

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY

Councilman O'Malley's first act as a councilperson was to introduce Ordinance 1-16, which prohibits discrimination against LGBT workers and residents in education, housing, employment, and public accommodation. The ordinance is among the most comprehensive anti-discrimination laws in Ohio.



Councilman O'Malley's other legislative achievements include passing ordinances to increase transparency and accessibility within Lakewood city government, and to remove onerous regulations for small business owners. Councilman O'Malley has been incredibly supportive of these efforts to build a new Hub for the LGBTQ community in East Lakewood and Studio West is working with Councilman O'Malley to make sure the project directly addresses his priorities to make Lakewood safer, healthier, and more vibrant for his diverse constituency.



As the world's first community foundation, The Cleveland Foundation has played a critical role in Cleveland's community and economic development for over a century.

The Cleveland Foundation is currently considering a funding request from Plexus to develop an asset map for the LGBTQ community of Greater Cleveland, which will identify strengths and gaps in the current LGBTQ ecosystem and can greatly inform the priorities of Studio West and the West 117 Foundation for years to come.

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The North Coast College is a nationally accredited college with accredited degrees in Art and Design Management, Fashion Design, Fashion Marketing, Fashion Merchandising, Graphic Design, and Interior Design. NCC is in the process of adding a 4-year degree in the Culinary Arts to their offerings and will be the only college in Ohio to do so.

NCC is situating itself as the anchor institution of this new LGBTQ Hub and is currently working on transitioning to a non-profit as well as the nation's first LGBT-certified college.

Planned partnerships and initiatives with NCC include:

- ✔ Scholarship opportunities for LGBTQ students, supported by the West 117 Foundation.
- ✔ A new workforce development pipeline between NCC's culinary school and Studio West's entertainment venues.
- ✔ A first of its kind drag curriculum created by Dr. Lady J
- ✔ Collaboration on fashion shows and drag costuming.



Grants Plus is a firm of expert grant consultants who help organizations find routes to grant funding, forge strong relationships with funders, write winning proposals, and reach greater grant revenues over time. Headquartered in Cleveland, but with a national reach, the firm is expert in local, regional and national philanthropy. Lauren Steiner, the firm's founder and president is providing strategic institutional fundraising guidance to the project.