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Infinite Erie Expands Leadership Team

Delivery Teams Assigned to Cross-Sectors, Projects

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ERIE, PA (March 8, 2023) – Infinite Erie, formed and funded by Erie Insurance, Erie Community Foundation, and ECGRA, announced new membership to the Erie Action Team and introduces the Delivery Teams charged with managing implementation across focused Playbook priorities.

By coordinating inclusive growth strategies to deliver transformative change, Infinite Erie was organized across public, private and civic leadership to implement [Erie's Investment Playbook](#) and position Erie to attract & secure more public and private sector funding than like-size regions.

“Our desired outcomes can only be achieved when the regions leaders are working in unison toward a collective goal,” said Karen Bilowith, President and CEO of the Erie Community Foundation and chair of the Erie Action Team. “Right now, that means implementing the 35 priorities identified in the Playbook — and as an extension of the Erie Action Team, the Delivery Teams will work to drive Infinite Erie forward.”

The Erie Action Team serves as the steering committee for Erie's Investment Playbook, and is comprised of public, private, and civic leaders that are driving Erie's economic

and community development efforts. The Delivery Teams will work with the Erie Action Team to help determine specific needs, costs, funding sources, and next steps on investments and strategies — putting plans into action.

“By having community leaders on the same page and agreeing to follow a road map for strategically pursuing funding opportunities, Erie County is already winning,” said Kim Thomas, Executive Director of Infinite Erie. “And now with inclusive representation on both the Erie Action Team and Delivery Teams, Infinite Erie will better serve all of Erie County as a catalyst for equitable and inclusive growth and deliver transformative change.”

To ensure ongoing collaboration and inclusion, a leadership representative from each of the Delivery Teams will sit as a member of the Action Team. The new Erie Action Team members are Gerald Blanks, CEO of GEEDC and Tina Mengine, CEO of the Erie County Redevelopment Authority; initial Delivery Teams will be led by Rhonda Matthews, founding board member of Erie’s Black Wall Street; Boo Hagerty, president of the Hamot Health Foundation; and Gary Horton, founder and CEO of Urban Erie Community Development Corporation. Additional members will be appointed as other Delivery Team leadership is identified.

Below is a breakdown of the full team.

- City of Erie Mayor Joe Schember
- Karen Bilowith, President and CEO, Erie Community Foundation (chair)
- Chris Marsh, Chief Diversity & Community Development Officer, Erie Insurance
- Perry Wood, Executive Director, ECGRA
- Ferki Ferati, President, Jefferson Education Society
- James Grunke, CEO, Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership
- Gary Lee, Chief Administrative Officer, Diverse Erie
- Gerald Blanks, CEO, GEEDC
- Rhonda Matthews, founding board member, Erie’s Black Wall Street
- Boo Hagerty, President, Hamot Health Foundation
- Gary Horton, founder and CEO, Urban Erie Community Development Corporation

The Erie Action Team will empower the collaborative work of the Delivery Teams. Rhonda Matthews will lead the Inclusive Entrepreneurship Delivery Team. Boo Hagerty will lead the permanent supportive housing and homelessness initiative; and Gary Horton will lead the Burton School Revitalization Delivery Team.

Through the collaboration and coordination of inclusive growth strategies, the Erie Action Team and Delivery Teams will put the Infinite Erie plans into action to serve as a catalyst for equitable and inclusive growth and deliver transformative change.

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