



MENOMONEE VALLEY
PARTNERS

2022 Annual Report

CONNECTIONS

TheValleyMKE.org



MESSAGE TO OUR PARTNERS

Last year was a year of connections in the Valley that yielded immediate impact and connections that will lead to impact years from now. MVP connected partners and stakeholders, entrepreneurs to their new headquarters, youth to mentors and career tracks, and even the puzzle pieces to redevelop complicated parcels of land.

As we move forward to a new year, we will continue forging strong community connections for a successful, vibrant Menomonee River Valley in the years ahead. Thank you for partnering with us and for your continued support.



Mick Hatch
Board Chair



Bruce Keyes
Board Chair



Corey Zetts
Executive Director



Career Advancement



Valley STEM Internship



Nature



Mentors & Career Paths



Redevelopment



Stew Crews



WHAT WE DO

MVP's mission is to revitalize and sustain the Menomonee River Valley as a thriving urban district that advances economic, ecological, and social equity for the benefit of the greater Milwaukee community.

Menomonee Valley Partners (MVP) revitalizes and sustains the Valley as a thriving urban district. MVP serves as a convener and coordinator by engaging stakeholders, articulating a vision, leveraging funding, and aligning partners to accomplish shared goals.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Recruit and retain **high-yield, high-quality employers**



Facilitate **high-quality redevelopment** of vacant parcels and underutilized properties

Connect employers to a **job-ready workforce** and position local workers to be competitive for employment opportunities

Provide effective **transportation access** and other infrastructure

Maintain a **thriving, sustainable, urban district** which is home to home to manufacturing, entertainment, and recreation



FACILITATE REDEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Facilitate high-quality redevelopment of vacant parcels and underutilized properties

\$3.2 Million Grant Kickstarts Kneeland Properties Development



The Kneeland Properties has been one of the most intractable challenges of the Valley: it was a priority site in the 1998 Valley Plan, again in the 2014 Valley 2.0 Plan, and a focus of the Riverwalk Plan. It is one of the most complex sites, but we will see it transform after years of work with this federal funding!



“This is the power of partnerships on full display. I am looking forward to returning this site to productive use, generating new economic activity, and realizing the full potential of the Menomonee Valley.”

~Mayor Cavalier Johnson

The Redevelopment Authority of Milwaukee (RACM) was awarded the \$3.2M grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) to build new roads and infrastructure to support light industrial development, creating 140 jobs and a new section of the Menomonee Valley Riverwalk.

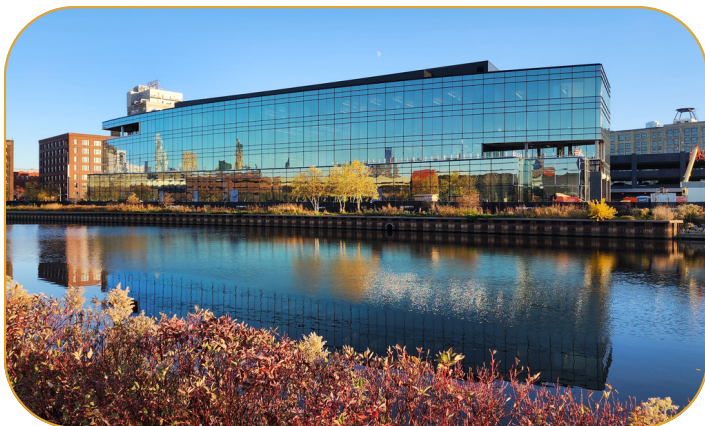
[Read more.](#)



Rite-Hite Begins Moving Into New Corporate Headquarters

[Rite-Hite](#) welcomed employees to one of two buildings on its new riverfront 9.5-acre campus. The buildings feature many green elements, including 900 solar panels.

Rite-Hite, a warehouse equipment company with more than 2,200 employees worldwide and ultimately 300 in their Valley headquarters, makes loading dock equipment, industrial doors, safety barriers and other items.

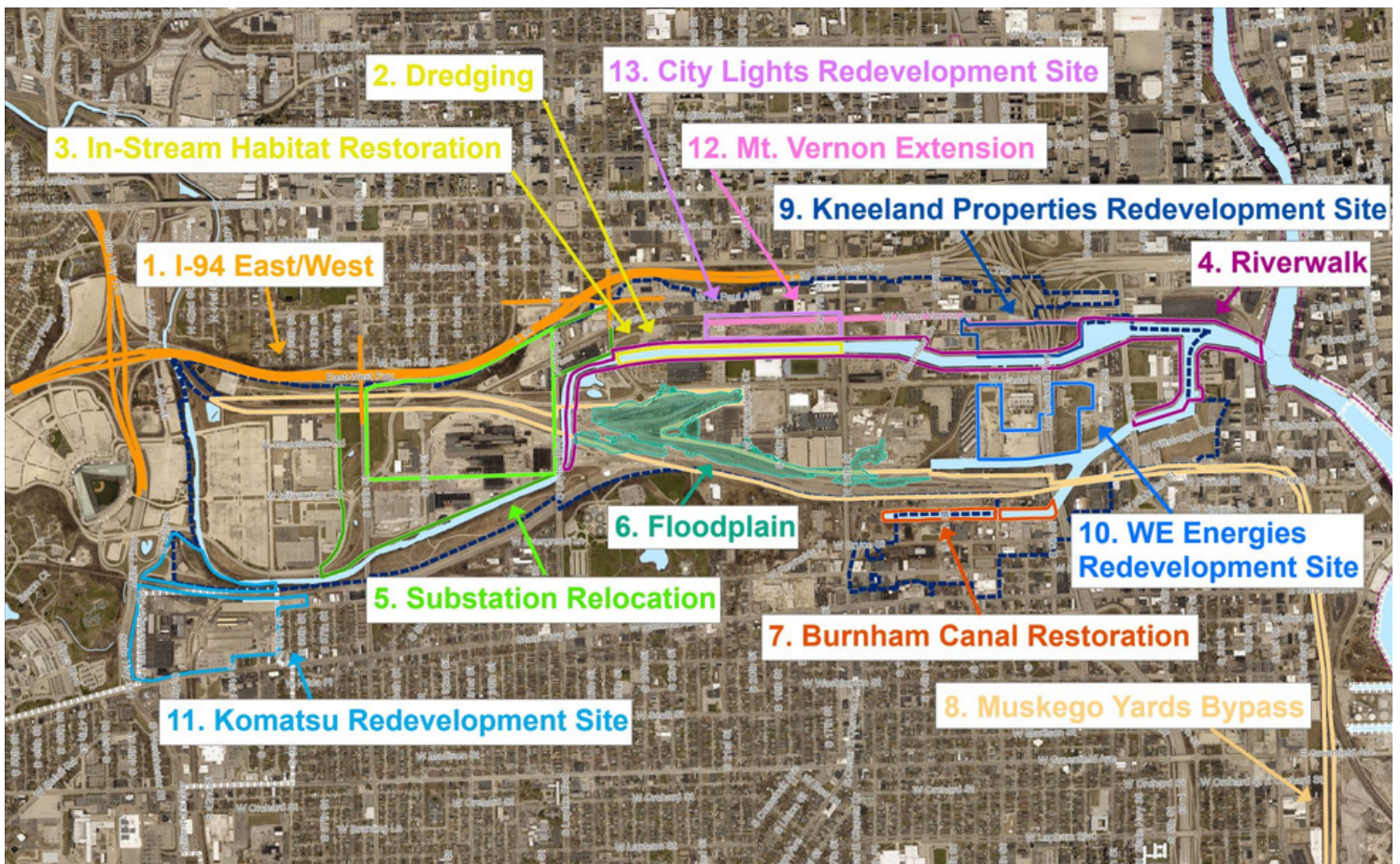




Drink Zyn Renovates Building for Headquarters

Drink Zyn, a beverage company, renovated a 134-year-old industrial building at 913 W Bruce St for their headquarters and warehousing, as well as additional space for lease. The company focuses on wellness and the benefits of turmeric to boost immunity. [Explore Zyn.](#)

Long Term Initiatives Will Lead to Generational Impacts



Much of MVP's work happens behind the scenes through convening stakeholders or representing the district in multi-year (and sometimes decades long!) infrastructure projects.

MVP takes our role seriously to understand the issues, seek community input, and search for creative solutions that result in wins for the economy, nature, and people who use this space now and decades from now.

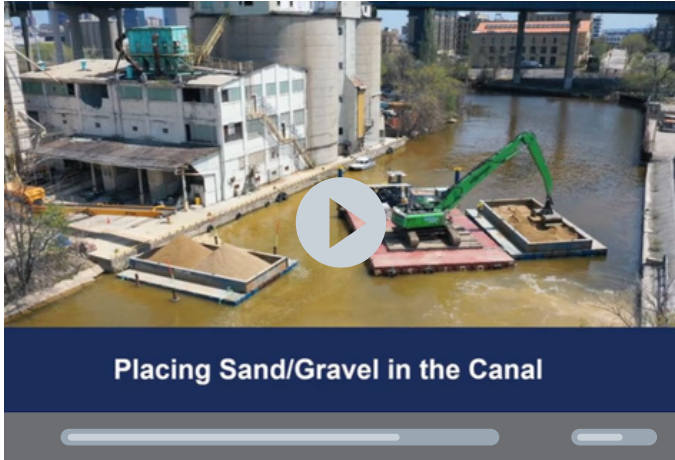
MVP has been actively involved in conversations around all of these projects, projects we anticipate reporting successes in years to come!



FACILITATE EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Provide effective transportation access and other infrastructure

First Phase Complete in Burnham Canal Restoration



Historically as Milwaukee grew, industries dumped waste into waterways. This no longer occurs, but we need to address soil and sediment contamination. The first phase of the canal restoration, led by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, included capping the contaminated material. After the cap settles, they will design and construct the 6.7-acre natural wetland habitat. [Learn more.](#)

Timeline Snapshot:

- October 2022 Phase 1 Complete
- 2022-2025 Settling of Sand/Gravel
- 2024 Final design of wetland habitat
- 2025-2026 Construct wetland habitat

Transportation Challenges in the Heart of the City

Although the Menomonee River Valley is in the middle of the city, it has been historically difficult to access from adjacent neighborhoods. When the 16th Street Viaduct became the 16th Street bridges in 2002, it was the first time many people touched the Valley floor.

MVP continues to seek solutions to reconnect the Valley to the rest of the city, making it easier for people to access jobs at Valley businesses and the abundant nature found here.



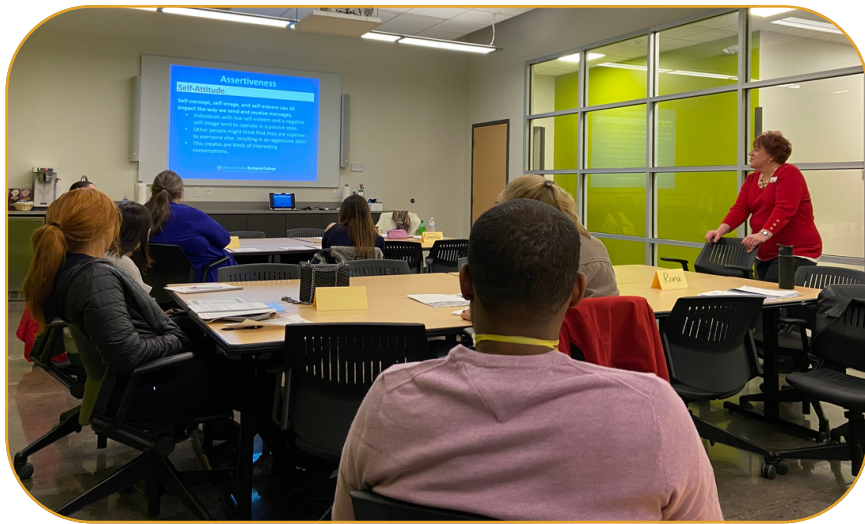


CONNECTING EMPLOYERS & WORKFORCE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Connect employers to a regional, job ready workforce and position local workers to be competitive for upcoming employment opportunities

MVP's programs innovatively address labor shortages, introduce youth to future careers, and provide skills training needed to grow local talent. As we look at the future of the Valley, investments today will lead to a sustainable future of a healthy, economically vibrant community.

Strengthening Our Current Workforce



Courses included:

- Management Essentials
- Computer Basics
- Conflict Resolution
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Effective Communication
- English as a Second Language
- Leadership Principles

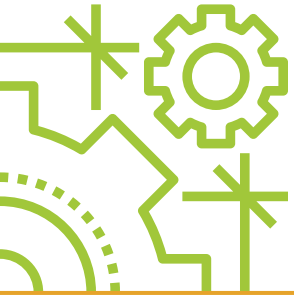
This was MVP's first year offering trainings for all levels of employees, providing the opportunity for people in entry-level positions to advance to higher-skilled, higher paid positions. Several employees earned promotions as a benefit of their new skills.

Courses offered by MVP and Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) were curated to meet the needs of employees and businesses.



"Being a manager that workers can trust and relate to is essential to being successful to me. The training courses I attended allowed me to acquire additional skills that I implemented in gaining my promotion."

- Jason Coffey



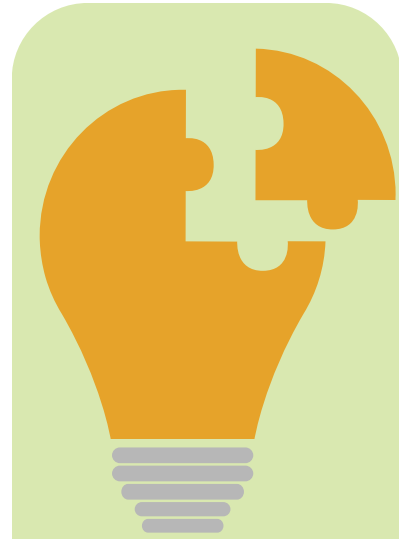
CAREER DISCOVERY INITIATIVE

Career Discovery Initiatives build our pipeline of talented young leaders through career discovery programs.

Computer Science Education Week



Stamm Tech organized three computer science activities to give high school students a feel for what they could do in this industry: a hard drive tear-apart and rebuild, cybersecurity training followed by Jeopardy, and HTML QR code website building.



Programs **expose** youth to a variety of careers and introduce them to **mentors** at all levels, **empowering** them with **information** to pursue a future career path.

Highest Turnout Ever at MVP's Young Women in Real Estate Program



Nearly 50 high school students from Golda Meir, Bradley Tech, and St. Joan Antida attended the Young Women in Real Estate program, providing them with the opportunity to connect with leaders across the real estate industry.

Students learned the many career pathways involved in a commercial real estate deal as they worked on projects that taught them about development and interior design.

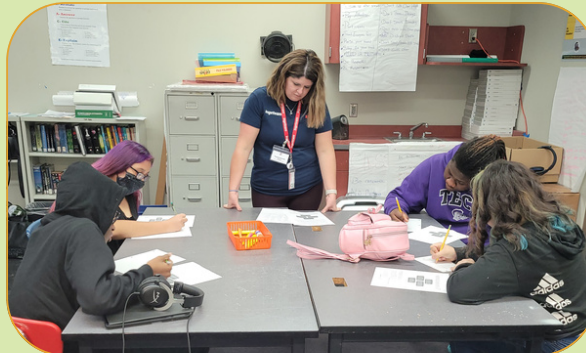
This biannual program is a partnership of MVP and WCREW (Wisconsin Commercial Real Estate Women.) It was hosted by Christopher Kidd & Associates.



Tech Gets a Second Life & Serves Youth

MVP connected Stamm Tech to Escuela Verde to give used computers a new life. Instead of disposing of them, Stamm worked with their client to donate 10 refurbished Apple computers to Escuela Verde's new I.T. program that will engage students in computer science courses.

Connecting Life Skills to the Classroom



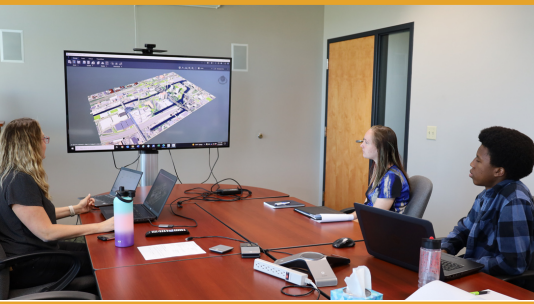
Valley employees gave students with one-on-one mentoring on the interview process and helped them with their elevator pitches. We hope to see students using these new skills in the Valley when they graduate!



Creatively Recruiting Graduating Seniors

Through panels and feedback discussions, more than 90 Ronald Reagan High School students served as consultants to Valley HR professionals and answered the question, "How do we recruit and attract graduating seniors to careers in the Valley?" This win-win exchange gave Valley businesses insight from youth while youth learned to engage with professionals, are exposed to our businesses, and learned their experiences and feedback have value.

2022 STEM INTERNSHIP



ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP

The Valley STEM Internship is a unique, seven-week, paid internship in which Milwaukee high school students with a passion for STEM rotate between firms to explore a broad range of career pathways, workplaces, and cultures.

They are encouraged to explore in an environment tailored for curiosity with mentor support along the way so they can begin envisioning what they want for themselves in a future career.

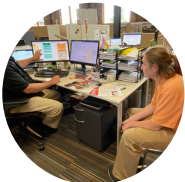
 www.thevalleymke.org/stem-internship

IMPACT IN THEIR WORDS



"This program is door opening."

~Thaija



"This program introduced me to so many careers I didn't know I'd be interested in. It was also very fun!"

~Max



"I now know what I want to study in college."

~Tyriq

BY THE NUMBERS

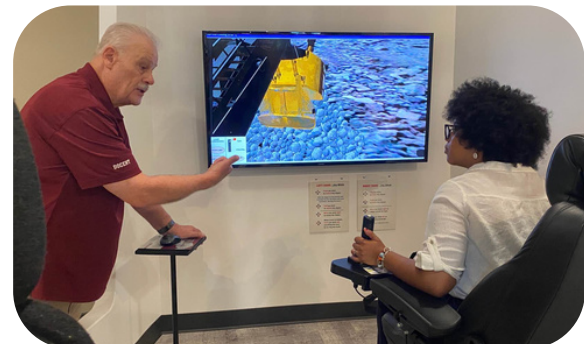
- 7 high school students in grades 10-12
- 7-week internship
- More than 70 mentors
- 7 participating firms

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN INTERN

- Meet 1-5 new mentors
- Job shadow
- Learn about state-of-the-art software programs
- Hands-on experiences
- Build prototypes to put concepts to work
- Visit construction/ project sites around the region to connect the career to the end product
- Complete special projects
- Envision a pathway to a future career



By the end of their experience, interns felt comfortable talking about AutoCAD, SketchUp, prototype, surveying, fieldwork, girders, soundproof chambers, 3D modeling, and more!



Interns were excited to use engineering and architecture technology, exposing them to real world career tools.



Trips to the field showed interns the real applications of careers they learned about in the office and their impact on our community.

PARTNERS



Earn & Learn

We are planting the seeds of career interest we hope will yield a more diverse and inclusive workforce for our corporate future.

~Harwood Engineering Employee



MAINTAIN A THRIVING DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #4: Maintain a thriving, sustainable, urban district which is home to manufacturing, entertainment, and recreation



Protecting the Menomonee River

MVP convened partners to clean the fenceline between the Materials Recovery Facility and Menomonee River, part of a larger effort to keep debris from entering our natural environment. With support from Fund for Lake Michigan, wind screening was installed to deter smaller debris from getting into the river and original art will be installed in 2023.

A big thank you to the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, and Regal Rexnord's Valley Stew Crew for your partnership!

Sales from City Lights Brewing Canned Water Support the Valley

We're excited to be part of a new initiative from Beer Capitol Distributing & City Lights Brewing Company. The two just launched Purified Drinking Water in cans, a more environmentally-friendly alternative to plastic water bottles. A portion of each sale will be donated to MVP to support environmental stewardship in the Valley.



The Valley's Design District is Your One-Stop Design Shop

CREAM CITY

PEOPLE | CULTURE | TRENDS



MKE Lifestyle, a leading Milwaukee publication on living and playing in the region, highlighted the [Design District on St. Paul Ave.](#)

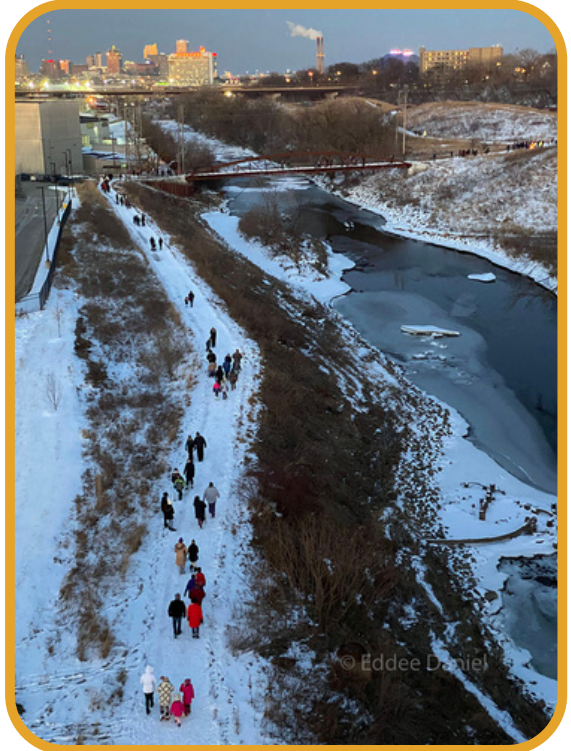
One-Stop Design Shop

Milwaukee's Design District on St. Paul Avenue is an ambitious retail venture — independent businesses, all focused on home decor, are collaborating to create a unique shopping experience. Furniture, lighting, surfaces, fine arts, design, installation and even antique stores are going so far as to include other forms' complementary products in their spaces to provide customers inspiration for new ideas. Turn the page to discover who's involved and how it works. Further in, read how outdoor classes are helping youngsters with a more immersive experience, and find some cool summer camps and classes for kids (and adults) of all ages. Photo by Jenna Dierbeck.



Valley Week

Over 600 people experienced the Valley during 14 events throughout [2022 Valley Week](#). Nature was the star of the show with 12 outdoor events. We are grateful to our sponsors who made all these events possible, most of them free to the community, and raised more than \$30,000 to support Menomonee Valley Partners.



Around 2,500 people came bundled up to experience candlelit trails and the great outdoors at February's [Urban Candlelight Hike](#).



Food Truck Thursdays brought people together in nature from June through September to enjoy local food.



Fifteen [Valley Stew Crews](#) donated more than 1,000 hours to the Valley's natural environment!



MVP connects people to the Valley's story on tours throughout the year.

Over 100 volunteers participated in the 2022 Milwaukee Riverkeeper Spring Cleanup, collecting 150+ bags of trash to make the Valley clean and green for the community!



We thank companies for leading cleanups: All Hands Boatworks, Third Space Brewing, Wisconsin DNR, and Urban Ecology Center.



MENOMONEE VALLEY PARTNERS, INC BOARD, STAFF, FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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Project Director- Community
Building Milwaukee
Wisconsin Community
Services

We are grateful to Sheryl Bunker of Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, Dave Cieslewicz of DCA Consulting, Karen Dettmer of Milwaukee Water Works, and Lora Strigens of Marquette University who completed their board term of service in 2022.

STAFF

Catrina Crane
Director of Workforce &
Business Solutions

Bri Dobiesz
Communications &
Fundraising Coordinator

Louie Glotfelty
Planning Associate

Michelle Kramer
Director of Marketing &
Business Development

Nia Smith
Water & Workforce Program
Coordinator

Corey Zetts
Executive Director

Corey Zetts Named 2022 Woman of Influence



MVP's executive director, Corey Zetts, was named a Milwaukee Business Journal 2022 Women of Influence for her work at Menomonee Valley Partners!

She has been with MVP through the redevelopment of major projects like the Menomonee Valley Industrial Center and Three Bridges Park. She continues to lead the Valley toward a future focused on economic development, environmental sustainability, and equity.

Congratulations to Corey from the Valley Community!

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022

REVENUE

Grants & Contributions	\$445,731
Interest Income	(\$31,358)
Donated Services and Facilities	\$31,059

Total Revenue \$445,432

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$394,060
Administrative	\$44,923
Fundraising	\$15,820

Total Expenses \$454,803

NET ASSETS

Operating Reserve*	\$221,000
Pre-development*	\$750,000
Donor Restricted	\$72,150
Unrestricted	\$304,801

Total Net Assets \$1,347,951

* Board-designated



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Thank you to all of the organizations and individuals listed below who partnered with us and generously contributed to MVP from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Visioning Partner

(\$50,000+)



Revitalizing Partners

(\$25,000-49,999)



Sustaining Partners

(\$10,000-24,999)



Supporting Partners

(\$1,000-10,999)

Advocate Aurora Health
 Badger Railing
 Benesch
 Jeff Bentoff & Julie Penman
 Charter Wire
 Christopher Kidd & Associates
 Bill Davidson
 Guardian Fine Art Services
 Harley-Davidson Museum
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(\$1-999)

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 Chad Thomack
 Tracy Wymelenberg
 Corey Zetts

* In-kind support.