects to implement right outside their doors.

Also, development projects, ribbon cuttings and business launches continue to ride a tide of energy as the city sees a surge in growth.

Housing for our community members received an influx with more options unfolding in the future. The Franklin at 11th Street Station is speeding along with the spring groundbreaking and construction of the South Shore Line train station and mixed-use development. The tower will include 220 apartments, garage space for commuters, residents and visitors as well as retail space.

The first new neighborhood in 50 years is on its way with the turn of a shovel. Allen Edwin Homes is bringing Woodland Ridge to the South Woodland Avenue area with a range of homes starting at \$295,900. The original Michigan City Public Library opened its doors as apartment living in the Elston Grove Historic Neighborhood. Casa Del Libri features luxury living after the 3-year renovation.

On the restaurant scene, Michigan City-based Burn 'Em Brewing moved into its larger location to boost brew production and distribution as well as offer event space and new dishes at its full-scratch kitchen. Raising Canes is now serving up chicken, iced tea and Cane's signature sauce while locally owned Royale with Cheese has transformed and transitioned into its new spot to flip its signature burgers. Additional places opening soon are a new French bistro, The Heron, and upscale tavern Rocco's by local restaurateur and chef Joe Farina. The Cellar Door will be pouring out wine and spirits soon as well.

Construction company F.H. Paschen has opened a new regional office as a building boom continues, and HVAC industry's Mid-City Supply wrapped up its \$4 million expansion. Kabelin Hardware Company opened its 8th store on the East side.

Also, JoyRide MC has launched a micro-transit service with electrical tricycles to take visitors and residents around the city, and HealthLinc cut the ribbon on its brand-new building to offer essential health care offerings to all members of the community.

Our team and city leadership continue to spark change with plans for a new inclusive destination playground, Fedder's Alley; the conversion of Franklin Street to a two-way; groundbreaking on Surf Internet Service; and the planning for the future of the Indiana State Prison.

Former Gov. Eric Holcomb officially transferred ownership of the ISP site to the city of Michigan City with a letter of intent. While it will be years in the making, our leaders are diving into the process with the approval of a collection of industry leaders to lead the strategy for the redevelopment and transition.

An outlook for our own future is behind our updated vision and mission statements as well as a new Strategic Plan to take us into 2040. We have pinpointed five pillars: economic inclusion, workforce development, placemaking, storytelling and economic modernization. The plan drills down each area into actionable steps that will serve as a guide to move toward measurable and meaningful benchmarks.

Every day that our city and community evolve, we feel the energy and spirited surge of positivity and vibrancy that is truly taking root in every corner of our city. Our team is diving into 2025 as Michigan City's momentum reaches new and dynamic heights.

Sincerely,

Clarence L. Hulse



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Team



Lilianna Franco
Operations Director



Karaline Cartagena Edwards
Economic Development Manager



Tristan Gaston
Special Projects Coordinator



Erin Meisner
Community Development Manager

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Herald Dispatch

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Triplex Plating

BRIAN COLEMAN
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City Council at Large,
Michigan City Common Council

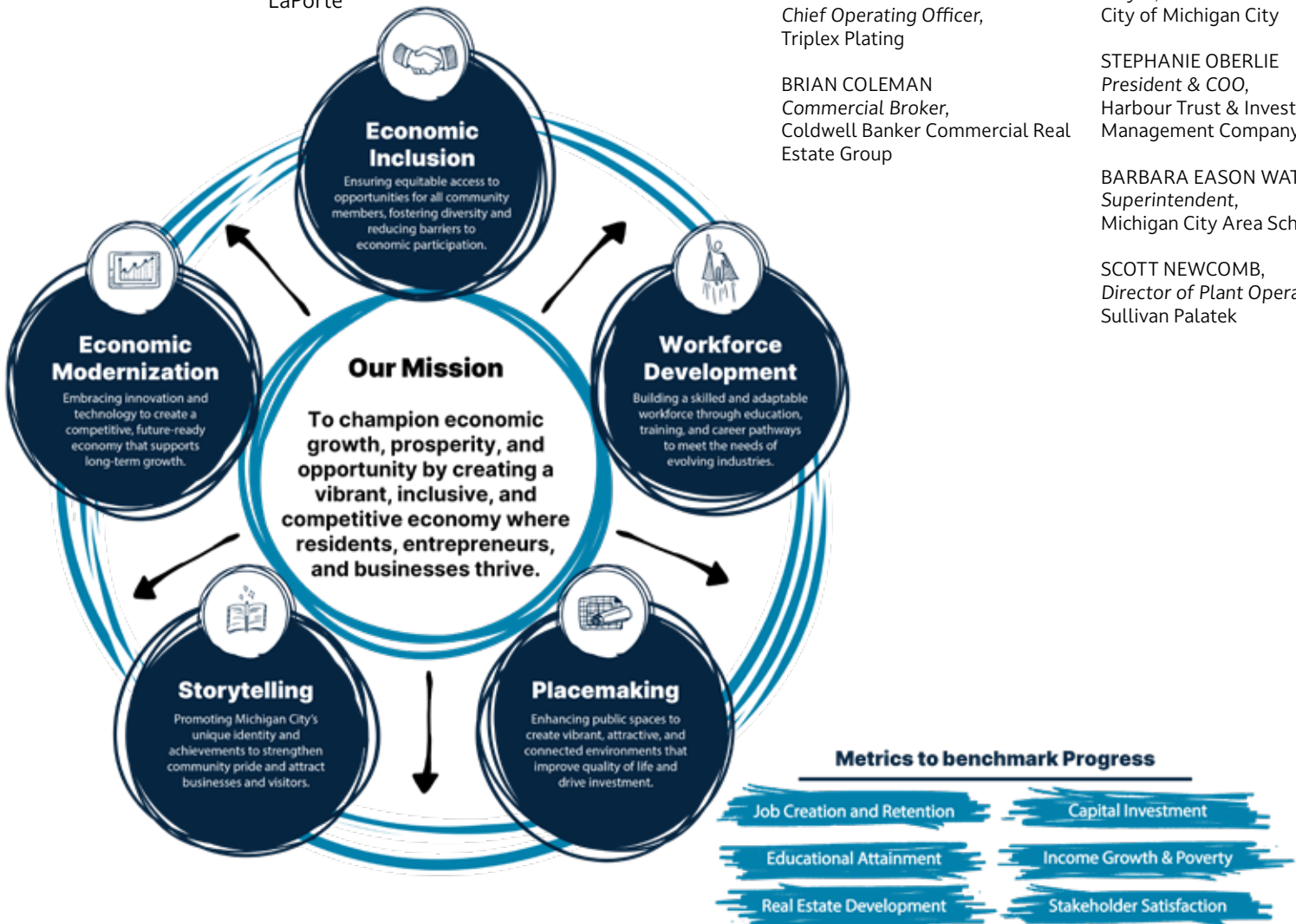
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President & CEO,
Franciscan Health – Michigan City

ANGIE NELSON
Mayor,
City of Michigan City

STEPHANIE OBERLIE
President & COO,
Harbour Trust & Investment
Management Company

BARBARA EASON WATKINS,
Superintendent,
Michigan City Area Schools

SCOTT NEWCOMB,
Director of Plant Operations,
Sullivan Palatek



IN FOCUS: VIBRANT MICHIGAN CITY





Economic-inclusive initiative evolves with new team, leadership academy

New team members, the playbook official release and neighborhood leadership academy reboot continue to propel the Vibrant Michigan City initiative forward.

The year-long Community-Centered Economic Inclusion initiative launched in 2023 and included research, meetings, discussions, interviews, public input and an advisory committee comprised of community leaders. The process was guided by representatives of the Brookings Institution's Bass Center for Transformative Placemaking and the Local Initiatives Support Corp. and centered on the Midtown, East and West areas.

Michigan City Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch was on-hand in Washington when the final collaborative playbook was unveiled. "Advancing Inclusive Development in Rural Towns" is the result of work completed by leaders in not only Michigan City, but also Seymour and Warsaw. The economic inclusive playbook aims to spur collaboration and focused efforts to address economic stagnation and inequality in smaller towns.

"While the Learning Labs and individual playbooks varied as they were created by the leaders and community members in each community, the overall arch of the work completed has created a basis to be emulated in areas across the U.S. to bring real change," said EDCMC Executive Director Clarence L. Hulse.

Locally, new team members will assist in the implementation of Vibrant Michigan City that includes short- and long-term goals in the targeted areas.

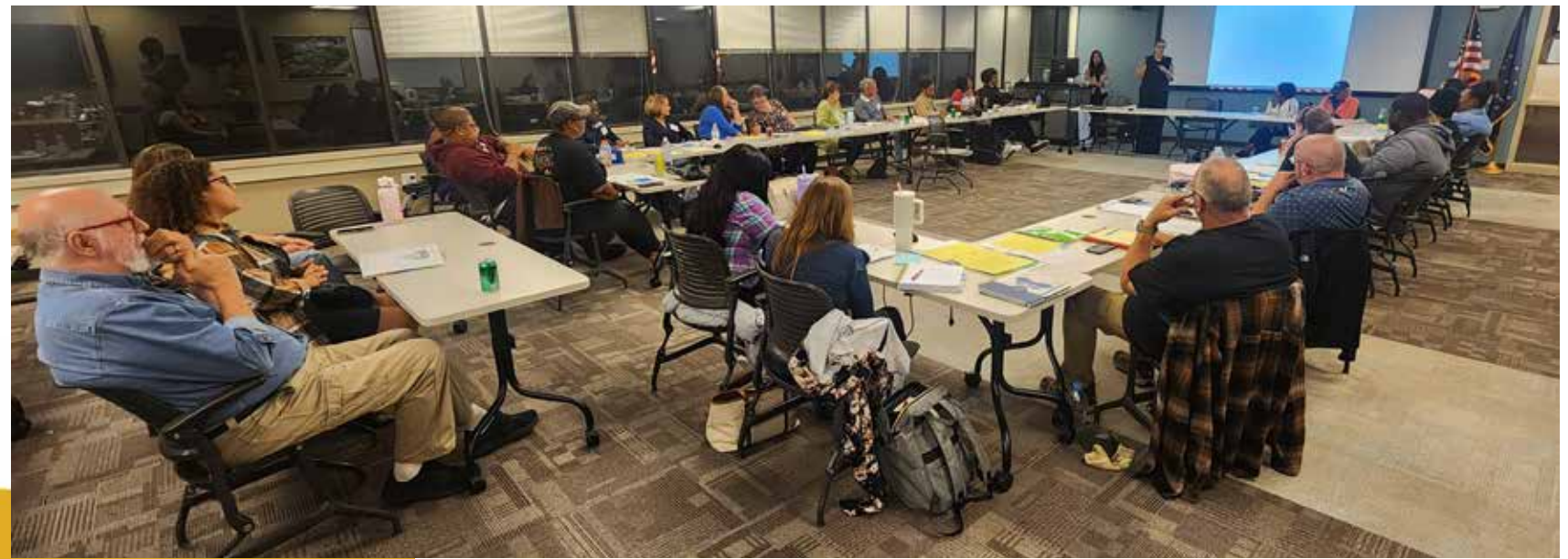
An Economic Recovery Corps Fellow will tackle the playbook implementation as well as bolster the city's entrepreneurial community and assist with workforce development, crime reduction and the continued strengthening of the city's schools during a years-long fellowship. ~>

IN FOCUS: VIBRANT MICHIGAN CITY

“The Leadership Academy is a unique opportunity for our residents to get involved in a way that triggers dedication to our neighborhoods as well as a zeal for improvements and positivity.”

Michigan City Mayor *Angie Nelson Deutch*.





Michigan City was selected to host a Fellow through the ERC Fellowship Program, which was put into place by the International Economic Development Council and U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration in 2023.

"From the beginning, we knew that we would need help to put agenda items into action. Having a Fellow here to center on the initiative paves the path for creating the changes outlined in the playbook," Hulse said.

An additional team member, Erin Meisner, is instrumental to the Vibrant Michigan City playbook as well as additional socio-economic ideas and opportunities. As Community Development Manager, Erin strengthens ties between the EDCMC and the city in the collaborative role.

She is leading the Michigan City Neighborhood Leadership Academy, which returned after being on hold due to Covid. The weeks-long program invites neighborhood leaders to discuss and analyze issues in their own neighborhoods while building a skill set to really make a difference as innovators.

"Economic development and community development have to go hand-in-hand," Meisner said. "You have to focus on the needs of the people here in our community and connect them with the



IN FOCUS: VIBRANT MICHIGAN CITY



right resources and individuals to help them live happy, vibrant, safe and healthy lives.”

The 2024 Leadership Academy graduation ceremony spotlighted the innovative and collaborative projects community members hope can bring change right outside their doors.

They included a community calendar and social media channels to better create connections and share resources, block parties for celebrating their neighborhoods and providing opportunities for neighbors to get to know one another, a focus on updating sidewalks and streetlights and initiatives to focus on health and community partnerships.

“I was heartened by the differences and needs represented by each project for the individual neighborhoods,” Meisner said “The different ideas were brought together in solid plans. Now that you are graduates, you are leaders for Michigan City, especially for your own neighborhoods.”

For more information, visit www.vibrantmc.com.



“Now, I have the opportunity to spotlight what is happening here in Michigan City. You can’t just rely on numbers and data – that doesn’t always tell the story. I want to make those personal connections and empower our community members for real and significant changes.”

Community Development Manager *Elin Meishes*





IN FOCUS: HOUSING & DEVELOPMENTS

Housing options, developments surge on tide of energy

Michigan City continues to rise on a crest of continued progress with the official groundbreaking of the first neighborhood in 50 years, the **Double Track Northwest Indiana project** and **The Franklin at 11th Street Station** as well as the launch of the strategy to outline the future of the **Indiana State Prison**.

In March of 2024, community leaders joined project lead members from Flaherty & Collins Properties for a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the construction of the mixed-use development.

The \$101 million project, the first high-rise mixed-use TOD development in Indiana, will include 1.5 acres of land located at the corner of 11th and Franklin streets and encompass the South Shore Train Station, apartments, parking and retail and commercial space.

Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch said the project has been a labor of love that has shifted from an initial plan for just a parking garage.

“We took a risk switching gears. Having a premier development was important to us and not just a parking garage. I don’t think people realize the risk and hits we took, but we stood strong about what we wanted,” she said. “Michigan City is going through a Renaissance period, and it is going to be like no other.”

Flaherty & Collins CEO David Flaherty spoke to the importance of a lively and connected urban core for northwest Indiana.

“Once completed, The Franklin at 11th Street Station will fully establish upscale living with Lake Michigan views,” said Flaherty. “That, paired with the ease in access to Chicago, will allow for residents to discover a new way of life with endless opportunities just a train ride away.”

In May of 2024, former Gov. Eric Holcomb and regional leaders officially cut the ribbon on the Double Track Northwest Indiana project.

The \$650 million project adds almost 18 miles of new track along a 26-mile corridor, adds 14 new trains to its schedule and reduces travel times to and from Chicago.



IN FOCUS: HOUSING & DEVELOPMENTS

Neighborhood Milestone, Additional Housing

In December of 2024, the shovel was turned on the first new neighborhood to be developed in Michigan City in 50 years.

Woodland Ridge is in its first phase of development on South Woodland Avenue, just south of West Pals Road. **The Allen Edwin Homes neighborhood** includes homes from 1,252 to 2,735 square feet that start at \$295,900 and include plans with two to five bedrooms, one to two bathrooms and two garages.

Mayor Nelson Deutch enjoyed watching the progress up-close as the first phase was initiated.

“When the road went in, I was so excited that the project was on the right path to offer our residents another option for homeownership,” she said. “We are staying the course in this process with all of our partners and look forward to Phase 1 of Woodland Ridge taking shape.”

This phase includes about 33 homes on the 32-acre property with Phases 2 and 3 adding additional homes in the future.

Also, the original **Michigan City Public Library** turns a page as the ribbon was cut on the three-year renovation project.

The refreshed **Casa del Libri** features five new, luxury apartments at Eighth and Spring Streets in the Elston Grove Historic Neighborhood. The building highlights its historic roots, including a 12-foot-high Tiffany-style-stained glass window depicting the Shakespearean figures Rosalind, Portia and Ophelia.

Construction continued at the **Beachwood Subdivision** at Beachwalk homes. The expansion is the first in more than a decade for the luxury vacation home spot.





“It’s a monumental moment for our city as we begin addressing what’s next for the prison site. We look forward to having our community members, leaders and industry experts guide the conversation, spark ideas and lay out a foundation for the future.”

Michian City *Mayor Nelson Deutch*



A New Future for the State Prison

An advisory council and team of experts were named to take on the reimagining of the **Indiana State Prison** site as community input was gathered through public meetings, virtual meetings and website.

“It’s a monumental moment for our city as we begin addressing what’s next for the prison site,” Nelson Deutch said. “We look forward to having our community members, leaders and industry experts guide the conversation, spark ideas and lay out a foundation for the future.”

A collection of industry leaders was approved to develop a master plan and design as part of the ISP Redevelopment Strategy. Farr Associates, Terra Engineering, McKenna, Zimmerman-Volk Associates and Sam Schwartz are bringing a combined level of expertise to analyze, develop, plan, design and present recommendations for the property.

The team has outlined the key tasks that will be addressed throughout the process, which is expected to last through the fall of 2025. Tasks include: analyzing assets and opportunities, design alternatives for the vacant site, transportation analysis and recommendations, site utilization analysis and recommendations, financial analysis and recommendations, public and stakeholder engagement and delivery of a final strategy playbook.

Also in December 2024, former Gov. Eric Holcomb signed a letter of intent along with Mayor Nelson Deutch to indicate the state will transfer ownership of the Indiana State Prison site to the City of Michigan by Jan. 1, 2029.

The Indiana Department of Correction announced in August 2023 that the prison would close after the completion of a new 4,200 bed facility on the Westville Correctional Facility campus. The new prison will replace both facilities.

The EDCMC was awarded READI 1.0 funds to study the reuse of the site during the first round of funding from the state. The Regional Acceleration and Development Initiative program is funding initiatives and projects throughout the state to impact Hoosiers’ quality of life.

Launched by Gov. Holcomb and led by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), READI encourages regional collaboration and data-driven, long-term planning that will attract and retain talent in Indiana. The \$500 million READI fund was passed by legislation during the 2021 session and was divided among 17 regions.

IN FOCUS: HOUSING & DEVELOPMENTS

More Projects Launch, Progress, Mark Milestones

A **renovation project at 711 Franklin St.** will link commercial and retail space to a proposed city plaza.

The spot will include first-floor spaces to lease that will range in sizes from 860 to 1800 square feet and face an area pegged to provide space for public gatherings, including concerts, festivals and shows.

“The plaza will create a space for friends and families to create memories. With the progress happening in Michigan City, we feel such a spot is a vital and important piece of the puzzle for the future growth of the downtown area,” said building owner Nazar Kryvko.

After breaking ground in 2022, the new **Michigan City HealthLinc** location officially cut the ribbon on its larger space, which also includes vision, podiatry and dental services as well as a pharmacy and a community room with a kitchen.

The goal of HealthLinc has always been to offer quality health-care for all in an accessible way that has been boosted by the facility’s location on a bus line. It is located right behind the Ivy Tech Community College Michigan City site, a Learning Lab, to create more hands-on learning opportunities.

Dalton Enterprises landed in Michigan City at 200 Lumber Center Road after outgrowing its location in Wisconsin. Dalton is a manufacturer of pavement repair and sealant products.

Construction company **F.H. Paschen** expanded with a new regional office at 2146 N. Karwick Road, Suite D, and an initial investment of approximately \$250,000 in the space’s build-out. F.H. Paschen has its roots in Chicago with more than 500 total employees who work at offices across the country.

Family-owned **D. Martin Enterprises** laid the groundwork for expanded offerings with a more than \$20 million investment in a new manufacturing facility to serve the local and national steel industry. Martin Enterprises Vice President of Operations Cassie Martin Graham said the new building will include 112,350 square feet of manufacturing space as well as 4,000 square feet of office space.



“My Chicken City”: Raising Cane’s celebrated its Michigan City location, 5000 Franklin St., with a ribbon-cutting and donation to Habitat for Humanity.



Health and Wellness: Sacred Dunes opened at 130 Commerce Square as a wellness spot offering acupuncture, cupping, massage, herbal medicine, microneedling, yoga and more.



Cheers to Brewery: Burn 'Em Brewing transitioned from its former location to its larger space at 1215 E. 2nd St.



Getting Around: JOYRide MC is rolling in the city as a micro-transit service that features electrical tricycles.



Supplier Celebration: Mid-City Supply Co. Inc. celebrated its renovations by cutting the ribbon at 1501 E. 2nd St. The \$4 million expansion added 18,600 square feet, an exterior snow-melt system and interior floor heating. The company provides contractors and homebuilders with plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, PVF and industrial products.



Two Ways: Franklin Street's two-way conversion was launched with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS + HIGHLIGHTS

\$113,027,500

Total Estimated Capital Investment



Business Attraction, Retention & Expansion Projects



213,400

Commercial SF Added or Redeveloped

20

Business Retention & Expansion Visits

3

Redevelopment Projects

6

Expansions or Re-Locations Completed or in Progress



205

New Jobs



92

Leads



20

Visits with Local Employers



13

New Business Openings

85

Jobs Retained



44

Meetings with City of Michigan City

22

Site Selectors Visits

110

Community Partnership Meetings

13

Workforce Development Meetings

60

Business Development Meetings



0

Michigan City Revolving Loan Fund Inquiries



30

Business Assistance



19

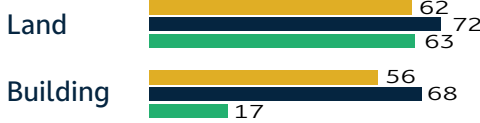
Misc Activities (Conferences, Meetings, Training, Etc.)

Leads & Requests

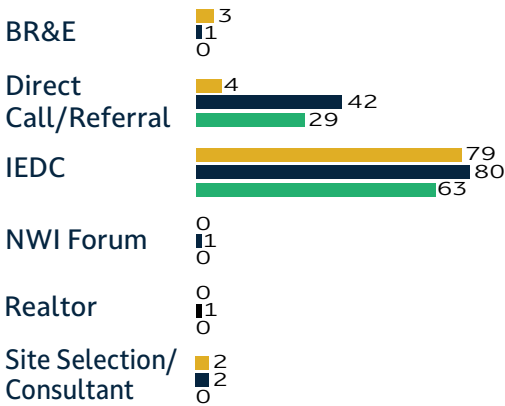
2022 2023 2024

Many of our business inquiries are specific to finding real estate available in Michigan City. The EDCMC maintains a database of a variety of commercial properties for sale or lease in the area. We also track the requests for property that come to us, so we may have a better understanding of the types of facilities that are needed for development.

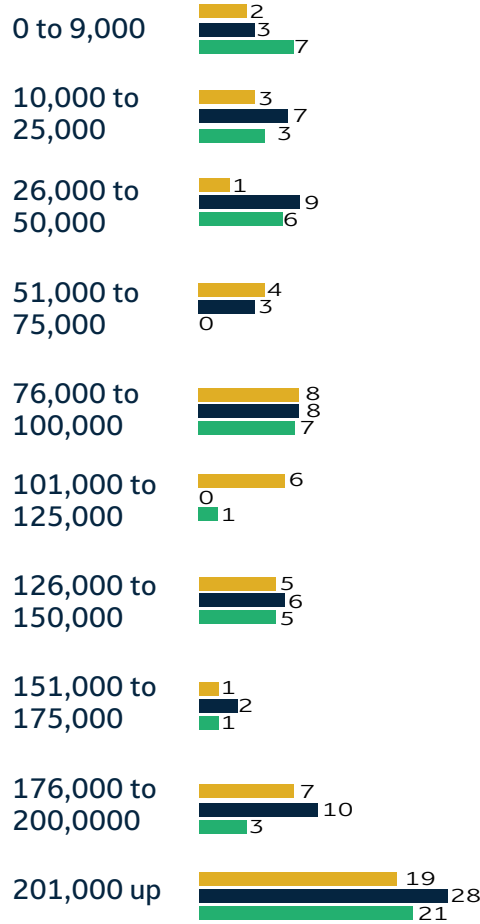
Type of Property Requests



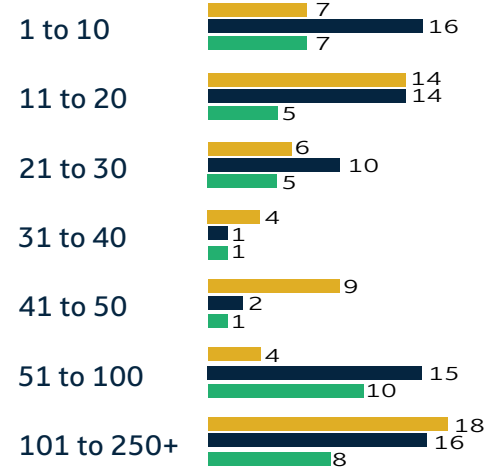
Source of RFI



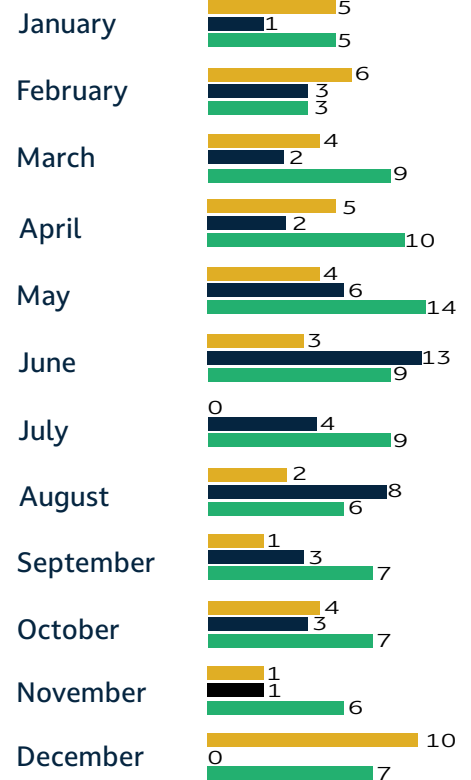
Sq. Footage Requests



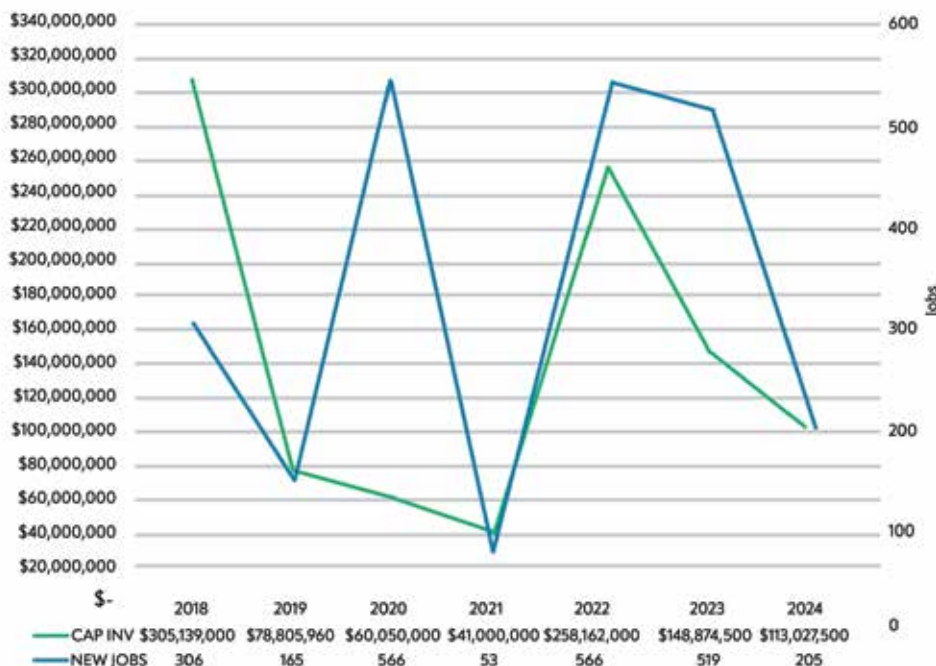
Acreage Requested



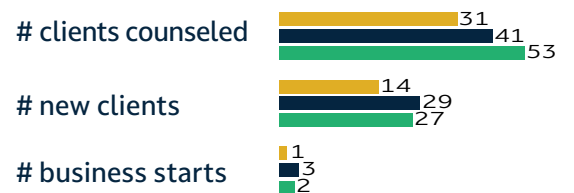
Month RFI Received



Development from EDCMC Leads/Projects



SBDC Counseling: Michigan City



Workshops in 2024:

- Business Plan Writing - February
- Small Business Bookkeeping Basics - September
- Start-up 101 - October

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS & IMPACT

How We Make a Mark



Company Roots Grow Stronger

Family-owned D. Martin Enterprises is laying the groundwork for expanded offerings with a more than \$20 million investment in a new manufacturing facility to serve the local and national steel industry.

D. Martin Enterprises Vice President of Operations Cassie Martin Graham said the new building will include 112,350 square feet of manufacturing space as well as 4,000 square feet of office space. The company is expected to initially add 30 new employees with the opportunity to hire more workers in the first two years of operation.

“My grandfather opened the DME office in Michigan City over 40 years ago and it’s always felt like the right place to be - central to many of the mills we do business with and in a community that has grown exponentially in that time,” she said.

“D. Martin Enterprises has a strong foundation here in Michigan City and has been a central component of the steel industry since 1975, with decades here in our city,” said Michigan City Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch. “To have a multigenerational company continue to cultivate roots in Michigan City signifies how we continue to provide a strong base for our business community.”

The company, 310 Commerce Square, began with Don Martin Sr. and his wife Betty, providing a range of solutions for the electric arc furnace steel mills across the country. Today, the company has nearly 100 employees and is on the verge of bringing a new process to the market.



Celebrating Our Business Community

The EDCMC team put a spotlight on the impactful businesses and community leaders who have helped cultivate the city’s current culture of collaboration and prosperity.

The 2024 Business Appreciation Awards set honorees on center stage for their investments, longevity, passion and mark on our community’s growth.

Tops honors: Leadership Awards went to Beth Wrobel and Shannon Eason; Phoenix Awards went to Burn ‘Em Brewing and Lakefront Salon; and Lifetime Achievement honors went to Dr. Barbara Eason Watkins and John Schaefer, posthumously.

Grant Partnership

Our team along with Michigan City leadership are partnering with Better City Grant Writers to seek out grants that will bolster economic development and community-centered efforts and initiatives.

“By putting a knowledgeable team into place, we are moving forward our capacity-building efforts,” Nelson Deutch said. “There are grant opportunities out there for the city, EDCMC and our community organizations, but it is challenging to not only find them, but also go through the application process. Our over-arching goal is to find funding for public projects.”

The EDCMC team sees the partnership as an avenue to fund key agenda items that are outlined in the Vibrant Michigan City initiative, including entrepreneurship, creative placemaking, youth activities, business corridor development and childcare/early learning initiatives.

New Team Members

The EDCMC team expanded in 2024 with the addition of Erin Meisner as Community Development Manager and Tristan Gaston as Special Projects Coordinator.

Erin is focusing on the social side of economic development and leads the Michigan City Neighborhood Leadership Academy. Tristan is responsible for connecting community members to the correct resources and tools, addressing inquiries on EDCMC services and offerings, synchronizing all aspects of the office and its team members, bookkeeping and preparing of necessary marketing materials and presentations.

“I enjoy my role simply because I am using my talents to help grow our community,” he said. “I look forward to helping create opportunities for others to flourish here in Michigan City.”



Brownfield Seminar

The first Northwest Indiana Brownfield Seminar highlighted resources, tools and case studies for properties affected by the potential presence of pollutants, contaminants or hazardous substances.

Through a partnership with the City of Michigan City and BCA Environmental Consultants, participants garnered knowledge on incentives as well as federal, state and local resources regarding Brownfields.



Our Team Members Shine

Karaline Cartagena Edwards was honored as one of the 20 Under 40 inductees of The Times Media Group. “I’m excited to have a hand in initiatives that ensure we’re building upon the existing environment of our established community and working toward creating more opportunities and resources for our established community,” she said.

Karaline Cartagena Edwards was a member of the 40th Class of Leadership LaPorte County, developing key skills to be a successful community leader.

Liliana Franco was recognized as a Northwest Indiana Women on the Rise by the Leadership Institute and Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest.

Liliana Franco completed the Leadership Northwest Indiana program through PNW.



Powering Up Breakfast

With a focus on housing, the EDCMC’s 2nd annual Power Breakfast highlighted the city’s mixed-use projects and new neighborhood as well as sparked future trade careers with financial support for trade show attendance.

More than 160 attendees listened to panelists David Flaherty, CEO of Flaherty & Collins, Brian Farkas, director of Allen Edwin Homes, and Jeff Bennett, partner at McColly Bennett during the event at UpTown Social. The trio provided the latest updates on housing options and the South Shore Double Track project.

Every year, the proceeds from the breakfast support the transportation of high school students to trade shows in Chicago.

“This year’s event raised around \$10,000 – more than last year – so that our Michigan City high school students are exposed to a first-hand look at future career opportunities in the trade arena,” said EDCMC Executive Director Clarence L. Hulse. “We are honored to help back this important step in workforce and student development.”



Investor Social

Our team continues to work closely with the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership and community leaders to take all of LaPorte County to a new level.

The Investor Social at Drift on Pine in La Porte set the stage to further the conversation on creating vibrancy in Michigan City, La Porte and beyond.

OUR OUTREACH

How we foster connections & change



IEDC Conference

Our Michigan City Economic Avengers team sought to spark connections and creativity at the International Economic Development Conference in Denver.

The conference is a platform for learning new strategies and ideas through educational content and conversations to bring back to Michigan City. Top-notch speakers highlighted community and economic development trends, programs and opportunities.

Our team also met entrepreneur Akeem Shannon and heard his story of perseverance on getting his flipstick invention to the marketplace.

Sharing our Story

Clarence and Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch shared our story and vision to LAI - Chicago: a real estate and planning organization. The Authenticity of Place event was put in place to spur conversations about balancing new projects and changes with established character and qualities of a community.



Investing in Michigan City

Our Clarence Hulse spoke at the Realty Club of Chicago Luncheon at the downtown Union League Club, addressing the current and future developments in Michigan City.

An audience of 40 developers, architects, real estate attorneys and institutional investors were able to learn about future opportunities and how to invest in Michigan City.



Urban Land Planning

Our team brought together a mix of professionals for an interactive workshop on the process of urban planning presented by Urban Land Institute.

Community members from Michigan City, Valparaiso, South Bend, Gary and La Porte as well as City Council members and appointed board members from housing, redevelopment and planning commissioners participated in the discussion. ULI is the oldest and largest network of cross disciplinary real estate and land use experts



Hands-on Exposure to Careers

The Central Midwest Carpenters/IKORCC open house welcomed more than 900 attendees, including students from all over NWI and community leaders.

The interactive event allowed students to receive hands-on experience on various aspects of the carpentry world, including drilling, blueprint reading and layout, leveling, measuring and more to spur interest in a career path.

OUR COMMUNITY

How we spotlight, connect to our city

A Celebration of Art, Community

WestFest marked the wrap up of the mural, “The Bridge to Tomorrow,” by artist Bernard Williams at H.O.P.E. Center. The mural was facilitated by Lubeznik Center for the Arts in partnership with H.O.P.E. Center to spotlight a bright MC future.

A celebration showcased the finished work as well as remarks from Williams and performances by the JUMP double-dutch group and spoken word with Gerri Lucas and friends.



Amazing Women, Amazing Accomplishments

Our community celebrated two women who have made an impact on the community. Dr. Barbara Eason Watkins retired after a 50-year career in education, ending as superintendent of Michigan City Area Schools. Linda Simmons retired after serving as Marketing Director at the LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Eason Watkins was honored with a retirement party at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, where she received the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest civilian honor in the State of Indiana. She was also awarded the John H. Davies Lifetime Achievement honor by the Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest.

Simmons spearheaded the efforts behind the award-winning Great Lakes Grand Prix Marketing Campaign – having won the prestigious Best Event in the State of Indiana Award twice during her tenure. She had been a part of our EDCMC board of directors and had served as past chair.

Grants Support Small Businesses

The city of Michigan City and EDCMC teams launched a Small Business Assistance Grant Program in 2024.

The grant program was supported by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to bolster businesses that were negatively impacted by the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants were awarded to 35 qualified businesses for investment in such areas as equipment, employee payroll, utility or operating costs, rent or mortgage expenses, marketing and advertising and physical improvements.



‘I Make America’ Bus Tour

The Association of Equipment Manufacturers bus tour made a pit stop at Sullivan Palatek in Michigan City. The “I Make America” national grassroots campaign traveled around the country to highlight how the manufacturing industry impacts our economy, work force, communities and beyond.

Twenty-four students from the Michigan City High School’s Air Compressor Academy had the opportunity to be part of the event. The Academy is the only one in the nation to focus on workforce development of a local industry.



Another Way to Play

City and community leaders launched a capital campaign for an all-inclusive playground and fitness park at Fedder’s Alley in Washington Park.

With \$3 million committed, the campaign goal is \$2 million for the spot that will be ADA compliant, have sensory areas and safe surfaces to spark exploration and fun for all kids.

“Play is a crucial part of childhood. Everyone, regardless of ability, should have the opportunity to play,” said MC Parks & Recreation Superintendent Shannon Eason.

Grant Supports Digital Equity

Michigan City is one of four small cities in the U.S. to receive a \$75,000 Talent for Tomorrow: Digital Equity Challenge grant.

“We are excited to leverage the partnership we have with Michigan City Area Schools to bring digital equity programming to parents and families. It’s important that we connect families to opportunities to increase their quality of life,” Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch said.

The program’s goal is to increase access to local workforce training programs to grow readiness for college and careers.



Faster Internet speeds along

Surf InternetSM and community leaders dug in to mark the next phase of fiber-optic internet in Michigan City.

Surf is investing more than \$5.6 million to expand its fiber network to 4,500 addresses in Michigan City, launching initially with speeds of up to 2 gigabits-per-second. This infrastructure will provide a foundation capable of scaling to 10 Gbps. Completion of the construction is slated for August 2025.

“Becoming a multi-gig city is a significant milestone for us. Fiber connectivity is the second most requested feature by people moving to a new city, and having this infrastructure will undoubtedly attract more residents and workers to Michigan City,” said our Clarence Hulse.

STRATEGIC PLAN



New Strategy Through 2040

A refreshed Michigan City Strategic Action Plan plots key points to forge toward continuous economic development and socioeconomic opportunities and innovations.

The EDCMC, Michigan City Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch and business and community leaders worked closely with the Ascendant Global Consulting team to update the Strategic Plan for a groundwork to pave the way to 2040. It pinpoints five pillars: economic inclusion, workforce development, placemaking, storytelling and economic modernization.

“The ideas are aggressive and visionary as any strategic plan needs to be in order to truly trigger the growth we are envisioning,” Nelson Deutch said. “The city’s leadership team is committed to a long-term productive collaboration as we take on implementing this long-term plan for action.”

Visit www.edcmc.com for details.



2023-2025 INVESTORS

Making All the Difference

Special thanks to these generous campaign **2023-2025 INVESTORS** who are committed to supporting economic development efforts in Michigan City and LaPorte. The funds will be used to continue an aggressive Economic Development Program of Action that includes new business attraction, existing business retention, research and marketing. EDCMC will utilize investors as preferred vendors for new project lists.

Palladium Level

\$15,000

Horizon Bank

Platinum Level

\$10,000+

Hitachi Global Air Power US LLC
IN/KY/OH Regional Council of Carpenters
NIPSCO
Northwest Health

Gold Level

\$5,000+

1st Source Bank
American Licorice Co.
Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad
Franciscan Health Alliance
Green Demolition, Inc.
Hiler Industries
KIA Michigan City
LaPorte Seamless Gutter
LaPorte County Conventions & Visitor Bureau
Powering America of Northwest Indiana
Sloan Avenue/ Redstone Joint Venture
Tonn & Blank Construction, LLC

Silver Level

\$2,500+

F.H. Paschen
Fiber Bond Operating, LLC
Flaherty & Collins
Holladay Properties
HRR Enterprises, Inc.
Jaeger-Unitek Sealing Solutions
James Burg & Trucking Company
Listing Leaders
Majority Builders, Inc.
Mikropor America, Inc.
Shady Creek Winery
SURF Internet
Triplex Plating
Waste Management

Bronze Level

\$1,000+

1919 RH
4411 Inn & Suites
Akers Packaging
American Renolit
American Structurepoint
Applegate & Company, CPAs
Berglund Construction Co.
Brian P. Coleman Commercial Real Estate Broker
Buffalo Wild Wings
Cadence Environmental Energy, Inc.
Centier Bank
Central States Manufacturing, Inc.
Chicago Title
Edward Jones /Jon Salisbury
Fidelity National Title Insurance Company
First Merchants Bank
First Trust Credit Union
G.M. Fedorchak & Associates Architects & Developers
General Insurance Services, Inc.
Gerard Media, LLC WIMS WHFB

Harbour Trust & Investment Management Company
Harris Law Firm, P.C.
Hasse Construction Co, Inc
J & L Dimensional Services, Inc.
J. Shoffner General Contractor, Inc.
Kabelin Ace Hardware Co.
Kora Holdings, Inc
L.D. Thornton & Associates, Inc.
La Porte County Association of REALTORS
Larson Danielson Construction
Lochmueller Group
McColly Bennett Commercial Advantage
Meridian Title Corporation
Michigan City Chamber of Commerce
Micky Gallas Group @properties
MSKS Studios
Monosol, LLC
Newby, Lewis, Kaminski & Jones
Nova Basement Systems
Phoenix Glass Service, Inc.

PNC Bank
Purdue Federal Credit Union
Purdue University Northwest
Qubit Networks
RE/MAX Realtors Coughlin - Schillo Team
Regional Development Co.
Sanlo, Inc.
Sauers Auto
SEH of Indiana
Sera Group
Smith Group
Sullivan-Palatek, Inc.
Taylor Michigan City Chrysler
The Chicago Consultants Studio, Inc
The Hagerman Group
Unity Foundation of La Porte County
Vavrek Architects, Inc
Winndeavor, LLC

Supporters

Barry F. McDonnell
BCA Environmental Consultants
Business Development Corporation
Center of Workforce Innovations
Fifth Third Bank
JQOL
Kemps Office Supply
Nielsen Michigan City, LLC
Reith- Riley Construction Co. Inc

We are continuing to "build economic success together" as we launch our 2023-2025 Economic Development Community Investment Campaign. We are once again working with the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership to collaborate on creating a countywide effort. Our investors are vital to our joint Economic Development Program of Action. Through the Unity of Foundation's establishment of the Economic Development Investment Fund, your investment is tax deductible. To join our initiative or receive a campaign brochure, contact us at 219-873-1211 or LEAP at 219-324-8584.

Visit

MICHIGAN CITY LAPORTE

**2025
VISITORS
GUIDE**



FESTIVALS
& EVENTS

CULINARY
DELIGHTS

BREATHTAKING
BEACHES

VIBRANT
ARTS SCENE

OUTDOOR
ADVENTURES

BOUTIQUES
& MARKETS