



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Quonset Hut Awarded Visit Canton Destination Enhancement Grant for Community Space Project**

**Stark County, Ohio** –Quonset Hut was awarded a Visit Canton Recovery and Destination Development Grant for a Community Space Project in their existing building at 3775 Cleveland Avenue in Canton.

Visit Canton, the Stark County Convention & Visitors' Bureau (CVB), has awarded \$305,220 in Destination Enhancement Grants, and we are honored to be one of the recipients. The CVB made grant dollars available to fund projects in Stark County that are in concert with Visit Canton's mission to attract visitors and increase visitor spending. Grantees were encouraged to partner in strategic ways between multiple organizations, businesses, and communities. Applicants could request up to \$50,000, with committed matching funds required, to support projects that commence in 2023. [The complete Destination Enhancement Grant criteria and application process are available to view here.](#)

With the funds that we received from the Destination Enhancement Grant awards, Quonset Hut will renovate a currently vacant and unused portion of our building for community space. When we renovated our building for our new location, we were not able to complete interior renovations on a 1,900 square foot area that previously housed fast-food franchises. Our hope is to bring this unused space into operation once again, providing community event space in partnership with other local businesses and nonprofits and improving our corner of the neighborhood even more. In an era increasingly dominated by online communication, this brick-and-mortar store continues to see the incredible value of bringing people together in person to connect, learn, and grow.

We took initial steps in this direction by partnering with local company [Elbow Grease Cleaning Solutions](#) to prepare the interior space to allow for community events this year, but it is still in rough condition.

Our initial events have provided us with a strong sense of the value and potential impact of the space:

- On July 10, 2022, we hosted our first event in the space - a 710 plant-based wellness educational day in collaboration with [Green Compassion Network](#) (GCN) in North Canton and [Clean Remedies](#) in Akron.
- On September 17, we hosted a Dog Days of Summer event in collaboration with [The Stark County Humane Society](#), [Green Gruff](#), and [Grooming by Heidi](#) in Canton.

- On October 22, we hosted our first Alternative Wellness Fair. We once again partnered with GCN and Clean Remedies, but also added [Soulful Sounds Vibrational Sound Therapy](#) in Canton, Reader of the Akashic Records [Juanita Mazarella](#) in North Canton, [Sacra Natura](#) of Canton, and [The Shapeshifting Maiden](#) in Canton.

We hope these first three events are just the beginning of regular use of this space for community events in partnership with other area businesses and nonprofits. Thanks to [Hartman Custom Construction](#), we hope to have renovations complete in spring 2023.

“We are grateful to partner with Visit Canton to enhance Quonset Hut as a destination,” shared Quonset Hut co-owner Matt Hisrich. “Completing the rehabilitation of this building that Mark and Robin Kratzer have poured so much into – and doing so in a way that carries on the Quonset Hut spirit – is an incredible opportunity.”

To find out more information about our project and follow along with the progress, please visit [ghut.com](#) or follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/QuonsetHut](#), Twitter at [@Quonset\\_Hut](#), or Instagram [@quonset\\_hut](#).

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#### **About Quonset Hut:**

The Quonset Hut began as a hippie boutique that specialized in clothing, jewelry, and smokers needs. We branched out into the music business with albums for only \$3.99! As technology changed, we shifted from vinyl to 8-tracks to cassettes to CDs. Today, what’s hip is often the sweet stuff of the past. That’s right. Vinyl is back and we couldn't be happier to carry a huge selection of records. Quonset Hut expanded further to offer greeting cards that make Hallmark blush, jewelry (both for the pierced and non-pierced), darts, disc golf, skateboards, metaphysical items, tie-dye clothing, incense, and other good smelly stuff, and, of course, smoke shop items and adult toys (must be 18+)! In 2019, we moved to our new location at 3775 Cleveland Avenue NW, just down the street from our former location.

#### **About Visit Canton:**

The Stark County Convention & Visitors’ Bureau, d.b.a. Visit Canton, is funded by a lodging tax administered through the Stark County Commissioners. The organization’s mission is to promote travel to Stark County. Visit Canton facilitates operations that support the travel and tourism industry in Stark County. **Visit Canton Contact:** | Allison Gromofsky | Manager of Grants & Promotions  
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