

International Holiday Market “Build” for Vendor Huts: Supporting Documentation

Event Overview as of 8.22.25:

The International Holiday Market is a new event coinciding with the annual tree lighting in Promenade Park. Held in Levis Square Park, November 21 & 22, the event brings together traditions from around the world, specifically highlighting international cultures represented in our community. Diverse vendors will showcase traditional holiday decorations, art, handmade crafts, and festive goods, including affordable price points. Uniquely designed and decorated huts will create a festive atmosphere. Dancers and other ethnic performers will augment the event, as will limited offerings of ethnic holiday foods. (Friday night’s formal tree lighting in Promenade will also offer free craft making opportunities, as well as hot chocolate and popcorn at no cost.)

Partners:

The Inspired Lumber Project Salute to Carpentry Build Team—comprised of veterans who have graduated from the *Salute to Carpentry* program at The Inspired Lumber Workshop. These Veterans will create 15 “build kits” that establishes the holiday “village” inside Levis Square Park.

The *Salute to Carpentry* initiative equips veterans and first responders with valuable woodworking skills, practical trade experience, and a renewed sense of purpose. Graduates who join the *Build Team* have the opportunity to put those skills to work on meaningful community projects. Their craftsmanship not only strengthens Toledo’s infrastructure but also reinforces the deep connection between service and community pride. Importantly, the *Build Team* is a volunteer workforce. These veterans donate their time and talents at no labor cost, making this project an even greater return on the City’s investment.

Local High School Students —The Division of Educational Engagement and Workforce Development is working to engage local high school students (in discussions with Toledo Public, Washington Local, and public charter schools) on this unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the skilled trades while contributing to this large-scale community initiative. Youth participants will work with the Veteran Build Team to construct the vendor booths on “build days” during school hours. In addition, we are exploring the possibility of students receiving credit towards graduation requirements.

Local Artisans — Artists representing a wide variety of cultures are already signing on to participate. In addition, local ethnic organizations are enthusiastically developing ideas for ways to partner through the offering of ethnic dancers, musicians, and singers. Additional partners may be approached to offer specific ethnic foods and beverages.

Local Businesses — ConneCToledo has agreed to approach businesses in the immediate area to consider ways to tie them into the festivities. Discussions are ongoing.

Toledo Walleye & Hensville — The Hensville organization has agreed to host their own tree lighting on Saturday, November 22. And the Walleye franchise has games both Friday and Saturday night. The Parks & Recreation Division will work closely with the Hensville organization to cross-promote to everyone’s benefit.

Specific Build Details:

Description:

Construction of **8' x 8' modular vendor huts**, designed for seasonal use, disassembly, and long-term storage. Each hut will include: durable exterior siding, corrugated aluminum slanted roof, partial interior pegboard, fold-down or removable counter, integrated electrical access (four outlets with exterior connection), and weather-resistant finishing.

Estimated Cost Per Unit: \$2,500

(includes materials, hardware, finishing, assembly instructions/training, project oversight, workshop space, tool usage and planning.)

Labor Costs: \$0 – All labor will be provided by the *Salute to Carpentry Build Team*, a volunteer group of veteran graduates who are contributing their time and craftsmanship in service to the Toledo community.

Quantity: 15

Total Project Cost: $\$2,500 \times 15 = \$37,500$

Notes:

- Units are reusable and designed for efficient storage between seasons.
- Each structure is built with craftsmanship and attention to detail by local veterans and first responders.
- Price includes design, build, and delivery of fully finished units.