

Community Enhancement Grant Awardees

Project Name	PI	Unit	Description
Pressing Matters	Dr. Erin Benay	CAS	Pressing Matters is a self-advocacy and social justice printmaking education program for under-resourced youth in Cleveland. This collaborative partnership was created by Prof. Benay in collaboration with the staff of Zygote Press, Cleveland's oldest and only nonprofit print studio. The project explores the ways printmaking, humanities, and civic engagement overlap. CWRU students play educational roles in our work with teens. Each session introduces teens to the rich art history of Cleveland and teaches them to advance social justice through art.
Empowerful	Ayishat Mag Adeniran (student)	LAW	This four-week workshop will support eight disadvantaged Cleveland residents in launching their businesses. Participants will receive comprehensive AI-based training, website creation, legal filing, and professional photography services. Empowerful's Executive Director is a JD student at CWRU School of Law. Additionally, Empowerful is working with interns from CWRU Weatherhead School of Business in the Fowler Center for Business as an Agent of World Benefit, who are helping coordinate the workshop sessions. In the future, interns will assist with website development and collect data for long-term impact assessments and program refinement.
Safety Town	Cpt. Adam Gilmore	Campus Safety	In the summer of 2025, Public Safety will introduce a new initiative on campus: Safety Town. This free interactive program is designed to teach kindergarten-aged children essential safety skills. Our Safety Town will encourage children to learn safety rules and they'll also have opportunities to practice them in a controlled, supportive environment. The goal of the program is to instill safety awareness early on and develop good foundational habits. This initiative will also foster a strong sense of community on campus, as students, faculty, and staff may volunteer to be counselors and will work together to create a positive experience.
Doan Brook Park Imaging Project	Dr. Jack Joseph	CSE	We are working with Doan Brook Watershed Partnership (DBWP) to develop a citizen science initiative where participants take and submit photographs of areas undergoing restoration. These will be screened, analyzed, and published to DBWP's website, providing long-term documentation of each location. The physical construction portion of the project will involve fabricating and installing stations with built-in phone holders and informational signage at specific locations for visitors to take pictures. Our group will design and implement the photo submission system and signage to go along with it. Professor Kurt Rhoads from Civil & Environmental Engineering will advise our team during the project.
Community Innovation Network	Dr. Mark Chupp	MSASS	Provide opportunities for community leaders, community engagement professionals, and interested CWRU students with free introductory training on strengths-based approaches to community change. 3 1.5-hour introductory trainings would be offered in Spring 2025, Fall 2025, and Spring 2026, on the topics of Asset Based Community Development, Appreciative Inquiry for Social Change, and Conflict Transformation for Civil Discourse respectively. Trainings would be designed and led by faculty member, Mark Chupp, and supported by staff member, JP Graulty, and the CIN Graduate Student Interns. Some spots in trainings will also be held for interested CWRU students to participate alongside community leaders.