

METRO

'Long-term' future of Coliseum eyed

City of Fort Wayne is conducting a long-term study of the Coliseum's future. The study will look at the building's condition, potential for renovation, and the impact of the building on the surrounding area. The study is being conducted by a consultant and will be completed by the end of the year. The city is currently in the process of reviewing the study and will make a decision on the building's future in the coming months.



5 nonprofits surprised with grants of \$20,000

Community Foundation marks 100th anniversary

ROSA SALTER RODRIGUEZ
The Journal Gazette

Five Fort Wayne nonprofit organizations received surprise \$20,000 grants Thursday as the Community Foundation celebrated its 100th anniversary by providing funds to groups with exemplary service projects.

Organizations that received grants are ACRES Land Trust, Audiences Unlimited, The League, the Literacy Alliance and Northeast Indiana Positive Resource Connection.

All have had a close association with and been funded by the foundation for 20 years, said Meg Saxman, director of marketing and communication.

During a news conference at Grand Wayne Convention Center, the foundation also announced:

- A rebranding that includes a new logo and a redesigned website to be introduced shortly.

- Pioneer Grants, a 2022 initiative that focuses on finding and funding new nonprofits and groups working on issues at the grassroots level. Grant applications will be accepted beginning March 1.

- A new Vision Plan based on focused funding in five areas called community pillars – Connected Community, Inspiring Places, Everyone's Economy, Lifelong Learning and

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Healthy Mind and Body.

Each of the organizations provided surprise grants exemplified one or more of the pillars, Saxman said.

Heather Barth, ACRES advancement director, said the surprise grant would likely help fund an initiative this spring to restore habitats to their natural state with native grasses, trees and flowers.

"We're not sure yet what we're going to do with (the money) because it was so unexpected," she said, adding

the restoration projects would be in northern Allen County in the area of the organization's Bicentennial Woods preserve.

The foundation has assisted the organization founded in 1960 by supporting general operations, land acquisition and management of its endowment.

Anna Ross, executive director of Audiences Unlimited, said the grant was a "totally unexpected" windfall. "I'm still like, 'Wow!'" she said.

The group, which has a total budget this year of \$220,000, would likely use the money to augment a \$10,000 National Endowment

for the Arts grant, she said.

The plan is to work with Fort Wayne Youtheatre to bring together young people with cognitive and developmental disabilities and other young people to stage a theatrical production.

Brad Little, the foundation's president and chief executive officer, said it will continue to keep up with the area's momentum.

"As we look to the future, the momentum of our community is undeniable," he said. "We will continue to do what we do best, connect people and resources to build a more vibrant community."

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