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## **ERIE DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP AWARDS OVER \$23,615 IN ROUND TWO OF FAÇADE GRANTS**

*Three grants boost up-and-coming downtown businesses*

**EMBARGO UNTIL 10:00 AM SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 - Erie, PA-** The Erie Downtown Partnership awarded \$23,615 in grant money to five local establishments at a 10:00 a.m. press conference today at Cloud 9 Wine Bar, 25 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie. Grantees will use funds for: architectural elements, such as windows and doors; exterior painting and restoration; signs and awnings; and professional design assistance. This 2014 grant program of the EDP is designed to support the growth of businesses, preserve historic structures, and revitalize downtown. Grantees include:

<b>GRANTEE</b>	<b>GRANT</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> & State, LLC 1201 State Street	\$5,000
Boardwalk 28 North Park Row	\$5,000
Cloud 9 Wine Bar & Tapas 25 East 10 <sup>th</sup> Street	\$5,000
Marlena Place 22 and 24 North Park Row	\$5,000
McCoy's Barrelhouse and Grill 1013 State Street	\$3,615

Three of the five grantees purchased their businesses within the past 12 months: 12<sup>th</sup> & State, LLC, Cloud 9 Wine Bar and Tapas, McCoy's Barrelhouse and Grill, and are using the EDP facade grants to make immediate improvements to their investments. Bertrand Artigues, owner of Cloud 9 Wine Bar & Tapas, spoke on Tuesday about using his grant funds to install awnings and update the exterior paint color to improve ambiance for customers and street appeal for downtown visitors.

Artigues said, “Cloud 9 is my second restaurant in downtown Erie. I could sell great wine and food anywhere, but I believe downtown is the best place for my business. This grant allows me to provide a nice exterior environment for my customers and makes the building look better, too.”

David Holland, Jr., Partner at 12<sup>th</sup> & State, LLC, will use his \$5,000 grant to restore the masonry on the upper floors of the building along with improvements to the fire escape on the North side of the building.

Holland said, “We acquired the building at 1201 State Street because we believe in the opportunity that lies in the urban core for small business, great restaurants like 1201 Kitchen and residential living. Improving and updating historic buildings with great architecture is a proven way to attract desirable tenants as well as contribute to the character of the Erie community.”

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) injected \$50,000 into this grant program to foster opportunities for businesses to grow, for communities to succeed and thrive in a global economy, and to improve the quality of life for Pennsylvania citizens.

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) also invested \$15,000 into this grant program as part of its 2014 Mission Main Street Grants program. Established to develop Erie County’s commercial corridors, Mission Main Street Grants serve to support those distinct geographic districts, known as “main streets,” that incubate and host small businesses, special events, historic structures, and central parks.

John Buchna, CEO of the Erie Downtown Partnership, said, “Revitalizing downtown is at the heart of what we do. In conjunction with our underwriters, we are able to not only quickly enhance aesthetics and safety, but also increase business within our district. Come downtown in the next 60 days and see what’s new!”

In July, the EDP awarded \$41,120 in façade grants to 10 businesses. In this second round of EDP façade grants, businesses and nonprofits located within the EDP district were eligible for up to \$5,000 to improve their building façades. Applications required a 1:1 match, up to 50% of the total project costs. Round Two Grants opened for 30 days on August 4, 2014, and were scored by an independent review committee on September 10, 2014. The EDP board of directors approved committee recommendations on September 17, 2014. Full grant guidelines can be found at [www.ErieDowntown.com](http://www.ErieDowntown.com).

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*The Erie Downtown Partnership is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the revitalization of downtown Erie by improving its image, business climate, physical environment, and design. Learn more at [www.ErieDowntown.com](http://www.ErieDowntown.com).*