GREATRIARCH GATHERINGS

GRANTEE	INVESTMENT
HARRISON CENTER FOR THE ARTS	**$10,000**

Project Overview:

The Harrison Center seeks to be a catalyst for renewal by fostering awareness, appreciation, and community for arts and culture. This is delivered through a two-pronged approach. The Harrison Center is "for the arts" by offering below-market studio spaces, exhibition venues, and professional development for emerging artists. The Harrison Center is "for the city" by using the arts to know and love their neighbors, honor and elevate the stories of long-term urban neighbors, and pursue neighborhood revitalization without gentrification.

The Harrison Center for the Arts created the Greatriarch Gatherings program with the two-pronged approach in mind. The Greatriarch initiative uses art to celebrate the stories of long-term neighborhood residents/seniors in Urban Indianapolis, reduce social isolation and elevate these stories for community cultural preservation. Currently, "Greatriarchs" are long-term urban residents of the Martindale Brightwood neighborhood who have helped create an identity and write the neighborhood story. They are leaders, nurturers, mentors, and friends of the old and new residents of their neighborhood.

The investment from the MIBOR ECDC supported providing space for programming, group actives for the Greatriarchs and other senior community members and artist staffing to elevate and preserve stories/culture through art. Joanna Taft, Executive Director of the Harrison Center for the Arts, stated, "MIBOR ECDC's investment in the Greatriarchs program help the Harrison Center reduce social isolation for our elderly neighbors and strengthen community in Martindale Brightwood."

The initiative will serve as a model to help other neighborhoods tell the stories and interact with their own Greatriarchs. This project will be documented in the Harrison Center's Creative Placemaking Toolkit, housed at the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center..

+ **Increases Local Historic Preservation**

+ **Promotes Cultural Opportunities**

+ **Increase of Public Arts**

+ **Increases Community Engagement and Participation**

+ **Encourages Equitable Cultural Development**

+ **Promote Inclusive Activation and Programming**