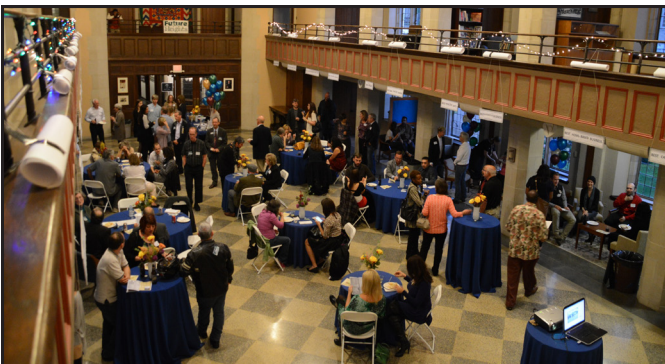


Future Heights NEWS

FutureHeights promotes a vibrant and sustainable future for Cleveland Heights and University Heights through innovative ideas and civic engagement.

NO. 31 NOVEMBER 2014

YEAR IN REVIEW



From the President

The coming year promises to be an exciting one for FutureHeights, and for the communities we serve. Last year, I promised a “bigger, better” organization that could plant its roots deeper and reach its branches further into the community. The promise of “bigger, better” is crystallizing.

More than a year’s worth of work and strategizing will culminate in early 2015 when FutureHeights begins its Community Capacity-Building Program. This program will enable FutureHeights to help develop new and strengthen existing neighborhood groups and neighborhood leaders throughout our cities. Involved, engaged neighbors make for strong neighborhoods, which create strong communities and business districts, which results in vibrant cities.

The Community Capacity-Building Program ensures that FutureHeights will continue to forward its mission to encourage and foster civic engagement and grow community, as well as strengthen FutureHeights’s commitment to maintain and sustain vibrant communities. FutureHeights’s Community Capacity-Building Program will be unique to Cleveland’s suburbs, providing a mechanism to enhance our cities engaging and connecting neighbor to neighbor.

FutureHeights’s commitment to this wonderful, unique place that we choose to call home extends to our indispensable local businesses. The Community Capacity-Building Program will strengthen our neighborhoods, which will strengthen the local business districts that serve those bordering neighbors. FutureHeights events, such as the Cedar Lee

Kids Candy Crawl and the Best of the Heights Awards, also highlight and celebrate local businesses and business districts.

In 2013, FutureHeights kicked off the first annual Heights Music Hop, featuring live, free music at venues on Lee Road. In 2014, programming for the Heights Music Hop doubled, with free music stretching from the Heights Library on Lee Road to Zagara’s Marketplace, over the course of ten hours on October 11. The Heights Music Hop was a rousing success, again, in that it highlighted our local businesses and local music, and proved to be a fun night for all. Planning is already underway for the Heights Music Hop 2015.

Of course, FutureHeights also serves its mission and our communities through the publication of the Heights Observer. The Observer provides a voice for our community, publishing articles and letters written by you, not by outside reporters and journalists. The Observer serves to tell your stories, about your neighborhoods, neighbors, business and schools.

As FutureHeights closes out an exciting year of growth through enhanced service of its mission, there are even bigger, better things ahead in 2015. Thank you for your support of FutureHeights. We look forward to your continued support to achieve to continue to grow civic engagement and community in Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

Clare R. Taft
President, Board of Directors



News and Notes

Staff



Deanna Bremer Fisher

Cleveland Heights resident for 19 years • Co-authored the nomination to have her neighborhood listed in the National Register of Historic Places • Is very happy to see more individual citizens nominating their Heights neighborhoods for listing in the National Register



Hannah Baldwin

Grew up in Cleveland Heights • Server at Tommy's in Coventry Village • Loves the diversity of the Heights and its niche neighborhoods

Heights Observer Staff

Publisher, Deanna Bremer Fisher
Editor-In-Chief, Kim Sergio-Inglis
E-News Editor, Andrea C. Turner
Advertising, Bob Rosenbaum
Design and Production, Temma Collins, Ruth D'Emilia, Diane Roberto

Distribution, Hannah Baldwin

2013 Interns

Emily Brock
Camille Davis
Kendra Dean
Chris Hanson
Simone Jasper
Alastair Pearson
Simone Quartell

FutureHeights engages residents by providing information, education and advocacy on issues that are important to ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future for the Heights.

Over the last 18 months, we have accomplished much with our small staff and many dedicated volunteers:

Providing information

In 2013, FutureHeights published another 12 issues of the Observer print edition and a weekly edition of the e-news. We now have more than 968 people who have signed up in the member center as volunteer writers, editors and distributors, which is 181 more than last year. All help tell our community's stories.

We have now published more than 5,496 stories since the beginning of the project in April 2008. The print edition now averages 25.67 pages and 93 advertisers each month. The Heights Observer e-news, which is published every Tuesday, now reaches more than 4,300 people and averages a 38% open rate. Advertising support has grown for the e-news as well. We average 1.5 ads per week, and often have all three ad spots filled during the latter half of the year.

Our hyper-local community news project continues to grow. In March of 2014, we hired Andrea C. Turner as our e-news editor. She joins Editor-in-Chief Kim Sergio Inglis, Ad Sales Manager Bob Rosenbaum and the Observer graphic design team: Temma Collins, Ruth D'Emilia and Diane Roberto.

This dedicated and professional team helps Heights residents find their voices and create a truer narrative about our community. Through the Observer, Heights residents have greater opportunities to interact with each other and participate in public life. In 2014, our community has faced many challenges, but we came together to realize that "We are a Colony" and that there is power in telling our own story.

Creating opportunities for education and dialogue

In 2013 and 2014, FutureHeights hosted a number of opportunities for residents to hear community leaders speak on a variety of topics. Through our speaker series, we hosted events featuring Tanisha Briley, Cleveland Heights's new city manager, and a panel discussion on keeping our sidewalks safe during the winter. In January 2014, we co-hosted a community discussion of the book *Reign of Error* by Diane Ravitch, which highlights the state of public education in America and how it affects our community.

In June and October 2014, we co-hosted two events to welcome new neighbors and reconnect with old ones. Welcome Home: Heights Foodies featured panelists Adam Fleischer of the Wine Spot, Hank Kornblut of Mister Brisket, Keith Logan of Sweetie Fry, Michael Herschman of Lopez, Tommy Fello of Tommy's restaurant, and was moderated by Noel Celeste, publisher of Edible Cleveland. Welcome Home: Heights Authors featured panelists George Bilgere, James Henke and Tricia Springstubb, and was moderated by Kathleen Cerveney, Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate. We plan future events featuring more of the fascinating people who call the Heights home.

Wayne Mortensen, director of design and development for Cleveland Neighborhood Progress and a Heights resident, was the keynote speaker at our 2014 annual meeting. His talk, entitled What's Next for the Heights? Leveraging Our Strengths to Confront Challenges, challenges residents to think about their hopes and desires for their neighborhoods.

Advocating for issues important to Heights residents

At our annual meeting, FutureHeights announced its plans to launch a Community Capacity-Building Program, which would

help develop and strengthen neighborhood-based groups. Already, FutureHeights has worked with several groups—acting as fiscal agent for Sustainable Heights Network, Montford Community Garden Association, Spirit Corner and the Heights Community Garden Network—enabling them to seek funding and present programs that enhance our community.

We have also provided advice and assistance to Noble Neighbors and the Forest Hill Homeowners Association, which is working to list the entire Forest Hill neighborhood in the National Register of Historic Places.

On our website, we have created the Heights Neighborhood Network page, a place where residents can find information about neighborhood organizations. If your block club or neighborhood organization is not yet listed, give us a call and we'll be happy to add it to this valuable resource.

The CH-UH Board of Education's (BOE) investment in school facilities represents one of the largest investments in our community in 40 years. Our executive director, Deanna Bremer Fisher, has served on the Lay Facilities Committee and co-chaired its buildings subcommittee. She continues to serve on the Historic Preservation Subcommittee of the Facilities Accountability Committee.

Supporting our local economy

The locally owned, independent businesses that comprise our 14 business districts are strong contributors to our local economy and the unique character of our community. Through "shop local" programs, such as the Heights Observer's Holiday Gift Guide, Independents' Week, Online Auction, and Best of the Heights, we encourage residents to patronize these businesses and help keep our community vibrant.

In 2014, we joined with the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District to co-sponsor the Cedar Lee Kids Candy Crawl, which brought hundreds of families to the district. We also presented the second annual Heights Music Hop, a celebration of local music in several venues along Lee Road. With the help of our many partners and sponsors, we were able to double the number of venues and increase the hours of music.

We are looking forward to continuing to present community-building events like these in coming years.

Strengthening our organization

FutureHeights is always looking for ways to become more efficient, more effective and more visible in what we do. In 2013, we became a member of Greater Cleveland Community Shares, a workplace giving federation that focuses on social justice. Its members serve particular communities, including place-based ones like ours.

We also concluded a strategic collaboration investigation process with two other Heights-based nonprofits. As a result, we moved into shared office space with Reaching Heights, a nonprofit that supports public education in the Heights, in March. Our new office, located at 2843 Washington Blvd. in the former Coventry Elementary School, more than doubles our workspace and gives us a much-needed conference room.

We are continuing to investigate ways to strategically collaborate in our programs and administration to enable us to maximize your investment in us and fulfill our mission of ensuring that the Heights remains a wonderful place to live.

Thank you for your support!

Meet the 2014 FutureHeights Board of Directors



Clare Taft

President

Of Counsel at Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff • Resident of Cleveland Heights for 15 years • Loves the character of Cleveland Heights's neighborhoods and home



Richard Stewart

Vice President

Owner of Digizoom Media • Raised in the Heights and attended Fairfax, Roxboro and Heights High • Loves his friendly neighbors on East Fairfax Road



Mike Kinsella

Vice President

Instructor of Nonprofit Management and Economics, Lake Erie College • Resident of Cleveland Heights for 15 years • Drawn to area by its active and engaged citizenry



Lloyd Bell

Treasurer

Has two children thriving in the CH-UH school system • Director of the corporate finance group of Meaden & Moore, Ltd. • Cleveland Heights resident for 19 years



Douglas Whipple

Secretary

Heights Resident for 18 years • Celebrates our trees and the vitality of our local businesses • Lawyer at www.whipple-law.com



Greg Bonanno

Cleveland Heights Resident for 6 years • Loves the Heights's active, vibrant community of invested, engaged citizenry • enjoys the variety of local merchants • Administrative Program Coordinator for Arts and Medicine of Cleveland Clinic Foundation



Daniel Budin

Works for Division of Parks and Recreation of Cleveland Heights • Lifelong resident of Cleveland Heights • Lives in the Fairfax neighborhood and loves the walkability of the Heights



Patti Carlyle

Writer, activist and Northeast Ohio native • Resident of University Heights with daughter in the school district • Loves the sense of place here in the Heights



Mark Chupp

Assistant professor in Community Practice for Social Change at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at CWRU • Lives in Coventry, an urban village with all you need within a short walk



Susan Delaney

A well-established realtor with HowardHanna Real Estate Services • Lifelong "Heights-er" • Passionate about housing • Knowledgeable about Heights neighborhoods and its cultural and social amenities



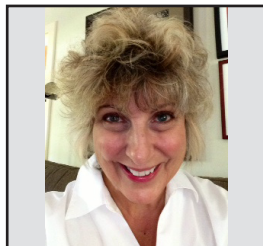
Shawn Paul Gustafson

Owner of Shawn Paul Salon • Lives in Cleveland's Slavic Village. Pretends to have gone to Heights public schools • Loves EVERY thing about the Heights



James Henke

Freelance writer • Cleveland Heights resident for 17 years • Loves all the independent stores and restaurants as well as the city's commitment to the arts.



Joan Moore

Boomeranger resident of Cleveland Heights • Active participant in the multifaceted living experience of Cleveland Heights • Loves being close to many fabulous bakeries.



Amy Roth

Grew up in the Heights, graduate of Cleveland Heights High School • Owns Amy Roth Inc. • Loves the welcoming atmosphere and diversity of independent, small businesses in the Heights



Kevin Smith

Real estate transaction manager for Progressive Insurance • Resident of Cleveland Heights for 21 years • Loves the diverse people and neighborhoods

Our thanks to former board members Adam Fleischer, Rebecca Stolzman, Jeff Coryell, Michael Knoblauch, Jewel Moulthrop, Vince Reddy and Eustacia Netzel-Hatcher for their dedicated service to the mission of FutureHeights.



Our Mission

FutureHeights promotes a vibrant and sustainable future for Cleveland Heights and University Heights through innovative ideas and civic engagement.

FutureHeights values:

- Active and informed citizen participation in community decision making
- Innovative ideas in addressing the challenges of inner-ring suburbs
- Open and effective communication and partnerships among nonprofits, schools, local business, city government and citizens
- A thriving local business community
- Historic neighborhoods and commercial districts
- High quality and sustainability in design and architecture
- A regional approach to innovation, planning, and development

Join Us

Your tax-deductible membership contribution goes directly to supporting the community-based programs and projects of FutureHeights that help strengthen our wonderful neighborhoods. Join online today at our secure website, www.futureheights.org, or by calling 216-320-1423.

FutureHeights

2843 Washington Blvd., Suite 105
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
www.futureheights.org

2013 Financial Statement

Unaudited condensed statement of activities

Revenue and Support

Grants	\$26,591
Memberships	20,026
Annual fund	12,365
Fiscal Agencies	4,320
Other Fundraisers	3,711
Online Auction	16,426
Earned Income	122,506
Misc.	11,074

Total Revenue and Support 217,019

Expenses

Program	\$157,548
General and Administration	50,732
Fiscal Agency Expense	2,388
Fundraising	3,257

Total Expenses 213,925

Change in Net Assets	3,094
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	73,811
Net Assets at End of Year	\$76,905

The FutureHeights financial year begins January 1 and ends December 31.

FutureHeights is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Contributions to FutureHeights are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. FutureHeights participates in GuideStar, the online standard for nonprofit accountability. Please visit GuideStar.org to view the organization's Annual Form 990 and other organizational information.

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