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2024 ELKHART COUNTY CVB BUSINESS PLAN



JUNE 2024 BOARD REPORT





The objective of the ECCVB tourism marketing, sales & services strategy is to drive the destination brand awareness and visitor conversion among broader and more diverse target audiences that include the niche markets identified by Destination Think! There are three targeted strategies for the leisure travel market and three for the group travel market.

DIVERSIFY PILLAR GOAL

Diversify the destination visitor base to better integrate multiple generations and interests. We expect to achieve higher travel conversion and extend stays by increasing the county's brand awareness and aligning experiences with an expanded market.

DIVERSIFY PILLAR TARGET MARKETS OF FOCUS

- Arts and cultural heritage travel
- Outdoor recreation and adventure travel
- Visiting friends & relatives and pass-thru travel
- · Group meeting and social/reunion travel
- Youth sports travel
- · Group tour travel

WELL CRAFTED DESTINATION

Tactics

- Create and manage a content plan integrating website content, social media actions, paid media campaigns,
 eNewsletter initiatives, and digital content (January December) Ongoing
- · Manage photo and video shoots highlighting Heritage Trail assets / activities (January December) Ongoing
- Produce and promote custom digital content focusing on storytelling of partners and highlighting Heritage Trail assets and experiences that focus on niche audiences (January December) **Ongoing**
- Produce and place print ads in publications targeting the external visitor and internal resident (January December)
 (YTD 8: Phoenix Performing Arts (2), Premier Arts (2), Travel IN (2), Midwest Living, Beacher)
- Update, manage, and promote mobile passport programs (January December) Ongoing
- Refresh existing and create new trip ideas and itineraries aligning with niche audiences (January December)
 Ongoing
- Manage Google PPC ad campaign to promote the destination brand and its assets along the Heritage Trail across digital channels (January - December) - Ongoing
- Produce and distribute eNewsletters to promote Elkhart County assets (January December) (YTD 6)
- Host travel journalists on FAM tours highlighting the Well Crafted destination brand (January December) (YTD 7)
- Produce and distribute press releases and story pitches to local, regional, national and travel media (January December) (YTD 5)
- Manage and promote a Well Crafted Champions campaign integrating blog, video, podcast and social media elements (January December) **Ongoing**
- Manage and promote a video campaign integrating partner brands with the Elkhart County Well Crafted brand (January - December) - Ongoing
- · Manage and promote a Well Crafted Elkhart County foodie campaign (January December) Ongoing
- Distribute Well Crafted promotional kits for regional and national travel journalists (April June)
 - Complete (started in March)
- Manage, distribute and promote a Roadtrippers campaign focused on the RV audience (April December) (YTD 0)

- Track Deals mobile passport program participants, discount redemptions (January December)
 - (430 Sign Ups: 4 Redemptions)
- Track Well Crafted paid and organic digital promotions (January December) (YTD Profile Performance Summary: Impressions 4,064,715; Engagement 12,506; Post Link Clicks 2,841; Video Views 152,016; Fans 26,383; Paid Performance Summary: Impressions 288,865; Engagements 68,090, Clicks 9,063, Cost Per Click .20)
- Track Google PPC ad campaign promoting the destination brand and its assets along the Heritage Trail across digital channels (March, June, September, December) (YTD Engagement Metrics: Engaged Sessions 49,473; Engagement Rate 72%, Engagement Time 1:31; Conversion Rate 25.2%; Google Search Metrics: Clicks 6,632, Click Through Rate 24.12%; Average Cost Per Click .90)
- Track qualified media inquiries, generating media placements in print, broadcast, online and blog through impressions and advertising value equivalents (January December) (YTD 440 placements; 1,466,955,013 reach; AVE \$13,569,328.30)
- Track Media website analytics (January December) (YTD Views 797; Users 460)
- Track RV website analytics (January December) (YTD Views 14,157; Users 5,339; RV Tour Sheet download 878)
- Track Users and Views of Leisure Itineraries (January December) (YTD Views 3,830; Users 3,057)
- Track Blog Post analytics (January December) (YTD Top 5 Blog Posts: Well Crafted Trip, In Home Amish Dining,
 Quilt Gardens Locations, Your Guide to the Quilt Gardens Passport, Top 10 Sunday Stops)
- Track Well Crafted Champions campaign results (January December) (YTD Post Performance Summary: Impressions 3,563; Engagement 105; Post Link Clicks 11; YouTube Video Views 124)
- Track partner brand campaign results (January December) (YTD 0)
- Track Elkhart County Restaurant Weeks campaign results (March) Complete (CTV Ads: 29k impressions;
 Facebook Ads: Impressions 104,080; Link Clicks 2,609; Cost Per Link Click \$0.42, Click Through Rate 2.51%; QR Code Scans 505; Website Views 11,627; Users 7638; Passport Sign Ups 729, Check-Ins 194, Total Redemptions (Check-Ins and Product Redemptions 331)
- Track Well Crafted Elkhart County promotional kit campaign to regional and national travel journalists (April - December) - (YTD 37 kits distributed; 13 leads generated; 6 QR Code scans)
- Track Roadtrippers campaign results focused on the RV audience (April December) (YTD 0)

HERITAGE TRAIL

Tactics

- Produce Heritage Trail maps (January) Complete
- Promote Heritage Trail audio driving tour (January December) Ongoing
- Manage Heritage Trail wayfinding signage and inventory (January December) Ongoing

Metrics

- Track Heritage Trail audio driving tours distribution via CD, USB, and streaming (January December)
 (YTD 784)
- Track Heritage Trail printed map distribution (January December) (YTD 4,650)
- Track PDF downloads of Heritage Trail map (January December) (YTD 2,220)
- Track Heritage Trail page website analytics (January December) (YTD Views 11,748; Users 8,943)

QUILT GARDENS ALONG THE HERITAGE TRAIL

Tactics

- Update and create copy for Quilt Gardens and Quilt Murals signs (January April) Complete
- · Update creative concept for print and digital media (January April) Complete
- Confirm and maintain rack card distribution at Indiana Toll Road and Ohio Turnpike plazas (January September)
 Ongoing
- Produce and place ads in publications targeting the quilting and/or gardening market (January December)
 - (YTD 5: PCMGA, AQS Paducah & Grand Rapids, MMGA, SWIMGA)
- Update and promote mobile Quilt Gardens passport program (January December) Ongoing
- Update partner brand management guide and promotion guidelines (April) Complete
- Produce and distribute Quilt Gardens rack cards (May September) Ongoing

Metrics

- Track Quilt Gardens mobile passport program participants, check ins, prize pickup redemptions (January December)
 (YTD 436 Sign Ups; 897 Check Ins; 9 Prize Pickup redemptions)
- Track rack card distribution (May September) (YTD 10,000)
- Track qualified media inquiries, generating media placements in print, broadcast, online and blog through impressions and advertising value equivalents (January December) (YTD 440 placements; 1,466,955,013 reach; AVE \$13,569,328.30)
- Track Quilt Gardens website analytics (January December) (YTD Website Views 18,094; Users 3,987; Blog Views 6,982)
- Track Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram paid and organic analytics (June September) (YTD Post Performance Summary: Impressions 32,852; Engagement 2,994; Post Link Clicks 79)

ELKHART COUNTY AREA GUIDE

Tactics

- Develop and produce electronic version of 2024 Elkhart County Area Guide for digital distribution (January)
 - Complete
- Update creative concept for digital media (January February) Complete
- Oversee distribution of 175,000 printed copies of 2024 Elkhart County Area Guide (January December) Ongoing
- Confirm and maintain distribution at Indiana Toll Road and Ohio Turnpike plazas (January December) Ongoing
- Coordinate and collaborate design of 2025 Elkhart County Area Guide (April June) Complete
- Manage sales, content and production of the 2025 Elkhart County Area Guide (June December) Ongoing

- Track distribution of 2024 Elkhart County Area Guide (January December) (YTD 67,005)
- Track digital distribution of 2024 electronic version of Elkhart County Area Guide (January December)
 - (YTD 2,204)

ELKHART COUNTY EVENT CALENDAR

Tactics

- · Develop, produce, and distribute event calendar direct mail postcard (January March) Complete
- Manage a digital campaign (January December) Ongoing

Metrics

- Track postcard distribution (April) (YTD 12,000)
- Track Event Calendar website analytics (January December) (YTD Views 27,559 Users 13,424)
- Track Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram analytics (January December) (YTD Impressions 31,627; Engagements 902, Post Link Clicks 163)

VISITING FRIENDS AND RELATIVES (VFR)

Tactics

- Promote on social media channels (January December) Ongoing
- Update website landing page (February) Complete

Metrics

- Track Locals website page analytics (January December) (YTD Views 112, Users 45)
- Track Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram analytics (January December)
 - (YTD Impressions 5,585; Engagements 133, Post Link Clicks 13)

INDIANA TRAVEL GUIDE & VISITINDIANA.COM

Tactics

Develop and produce brochure lead generation ad and listing ads (January) - Complete

Metrics

Track Elkhart County Area Guide requests received (January - December) - (YTD 2,525)

INDIANA FESTIVAL GUIDE

Tactics

• Produce and place full page ad (January) - Complete

NITDC INDIANA'S COOL NORTH REGIONAL PROMOTIONS CO-OP

Tactics

- · Produce and place Toll Road Exit-by-Exit Guide ad (January February) Complete
- Produce and place Toll Road Exit-by-Exit Guide map ad (January February) Complete

DOWNTOWN ELKHART PROMOTIONS CO-OP

Tactics

 Manage a digital ad campaign and print materials promoting Downtown Elkhart assets and experiences (January -December) - Ongoing

Metrics

• Track Facebook and Instagram analytics (March, June, September, December) - (YTD Facebook: Engagements 111,036; Impressions 1,588,566; Post Link Clicks 8,599; Video Views 83,604; Fans 30,159 | Instagram: Engagements 3,974; Impressions 88,878; Profile Actions 37; Video Views 21,148; Followers 6,097)

EXIT 92 PROMOTIONS CO-OP

Tactics

- Refine and develop messaging for I-80/90 Exit 92 assets (January December) Ongoing
- · Confirm and maintain outdoor billboards along I-80/90 Toll Road (January December) Ongoing
- Confirm and maintain rack card distribution at Indiana Toll Road and Ohio Turnpike plazas (January December)
 - Ongoing
- · Confirm and place full page ad in University of Notre Dame Football Program (April) Complete
- Promote I-80/90 Exit 92 and its high density of assets and experiences through in-app ads (April December)
 - Ongoing
- Update website pages (February) Complete

Metrics

- Track rack card distribution (January December) (YTD 25,000)
- Track in-app ad impressions received (May December)
 - (YTD Impressions 534,106; Unique Impressions 25,461; Clicks 4,781)
- Track website page analytics (January December) (YTD Views 4,737, Users 3,934)

SMALL MEETINGS MARKET

Tactics

- Produce and place content in print and digital publications targeting small meeting and event planners searching for Midwest or Indiana destinations (January December) (YTD 2: (2) Small Market Meetings)
- · Identify and promote relevant small meetings events to local and regional media (January December) Ongoing
- Provide services, information and assistance to meeting and event planners (January December) Ongoing
- Produce and distribute Meeting Planner Guide (January December) Ongoing
- Produce and distribute RV Rally Planner Guide (January December) Ongoing
- Update website pages (February) Complete

- Track Meetings website analytics (January December) (YTD Views 1,873; Users 530)
- Track PDF downloads of Meeting Planner Guide (January December) (YTD 12)
- Track PDF downloads of RV Rally Planner Guide (January December) (YTD 10)
- Track meeting market contacts, leads, and RFPs (January December) (YTD 6)

YOUTH SPORTS MARKET

Tactics

- Place print ad in publications targeting sports rights holders and sports event planners (January December)
 (YTD 1: Sports Planning Guide)
- Create and distribute press releases or story pitches to local, regional and travel media for the Elkhart County sports market (January December) **Ongoing**
- Collaborate with Team Indiana on sporting event initiatives and promotions aligning with Elkhart County assets (January December) **Ongoing**
- Provide services, information, promotional assets, and assistance to sporting event organizers (January December)
 - Ongoing

Metrics

- Track PDF downloads of Sports Facilities Profile Sheet (January December) (YTD 12)
- Track unique page views to the Sports Information page (January December) (YTD Views 439, Users 224)

TRAVEL TRADE MARKET

Tactics

- Produce and place print and digital insertions in publications targeting tour operators and group planners
 (January December) (YTD 11: Going on Faith, (3) Group Travel Leader, (7) Group Tour Magazine, Leisure
 Group Travel)
- Conduct in-person FAM tours (January December) (YTD 0)
- Attend tradeshows targeting tour operators and group planners (January December)
 - (YTD 2: American Bus Association, Heartland)
- Produce and distribute Travel Trade eNewsletters (January December) (YTD 6)
- Provide services, information and assistance to tour operators and group planners (January December) Ongoing
- · Update and create group profiles and customized daytrip and overnight itineraries (January December) Ongoing

- Track Travel Trade website analytics (January December) (YTD Views 1,968, Users 1,020)
- Track PDF downloads of Travel Trade profile sheet (January December) (YTD 4)
- Track travel trade leads and appointments (January December) (YTD 89)

ELKHART COUNTY DIGITAL PROMOTIONS METRICS

Paid Performance April - June (Quarter 2)

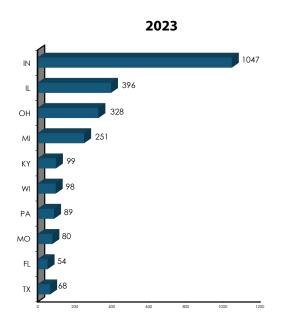
Amount Spent	Impressions	CPCon		
\$908.46	156,549	5.86		
Link Clicks	CPC (cost per link click)	CTR (link click-through rate)		
4,963	.18	1%		
Engagement	CPE	Video Views		
65,345	.01	61,884		

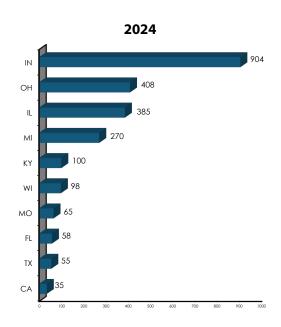
Digital Performance Analytics Resource: Q4 2022 Global Facebook Advertising Benchmark Report. AdBraze: A trusted source for industry standard ad analytics in the industry. AdBraze.com Social Activity Terms

- $\qquad \text{Impressions: Impressions: the number of times ads from the selected campaigns were displayed to a user during the reporting period of the contract of$
- CPM (Cost per Impression): The average cost per 1000 impressions across selected campaigns
- CPCon (Cost per Conversion): The Cost per Conversion or average cost for a single conversion across selected campaigns.
- Link Clicks: The total number of times users clicked on your ads driven by selected campaigns
- CPC (Cost per Link Click): The average cost per link click
- $\hbox{--} CTR\,(Link\,Click\,Through\,Rate; The\,percentage\,of\,times\,people\,saw\,your\,ad\,and\,performed\,a\,link\,click}$
- Engagement: The total number of engagements across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn
- CPE (Cost per Engagement): The average cost for a single engagement across selected campaigns
- Video Views: The total number of times a video was viewed, driven by selected campaigns. For Facebook and Instagram, the views are calculated based on the number of times your video played for at least 3 seconds, or for nearly its total length if it's shorter than 3 seconds

Area Guide Requests: Top 10 States - Quarter 2

April 1 through June 30



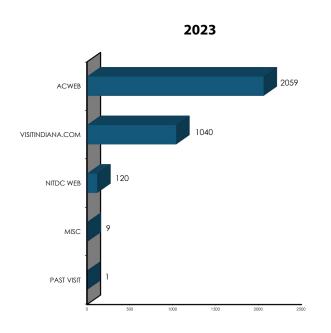


All States April - June, 2023: 3,229

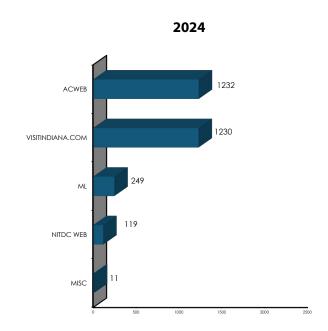
All States April - June, 2024: 2,841

Area Guide Requests: Top Sources - Quarter 2

April 1 through June 30



All Sources April - June, 2023: 3,229



All Sources April- June, 2024: 2,841

ELKHART COUNTY CVB INQUIRY & COLLATERAL								
DISTRIBUTION REPORT 2023 - 2024 COMPARISON								
	Apr-23	Apr-24	May-23	May-24	Jun-23	Jun-24	Qtr 2 2023	Qtr 2 2024
Total Visitor Information Requests	33,162	27,979	39,093	34,971	53,410	41,908	125,665	104,858
Total Direct Mail/Email	12,481	12,309	11,340	12,747	12,055	12,799	35,876	37,855
Visitors To Center	595	600	856	729	1,385	1,653	2,836	2,982
Total Visitor Center Distribution	770	1,365	2,762	5,592	4,526	1,501	8,058	8,458
Total Bulk Distribution	2,400	28,400	17,475	15,400	8,245	5,035	28,120	48,835
Total Collateral Distributed	48,813	70,053	70,670	68,710	78,236	61,243	197,719	200,006



The objective of the ECCVB curate strategy is to actively engage in product and community development activities that support the organization's role as a Destination Architect. This strategy approach will assist existing and new partners with development and delivery of more engaging experiences that align with the Well Crafted destination brand and targeted audiences while being synergistic with existing assets.

CURATE PILLAR GOAL

Encourage, support and assist the development of more diverse and engaging experiences throughout the county and its communities. We expect to expand connections with the local RV industry to increase their awareness of opportunities within the Elkhart County tourism space.

CURATE PILLAR TARGET MARKETS OF FOCUS

- Event Support & Development
- Small Business Support
- Outdoor Recreation
- RV Industry Engagement
- Youth Sports Market Engagement
- Vibrant Communities Implementation

DESTINATION EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Tactics

- Continue outreach and activation of signature countywide experience aligning with Well Crafted and DNA niches (January - December) - Ongoing
- Research and develop countywide seasonal experiential art exhibitions activating and aligning with Well Crafted and DNA niches (January December) **Ongoing**
- Research and develop immersive and engaging experiences aligning with niche segmentations (January December)
 Ongoing
- Research and develop new interactive Visitor Center experience aligning with the Well Crafted destination brand (January - December) - Ongoing
- Develop a Well Crafted Champions campaign integrating blog, video, podcast and social media elements (January March) **Complete**
- Research and develop Elkhart County Well Crafted video campaign integrating partner brands (January May)
 Complete
- Research and develop a Well Crafted Elkhart County foodie campaign (January March) Complete
- Develop Well Crafted promotional kits for regional and national travel journalists (January March) Complete

OUTDOOR RECREATION DEVELOPMENT

Tactics

- Research and develop outdoor experiences in collaboration with local stakeholder organizations (January December) Ongoing
- Facilitate discussions with park and trail stakeholders on amenity wayfinding signage (January December) (YTD 1)
- Continue development and activation of countywide blueways experiences aligning with Well Crafted and DNA niches (January - December) - Ongoing

RV EXPERIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Tactics

- Develop an outreach strategy and facilitate discussions with RV industry stakeholders connecting RV travelers with Elkhart County assets (January December) **Ongoing**
- · Develop a Roadtrippers influencer campaign for the RV family audience (January December) Ongoing

Metrics

Meeting with RV industry stakeholders connecting RV travelers with Elkhart County assets (January - December)
 - (YTD: Renegade - 1)

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Tactics

Manage and coordinate Vibrant Communities activities in cooperation with community partners (January - December)
 - (YTD: VC Speaker Series - 1; VC Org Group Mtg - 2; CNP Mtg/Trip - 2; Year of the Volunteer Campaign - Complete)



The objective of the ECCVB Balance strategy is to engage in research that informs and guides development and promotion investment. Research findings will help guide a balanced approach between tourism promotion and development.

BALANCE PILLAR GOAL

Balance the areas of focus of the ECCVB to optimize its potential and lead the visitor industry and communities. Operate as a fiscally responsible and highly performing destination organization through a highly effective team and leveraged partnerships.

BALANCE PILLAR TARGET MARKETS OF FOCUS

- Elkhart County Innkeeper Tax Commission Members
- ECCVB Board of Directors
- ECCVB Staff
- Industry suppliers / vendors
- Industry partners

DESTINATION RESEARCH

Tactics

- · Develop research reporting parameters to stakeholders and partners (January April) Ongoing
- Facilitate Certec Economic Impact Study (January December) Ongoing
- Collect and report findings of STR data (January December) (YTD 22)
- · Analyze and communicate trends in Zartico reports (January December) Ongoing
- Analyze and communicate downtown hotel study findings (January June) (YTD 2: Elkhart & Goshen)
- · Combine insights from multiple data streams into an Executive Summary (January December) Ongoing
- Develop dynamic visualizations for up to four Elkhart County events (January, March, July, December) (YTD 2)
- · Research and perform a youth sports facility feasibility study (January December) Ongoing

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Tactics

- Develop a sound 2024 line-item budget (January) Complete
- Establish financial ratios and projections (January December) (YTD 6)
- Develop monthly financial reports and statements for the corporation (January December) (YTD 6)
- Perform all accounts receivable and payable for the corporation (January December) (YTD 6)
- Perform as the Commission's designated collections administrator for delinquencies (January December) Ongoing (YTD 6)
- Develop monthly reports on collections activities and hotel occupancy trends (January December) (YTD 6)
- Complete all county, state and federal employee withholding obligations (January December) (YTD 6)
- · Complete all grant financial requirements (January December) Ongoing
- Maintain a 95% collections rate of lodging tax receipts (January December) Ongoing
- Maintain a 95% collections rate of Elkhart County Area Guide contracts (January December) Ongoing

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Tactics

- · Keep current all personnel records for each employee (January December) Ongoing
- Work with all employees to assist with interpretation of benefit plans and filing procedures (January December)
 - Ongoing
- Oversee and report all employee personal time off (January December) Ongoing
- Manage the corporate / employee SRA contribution plans (January December) Ongoing
- · Research benefit plans that best meet employee's needs and corporation budgetary requirements (January December)
 - Ongoing
- Distribute Employee Professional Development Survey (December)

VISITOR CENTER SERVICES

Tactics

- Provide friendly personal service in-person and digitally (January December) Ongoing
- Provide and distribute Elkhart County Area Guide, up-to-date local business brochures, maps, regional travel guides and other materials in an appealing Visitor Center (January December) **Ongoing**



The objective of the ECCVB is to build a better understanding of the tourism industry's contributions to economic vitality and resident quality of place.

ADVOCATE PILLAR GOAL

Build relationships and advocate on behalf of the ECCVB and the tourism industry ensuring the recognized role of tourism and its economic impact. Inform and advocate on the importance and value of tourism and the ECCVB's vital role as the leader and expert of the destination's tourism development and promotion.

ADVOCATE PILLAR TARGET MARKETS OF FOCUS

- Elkhart County Innkeeper Tax Commission Members
- ECCVB Board of Directors
- Elected and Appointed Officials
- Industry partners
- Trade associations
- Media
- Residents

ECCVB ADVOCACY

Tactics

- · Communicate and collaborate ongoing promotion campaigns with partners (January December) Ongoing
- Assist event organizers to increase attendance and build their digital audience for re-targeting (January - December) - Ongoing
- Develop and implement an advocacy meeting plan connecting the Elkhart County Innkeeper Tax Commission and ECCVB Board of Directors with key stakeholders/elected representatives (January December) (YTD 3)
- Distribute community Thank You Notes acknowledging Elkhart County partners, stakeholders and volunteer groups which support quality of place efforts (January December) **Ongoing**
- Facilitate meetings with Elkhart County stakeholders developing relationships and better understanding of partnership opportunities (January December) **Ongoing**
- Produce and distribute B2B eNewsletters (January December) (YTD 6)
- Update and distribute key messages on the value of quality of place (January December) Ongoing
- Develop and implement a strategy engaging local stakeholders to integrate Well Crafted messaging (January December) **Ongoing**

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tactics

- Develop and distribute key messages on the value of tourism and its economic impact on the destination (January December) (YTD 6)
- · Develop and implement public speaking training for ECCVB staff and stakeholders (January December) (YTD 1)
- Attend regional and national media marketplace events representing the Elkhart County destination (January - December) - (YTD 1)

ECCVB SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMS

Tactics

- Support community-based quality of place events consistent with the ECCVB Sponsorship Program, Area Guide Assistance Fund, and Community Support & Engagement programs (January - December) - Ongoing
- Develop increased participation in sponsorship program from traditionally underserved communities of Elkhart County (January - December) - Ongoing
- Evaluate, develop, and implement engagement tools and programs to assist ECCVB sponsorship partners in aligning with Elkhart County Well Crafted destination brand (January December) **Ongoing**
- Update sponsorship practices and internal guidelines as necessary (October December)