

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY

GRANTS*Plus*



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.

The Cleveland Foundation is a key piece of this puzzle and has been helping the project partners think about the LGBT Hub within the bigger picture.



They are currently assisting Plexus and the LGBT Center with a needs assessment and asset map to provide the LGBT community with previously unavailable data about the community in Cleveland. This study will help the project partners better understand the existing LGBTQ ecosystem in Cleveland and where resources will be most effectively utilized in the coming years.



Plexus is a strategic partner in the economic development of Northeast Ohio and serves as a point of connection for corporations, supporters, LGBTQ businesses and professionals. With this mission in mind, Plexus is the perfect community partner for this LGBTQ Hub project. As part of this new ecosystem for the LGBT+ Community of Cleveland, we expect Plexus to play a critical role in providing business supportive services to LGBT+ owned and allied businesses to assist them with new business and training opportunities that will arise at this new epicenter.



Dan O'Malley, President Lakewood City Council'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. Dan'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. Dan has been incredibly supportive of this project and we are working with Dan to make sure this project directly addresses his priorities to make Lakewood safer, healthier, and more vibrant for his diverse constituency.

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## PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY



The North Coast College is a nationally accredited college for students ready to advance. Its specialized, project-based curriculum and hands-on training prepare students to compete in the creative fields with the most dynamic growth potential. NCC offers accredited degrees in Art and Design Management, Fashion Design, Fashion Marketing, Fashion Merchandising, Graphic Design, and Interior Design. And, in 2020, NCC will be the only college in Ohio that will offer a 4-year degree in Culinary Arts.

Success in a desired field requires years of dedication and hard work. The college cultivates this work ethic by promoting a positive attitude, collaboration, drive, motivation, and the value of all people. The curriculum reinforces strong basic skills to widen each person's unique design potential. This respect for diversity is visible in our student body. Students are treated with dignity and respect, giving our graduates a firm foundation upon which to build a future in the design industries.

NCC is working to become the nation's first LGBT-