

News



News & Announcements

Stay up to date with all the latest news, announcements and special events from Battle Creek Unlimited.

Battle Creek Public Schools announces historic scholarship covering up to 100% of tuition and fees for post secondary education

The new “Bearcat Advantage” scholarship seeks to eliminate opportunity gaps for graduating students and improve access to higher education. PRESS RELEASE May 17, 2023 BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — Today, Battle Creek Public Schools (BCPS) announced the Bearcat Advantage, a new scholarship that covers up to 100% of college tuition and fees for all eligible graduates, beginning with the graduating class of 2023. In partnership with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), this historic investment builds off of all the progress of the school district’s transformation work that began over six years ago and ensures that the next generation of BCPS students ...

[Read More](#)

May 24, 2023

Battle Creek Unlimited toasts the opening of New Holland Brewing’s Battle Creek Location

March 31, 2023 BATTLE CREEK, MICH. – Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) is excited to congratulate New Holland Brewing on the opening of their newest location in Battle Creek. The much-anticipated restaurant, microbrewery and distillery officially opens to the public on Friday, March 31. The venue is in the heart of downtown and will feature New Holland’s signature beers and craft cocktails, as well as a variety of food options. The new location will also have a beer garden, complete with a stage, yard games, and fire features for year-round entertainment. The opening of New Holland’s Battle Creek branch is the ...

[Read More](#)

March 31, 2023

BCU welcomes Kris Martin as new Urban Planner

March 29, 2023 BATTLE CREEK, MICH. – Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU), the economic development

organization for the City of Battle Creek, welcomes Kris Martin as its new Urban Planner. Kris will manage BCU's participation in Battle Creek's efforts to naturalize the Kalamazoo River and help coordinate community development and placemaking projects throughout Battle Creek. Kris grew up in Buchanan, Michigan and attended Michigan State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in environmental policy and political science. Prior to college, Kris spent a year as an AmeriCorps intern with the Hawaii Department of Forestry and Wildlife. Since 2011, Kris has ...

[Read More](#)

March 29, 2023

BCU to host 2023 Economic Update on Thursday, April 27

March 14, 2023 Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) will host its annual Economic Update on Thursday, April 27 at Kellogg Arena. Doors will open at 7:30 AM, with the program scheduled to begin at 8:00 AM. Breakfast will be provided by FireKeepers Casino Hotel. This will be BCU's first in-person update since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and there is a lot to talk about. BCU President & CEO Joe Sobieralski will report on the results of BCU's 5-year strategic plan as well as Battle Creek's overall economic health. Quentin Messer, Jr., President of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), ...

[Read More](#)

March 14, 2023

BCU's Winter 2023 Newsletter

BCU is pleased to share its Winter 2023 Quarterly Newsletter. This edition includes: BCU Congratulates Ford for Choosing Calhoun County Site; BCU President Receives 40 Under 40 Award; BCU Acquires TreeHouse Site; BCU Adds New Staff; BCU Announces Changes to its Board of Directors;plus other news and information. The newsletter is available to view as a PDF [here](#). Our goal is to provide useful information to people who live and/or work in Battle Creek. We welcome your feedback and story ideas. Email your comments to BCUNewsletter@bcunlimited.org. You can also ...

[Read More](#)

March 2, 2023

BCU adds Gabriela Perez-Hernandez to lead new Food Initiative

February 24, 2023 BATTLE CREEK, MICH. – Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) is excited to announce the addition of Gabriela Perez-Hernandez to its team as the Director of the Food Reimagined program. Food Reimagined is a new community-led initiative to foster emerging food & beverage companies in Battle Creek. As Director of Food Reimagined, Gabriela will create a multi-year strategy to launch and scale the program. She will lead in the marketing of the initiative and recruitment of companies to Battle Creek and provide technical support to companies as they scale their business. The program is being funded in part by ...

[Read More](#)

February 24, 2023

Battle Creek Unlimited Announces Changes to its Board of Directors

February, 17, 2023 BATTLE CREEK, MICH. – Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) is pleased to announce several changes to its Board of Directors. In December, we bid farewell to Toshiya Kawashima of DENSO who returned to Japan. Mr. Kawashima will be stationed in Japan's Tohoku region, where he will manage DENSO's Fukushima facility. Joining the board will be Mike Way, Bronson Health; Neal Graziano, W.K. Kellogg Foundation; and Frank Tecumseh, FireKeepers Casino Hotel. With these

additions, BCU once again has a full board of 15 members. Mike Way is the Senior Vice President for Supply Chain, Facilities & Real Estate at ...

[Read More](#)

February 17, 2023

BCU Congratulates Ford for Choosing Calhoun County for its New Battery Plant

February 13, 2023 BATTLE CREEK, MICH. – Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) applauds the Ford Motor Co.'s decision to build its next battery manufacturing facility on the Marshall Mega Site, located in Calhoun County, Michigan. Ford and its partner Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd. (CATL) are expected to invest approximately \$3.5 billion in the new facility, which will manufacture lithium iron phosphate batteries for electric vehicles. Ford anticipates the facility will create 2,500 new jobs. BCU commends the Michigan Economic Development Corp (MEDC), the Marshall Area Economic Development Alliance (MEDA), Choose Marshall, the City of Marshall, Marshall Township, Calhoun County, the ...

[Read More](#)

February 13, 2023

Heather Ignash joins BCU Team

February 8, 2023 BATTLE CREEK, MICH. – Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) is pleased to welcome Heather Ignash to its team. Heather will serve as an Economic Development Specialist and will further BCU's efforts in business retention, expansion, and workforce development. Heather brings a wealth of experience in Workforce Development and Human Resources to BCU. Most recently, Heather served as the Business Services Coordinator for Michigan Works! Southwest, based at the W.E. Upjohn Institute. While at Michigan Works, Heather worked with employers on issues related to staffing and training, and was responsible for administering training grant programs from roll-out through completion ...

[Read More](#)

February 8, 2023

Joe Sobieralski Recognized with 40 Under 40 Award in Economic Development by DCI

January 31, 2023 BATTLE CREEK, MICH – Joe Sobieralski, President & CEO of Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU), has been announced as a recipient of the 2023 Economic Development 40 Under 40 Award, the biennial award recognizing rising stars under 40 years old in the economic development industry. The awards program is hosted by Development Counsellors International (DCI), a New York-based integrated marketing firm that works with economic development and travel organizations around the globe, and Jorgenson Consulting, a leading national executive search firm serving organizations in non-profit, economic, and community development industries. An independent selection committee of six economic development ...

[Read More](#)

January 31, 2023

Battle Creek Unlimited Receives Gold and Silver Awards from International Economic Development Council

BATTLE CREEK, MICH. – In Fall 2022, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) recognized Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) with two awards for excellence for the McCamly Hotel renovation project. The IEDC recognizes outstanding and innovative development projects that significantly enhance revitalizations of communities, states, or regions. At the IEDC Annual Conference in Oklahoma City, BCU received the Gold award for Innovative Project Financing as well

as the Silver award for Public-Private Partnerships. Applicants were selected by a diverse panel of economic and community developers from around the world. In 2022, the IEDC received over 500 submissions from four countries. "These ...

[Read More](#)

January 18, 2023

BCU's Fall 2022 Newsletter

BCU is pleased to share its Fall 2022 Quarterly Newsletter. This edition includes: IEDC Honors BCU with Gold and Silver Medals; Duncan Aviation Breaks Ground; Going PRO Talent Fund Accepting Applications; BCU Participates in CEO Action Summit; Farewell Adam Reid;plus other news and information. The newsletter is available to view as a PDF [here](#). Our goal is to provide useful information to people who live and/or work in Battle Creek. We welcome your feedback and story ideas. Email your comments to BCUNewsletter@bcunlimited.org. You can also follow BCU on Twitter, ...

[Read More](#)

December 1, 2022

BCU's Summer 2022 Newsletter

BCU is pleased to share its Summer 2022 Quarterly Newsletter. This edition includes: John Gallagher Passes the Gavel to Erick Stewart; Critical Financing Secured for McCamly Renovation; Battle Creek TIFA Extended; BCU Acquires WMU's Kendall Center; KCC Dedicates New Mobile Trainer;plus other news and information. The newsletter is available to view as a PDF [here](#). Our goal is to provide useful information to people who live and/or work in Battle Creek. We welcome your feedback and story ideas. Email your comments to BCUNewsletter@bcunlimited.org. You can also follow BCU on ...

[Read More](#)

September 9, 2022

Invitation for Bid - Southwest Michigan Accelerator Kitchen

Battle Creek Unlimited, St. Philip Parish, and Driven Design Studio are pleased to share an invitation for bid for the Southwest Michigan Accelerator Kitchen. The invitation for bid can be found [here](#) as a PDF. Submittals, inquiries, and any other communication must be sent to smak@bcunlimited.org. Key Dates: Request for proposals issued - 12:00 p.m., August 30, 2022; Mandatory pre-bid meetings/site tours - 12:00 p.m., September 6, 2022 and 12:00 p.m., September 9, 2022; Contractor inquiries due - 12:00 p.m., September 16, 2022; Responses to inquiries posted - 5:00 p.m., September 22, 2022; Bids due - 5:00 p.m., September 29, ...

[Read More](#)

August 30, 2022

Battle Creek Unlimited Secures Critical Financing for McCamly Hotel Renovation

Battle Creek Unlimited Secures Critical Financing for McCamly Hotel Renovation. The MEDC will provide a \$7.5 million loan from the Michigan Community Revitalization Program. BATTLE CREEK, Mich.—Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) has secured a critical piece of financing for its renovation of the former McCamly Plaza Hotel. On Tuesday, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) announced that the Michigan Strategic Fund has approved \$7.5 million in assistance from the Michigan Community Revitalization Program (MCRP). The program promotes community revitalization and provides gap funding for projects that are either contaminated (facility), blighted, functionally obsolete, or historic resources. The MCRP award for the ...

[Read More](#)
June 28, 2022

BCU's Spring 2022 Newsletter

BCU is pleased to share its Spring 2022 Quarterly Newsletter. This edition includes: BCU Unveils Plan for McCamly Hotel, Bleistahl, Duncan Aviation Announce Expansions, BASF Toda America CEO Recognized, The Milton Honored for Historic Preservation, Watkins Road Upgrades. Continueplus other news and information. The newsletter is available to view as a PDF [here](#). Our goal is to provide useful information to people who live and/or work in Battle Creek. We welcome your feedback and story ideas. Email your comments to BCUNewsletter@bcunlimited.org. You can also follow BCU on Twitter, Facebook, ...

[Read More](#)
June 8, 2022

BCU Unveils Plan for Former McCamly Plaza Hotel and McCamly Place

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. – Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) and its affiliate, 50 Capital Ave Development Corp., have unveiled plans and a timeline for renovation of the former McCamly Plaza Hotel and adjacent McCamly Place. “We are so excited to return this historic property to productive use,” said Joe Sobieralski, president and CEO of BCU. “Having a hotel of this size and magnitude will significantly contribute to the economic vitality of downtown Battle Creek and the entire city. We cannot thank our partners and contributors enough for their continued support and generosity. This multi-faceted project will be a showpiece for our ...

[Read More](#)
April 11, 2022

Duncan Aviation Announces Expansion Plans in Battle Creek

LINCOLN, Neb. — Duncan Aviation today announced plans to build additional hangar space at its existing MRO locations in Battle Creek, Michigan (BTL), and Lincoln, Nebraska (LNK). “The demand for the safety and flexibility that business aviation travel provides has continued to increase, as has the average size of business aircraft,” says Jeff Lake, President of Duncan Aviation. “This results in increased demand for the hangar space required to complete requested airframe, engine, interior, paint and avionics modifications for the business aircraft fleet. Looking to the future, we know that in order to meet current customer requests and needs, Duncan ...

[Read More](#)
April 1, 2022

BCU's Winter 2022 Newsletter

BCU is pleased to share its Winter 2022 Quarterly Newsletter. This edition includes: Torti Taco Opens Downtown, Washington Heights Entrepreneurial Fund Awards \$2M in Grants, New Tool Connects Manufacturers and Suppliers, Major Construction Projects Coming Soon, Michigan, Ontario Partner on UASplus other news and information. The newsletter is available to view as a PDF [here](#). Our goal is to provide useful information to people who live and/or work in Battle Creek. We welcome your feedback and story ideas. Email your comments to BCUNewsletter@bcunlimited.org. You can also follow Battle Creek ...

[Read More](#)
March 1, 2022

Washington Heights Entrepreneurial Fund Awards \$2 Million in Business Support to 11 BIPOC-led Battle Creek Organizations

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. – The Washington Heights Entrepreneurial Fund (WHEF) is bolstering the community and an ambitious group of entrepreneurs-of-color through the distribution of \$2 million in business support targeted at the Washington Heights neighborhood. Award recipients receive training, grants and low-interest loans for business and real estate development projects. “We are truly grateful to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for this opportunity, and we are grateful for our incredibly dedicated and focused grantees and the team that reviewed and selected them,” said Joe Sobieralski, President and CEO of BCU. “These recipients have put in months of hard work to get ...

[Read More](#)

February 24, 2022

- <
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- ...
- 6
- >



Downloads

- [View our Strategic Plan](#)
- [View our Strategic Plan Dashboard](#)
- [View our Commitment to Equity & Inclusion](#)