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**CITY TO INFUSE CULTURE AND ARTS FACILITIES INTO  
MARINA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT**

Toledo, Ohio - With the assistance of a major \$4.9 million Cultural Facilities Grant, the City of Toledo and developer, Larry Dillin will construct and offer several cultural venues as part of the Marina District Development.

“With the completion of this phase of the project in 2008, we will have regularly scheduled events to entertain and inspire local artists,” said Mayor Carty Finkbeiner.

“We also will to utilize our waterfront for community theater, dance performances, and the display of visual arts.”

The grant will fund the construction of 13 performing arts venues, 12 visual arts spaces, and 10 cultural gardens.

“We further intend to utilize these spaces to show off our city’s past, present, and future and instill a higher level of pride in Toledoans for their city,” Finkbeiner added. Our arts community is growing stronger every week and these new venues are the greatest gift and greatest motivation we can give our local artists to continue to make Toledo a cultural mecca.”

“The Marina District will be so much more than a waterfront park,” said Larry Dillin. This will be a unique neighborhood district that will incorporate housing, retail,

green space, amphitheaters, a public marina and other venues to inspire people from all walks of life to come together in a common space. It will redefine people's perception of Toledo."

The various arts venues will enjoy public access, meaning they can be used by local performing and visual artists to promote their talents and work.

"For the first time in more than a century, the banks of the Maumee River will be reconnected to the Garfield neighborhood and the rest of East Toledo," said State Rep. Peter Ujvagi. This unique, culturally and environmentally friendly park will be a significant catalyst for the development of the Marina District. Funding support from the State of Ohio capital budget is critical to moving this project forward and in meeting the commitment of the state to East Toledo."

"While we want to create a great concert venue, we want to provide every opportunity to local artists to promote themselves and to promote the local arts scene in Toledo," Dillin added. "The Marina District will be very much a public place for the people of Toledo."

"By summer 2009, we will see couples walking along the river, children playing while their parents watch and enjoy the beauty of the Riverwalk, and people of all ages participating in cultural and recreational activities," Mayor Finkbeiner concluded.

Toledo City Council will act on the legislation to accept the grant at their May 6 meeting.