

FutureHeights

CONVENING. EDUCATING. EMPOWERING.

FutureHeights works to inspire and facilitate collaboration and empowerment to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

Since its founding in 2002, FutureHeights has sought to inspire and facilitate collaboration and empowerment across Cleveland Heights and University Heights to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for our community.

Through the efforts of its many volunteers, dedicated board of directors and committee members, and a small staff, FutureHeights has grown into a dynamic organization that is uniquely positioned to support and implement change-making programs and initiatives that fulfill its mission.

Over the past year, FutureHeights has focused its work in three major areas: engaging and promoting our community, strengthening our neighborhoods and supporting our commercial districts.

Engaging and promoting our community

Through the *Heights Observer*, residents tell the story about our community. They contribute news stories and opinion pieces, and our local businesses support this hyper-local community news project through their paid advertising.

In 2015, we published another 12 issues of the print edition and 51 issues of the weekly e-news. One hundred forty-six new volunteers signed up in the member center to write, edit and distribute the paper, which brings the total number of people engaged through the *Observer* to 1,207.

We have published more than 7,072 stories since the beginning of the project in April 2008. In 2015, the print edition averaged 26 pages and 86 advertisers each month. The e-news, which is published on Tuesday, reaches more than 5,000 people and averages a 30% open rate.

Strengthening our neighborhoods

FutureHeights continues to build its **Community Capacity-Building Program**, which it launched in 2015 to strengthen our neighborhoods by helping residents leverage their many assets and providing tools to enable neighborhood leaders to work together on creative solutions to their challenges. The program has four components: a series of workshops to train neighborhood leaders; public forums on specific issues of importance to the whole community; a small grants program to enable neighborhood-based projects; and one-on-one mentoring of neighborhood leaders and groups.

Sruti Basu joined the FutureHeights staff in August 2015 as director of community-building programs to oversee the program. She attends neighborhood meetings, helps identify potential leaders, works with existing neighborhood groups and assists in starting new groups.

FutureHeights

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216-320-1423

www.futureheights.org

www.heightsobserver.org

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

In spring 2016, we held our second annual series of **community-building workshops** to train participants in effective community-building and place-making practices. Eleven new Community Builders learned about effective community-building and place-making practices. Members of both the inaugural and second-year class met for a potluck in August to share their successes and help plan for the coming year. FutureHeights will announce the dates for its 2017 workshop series soon.

FutureHeights hosted a **public forum, Community-Building for Change**, on Nov. 16, focusing on effective organizing and goal-setting for volunteer organizations, and strategies for creatively solving challenges. FutureHeights hosts public forums in response to requests from members of the neighborhood groups it works with and its Civic Engagement Committee. FutureHeights is partnering with Neighborhood Connections, a nonprofit community organizing group that serves Cleveland neighborhoods.



FutureHeights awarded a neighborhood mini-grant to the Oxford Community Garden.

Since its inception in fall 2015, the FutureHeights **Neighborhood Mini-Grants Program** has awarded 13 grants totaling \$9,984 in three grant cycles. Cleveland Heights neighborhood groups may apply for a grant of up to \$1,000 to fund a project that will improve the physical and social environment of their neighborhoods.

Projects that FutureHeights has funded so far include community gardens, public art, and beautification and branding initiatives. FutureHeights holds two grant application rounds, one in the fall and one in the spring. The next application deadline is March 15, 2017.



FutureHeights is the fiscal sponsor for neighborhood groups such as Noble Neighbors.

FutureHeights continues to work with several community-based groups—acting as **fiscal sponsor** for Sustainable Heights Network, Montford Community Garden Association, Noble Neighbors, Spirit Corner, Plant One Tree and Growing Heights—enabling them to seek funding and present programs that enhance our community.

The organization sponsored Artful as it obtained its 501(c)3 status in spring 2015.

Supporting our commercial districts

FutureHeights programs, such as the *Heights Observer's* **Holiday Gift Guide**, and **Best of the Heights**, and low-cost advertising opportunities in the *Heights Observer*, support the locally owned, independent businesses that make up the majority of businesses in the Heights. These businesses add to the quality of life and unique character of our residential community. Through “shop local” programs, such as these, we encourage residents to patronize these businesses and help keep our community vibrant.

In 2016, FutureHeights focused several efforts in the Cedar Lee Business District, which faced challenges due to a 9-month streetscape construction project and the renovation of the high school.

FutureHeights sponsored a Cleveland State University **student-led planning process in Cedar Lee** that examined several aspects of the district, including retail mix and in-fill opportunities. A group of volunteers, organized through FutureHeights' new Economic Development Committee is using the study to develop strategies to support existing businesses and fill vacancies in the district.



May 9 presentation of CSU's Viking Planners at the Cedar Lee Theatre.

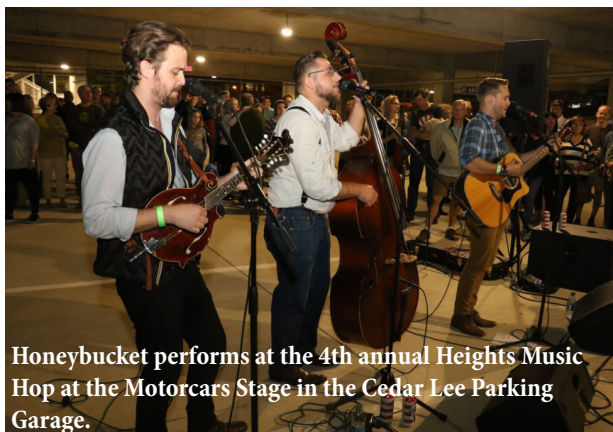
The committee organized a **Construction Survival Workshop** and two **Hard Hat Happy Hour** events to assist business owners and attract patrons during the construction.

Sruti Basu of FutureHeights, Kelley Robinson of the Cedar Lee SID and Cleveland Heights Mayor Cheryl L. Stephens welcomed folks to the Hard Hat Happy Hour on Aug. 5.



The **Heights Music Hop** has grown into a two-day, two-district free music festival that attracts more than 5,000 people to the Heights to enjoy free music and visit our unique local businesses.

In 2016, 28 venues hosted 78 musical acts in both the Cedar Lee and Cedar Fairmount business districts. Local and regional acts performed music in a variety of genres and in a variety of venues—restaurants, bars, retail shops, and even the Cedar Lee Parking Garage. We again worked with Heights Arts and Artful to enliven empty storefronts along Lee Road with pop-up art. We are looking forward to continuing to present community-building events like these in coming years.



Honeybucket performs at the 4th annual Heights Music Hop at the Motorcars Stage in the Cedar Lee Parking Garage.

Strengthening our organization

FutureHeights believes that all citizens can contribute energy, ideas, and action to building a better community, and we are fortunate that our community is home to so many active and engaged residents and business owners. FutureHeights has drawn on their talents to staff its board-led committees and task forces.

As FutureHeights looks ahead to 2017, it is poised to become a more impactful organization as it works with the City of Cleveland Heights to become a comprehensive, citywide **Community Development Corporation (CDC)** for that city.

A strong nonprofit CDC actively advocates for residents' needs and proactively pursues development opportunities. Many inner-ring suburbs have a CDC that represents community stakeholders. FutureHeights has been doing much of the work of a CDC already, but by expanding its programming and creating an explicit partnership—between the city, residents and a nonprofit CDC—it will better accomplish its goals for neighborhood revitalization, place-making and economic development.

FutureHeights has built strong partnerships with Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) and Cleveland State University's (CSU) Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs.

In 2016, the organization hosted three MSASS student interns. In addition to the student group who completed the Cedar Lee study, FutureHeights hosted a 2016 CSU intern through the Cleveland Foundation's Summer Internship Program. These students have inspired us with their energy and enthusiasm for community-focused work and expanded our capacity to fulfill our mission of ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future for the Heights.

Thank you for your support!

Deanna Bremer Fisher
Executive Director, FutureHeights



FutureHeights' 2016 Annual Meeting focused on Rediscovering our Neighborhood Business Districts.

From the President



Richard Stewart, board president of FutureHeights, introduces panel speakers at the 2016 FutureHeights Annual Meeting in the Heights Rockefeller Building on June 1.

What an incredible ride! For nearly seven years, I've been honored to serve on the FutureHeights Board of Directors and as board president for the last two years.

I'm honored because I have a longstanding passion for the Heights. It's made serving our community, through FutureHeights, a natural fit for me.

Having been raised here, educated in our public schools and, through the years, become familiar

with all of the wonderful assets that our community has to offer our residents and visitors, there's no place I'd rather call home today. From our unique housing stock to our one of a kind business districts, our community has a lot to offer.

As my tenure on the board of directors winds to a close, I'm buoyed by the demonstrable progress FutureHeights has made toward fulfilling its mission to inspire and facilitate collaboration and empowerment across our communities to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

We've gone from a small grassroots group to a more professional organization with strong programs, such as the *Heights Observer*, Heights Music Hop, and Neighborhood Mini-Grants that have made a solid impact on the community.

I'm a huge believer in the power of collaboration and, as an organization, it's something we not only value and respect, but also have reaped the benefits of strong relationships with our many partners, including the City of Cleveland Heights.

After all, we're all invested and want to live in a place that not only is holding its own, but is becoming even better. This goal is more easily achieved when we all work together.

I want to thank the hundreds of individuals, families, local businesses, charitable foundations, civic institutions and community volunteers that have supported the important work

of FutureHeights and the *Heights Observer*, through the years. Without them, the work we do simply wouldn't be possible.

I'd be remiss if I didn't express a heartfelt debt of gratitude to the capable staff members, who've worked for FutureHeights during my tenure, and our tireless Executive Director, Deanna Bremer Fisher. FutureHeights couldn't exist but for the dedicated work of this group.

With continued help from our many supporters who share our commitment to making our community the best it can be, I'm confident that our future in the Heights is a bright one.

Sincerely,
Richard Stewart,
President
FutureHeights Board of Directors



Richard Stewart and four panelists at the 2016 FutureHeights Annual Meeting.

2016 FutureHeights Board of Directors

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Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director, shares some of the things she loves about the Heights at the FutureHeights board retreat.

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2015 Financial Statement

Unaudited condensed statement of activities

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Grants	\$65,734
Membership	\$28,277
Annual Fund	\$6,545
Sponsorships	\$11,725
Fiscal Agent Admin.	\$401
Other Fundraising	\$16,701
Online Auction	\$14,690
Earned Income	\$128,717
Miscellaneous	\$325
Total Revenue and Support	\$273,115

EXPENSES

Fundraising	\$6,106
Depreciation	\$830
Program Fees & Supplies	\$194,228
General and Administrative	\$64,709
Total Expenses	\$265,873
Change in Net Assets	\$7,242
Net Assets at Start of the Year	\$64,384
Net Assets at End of the Year	\$71,626

FISCAL AGENCY HOLDINGS*

Fiscal Agency Income	\$3,613
Fiscal Agency Expenses	\$3,123
Net Fiscal Agencies	\$490

*FutureHeights is the fiscal agent for the following organizations: Sustainable Heights Network, Montford Community Garden Association, Noble Neighbors, Spirit Corner, Plant One Tree and Growing Heights.

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.



Join Us

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



The FutureHeights office at the former Coventry School.

2015 FutureHeights Supporters*

*January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

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City of Cleveland Heights
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 CityWheels
 CL Barber Salon
 Cleveland Bouncers
 Cleveland Cinemas
 Cleveland Cinematheque
 Cleveland City Dance and City Ballet of Cleveland
 Cleveland Council on World Affairs
 Cleveland Heights High School Athletic Department
 Cleveland Heights Historical Society
 Cleveland Independents
 Cleveland Institute of Art
 Cleveland International Film Festival
 Cleveland International Piano Competition
 Cleveland Magazine
 Cleveland Montessori
 Cleveland Play House
 Cleveland Potter's Co-Op
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 Judson
 JumpStart Video Productions Cleveland
 K-9 Kingdom

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 KellerNational
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 Les Roberts
 Leslie Scott Design
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 Mr. Peter Schofield
 Mr. and Mrs. Cary M. Seidman
 Mr. and Mrs. John Sheridan
 Dean and Judy Sieck
 Christine Sims
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Skettle
 Katherine Solender
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Spero
 Ms. Joan Spoerl
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Stika
 Ms. Rebecca Stolzman
 Ms. Sandy Stone
 Ms. Susan B. Strauss
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Sumner
 Beth and Jim Szpak
 Mr. and Mrs. Philip L. Taylor
 Ms. Emily Taylor
 Ms. Toni Thayer
 Mr. and Mrs. Guy Thellian
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Titchenal
 Ms. Joan Tomkins
 Lara Troyer and Jeff Dyck
 Ms. Freya Turner
 Mr. and Mrs. JF Twist
 Pam Kelly and Bruce Tyler
 Anne Unverzagt
 Mr. and Mrs. James Vail
 Ms. Deborah Van Kleef
 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Walker
 Lisa Lehman and Wendy Weirich
 Mr. R Allen Wilkinson
 Matt and Lindsey Wilson
 Dr. Anna Winfield
 Mr. and Mrs. James Wright
 Mary Zenisek and Scott Krupkin
 Mr. David Zordan

Individual

Anonymous (3)
 Carol Armbrust and Tom Aldrich
 Mr. Ken Barcus
 Dr. and Mrs. Jerome L. Belinson
 Mr. David Benson
 Mr. Nicholas Biggar
 Anne and Glenn Billington
 Dr. Daniel J. Brustein and Dr. Joan E. Trey
 Judge Janet R. Burnside
 Ms. Gretchen Burt
 Ms. Vera J. Camden
 Ms. Cindie Carroll-Pankhurst
 Mr. Laurence Channing
 Sheri Clampitt-Dean
 Mr. and Mrs. Arnold J. Dahm
 Mr. Emil Davidson
 Mrs. Lois L. Davis
 Ms. Rhonda Davis-Lovejoy
 Walter Lambrecht and Greta De Meyer
 Mrs. Ruth D'Emilia
 Mr. Ben DeRubertis, Jr.
 Mrs. Julianne Edberg
 Sheila Epp
 Dr. John Feighan
 Ms. Julie Frazier
 Mrs. John A. Hadden
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hanger
 Mrs. Joy Henderson
 Mrs. Ann T. Herbruck
 Dan Jaffe and Beth Hellerstein
 Ms. Gabrielle Jarrett
 Ms. Amy Johnson
 Jack and Sue Kenney
 Ken and Amy Kesegich
 KeyBank Foundation
 Rev. Donald King
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kinsella
 Melissa Jones
 Mrs. Sue Klein
 Dorothy Klemm
 Ms. Robin Koslen
 Ms. Malia R. Lewis
 Ms. Linda Logan

Mr. and Mrs. Norton London
 Mr. Ken Lurie
 Dr. Henry R. Bloom and Dr. Marilyn Malkin
 Mr. and Mrs. Jay A. Mann, Jr.
 Ms. Lisa Manzari
 Mrs. Allison McCallum
 Ms. Shanna McGee
 Ms. Martha and Mr. Patrick McGraw
 Don and Sandra McPherson
 Steven Morchak
 Mr. Timothy O'Donnell
 Paul and Connie Omelsky
 Ms. Kathleen M. Patton
 Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Peckham
 Ms. Joanne Poderis
 Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Regan
 Ms. A Robichaud
 Julian Rogers
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Rupcic
 Mr. and Mrs. William Sattin
 Kara and John Schellenberg
 Ms. Carolyn Schieman
 Mr. Drew Schwanitz
 Mr. Richard Secor
 Mr. Bob Sferra
 Mr. and Mrs. Terry Shockey
 Mr. Brian Smith and Mrs. Marjorie Edguer
 B.F. St. Angelo
 Ms. Rebecca Stager
 Ms. Carol A. Staiger
 Ms. Lucinda Stevens
 Ms. Jill Tatem
 Mrs. Margaret N. Trevis
 Mr. and Mrs. Scott Wachter
 Ms. Lissa Waite
 Mr. Steve Warner
 Amy Wheeler
 Mr. Tim Wojnar
 Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Wood
 Mr. George H. Yarbrough
 Ms. Nancy Zelman

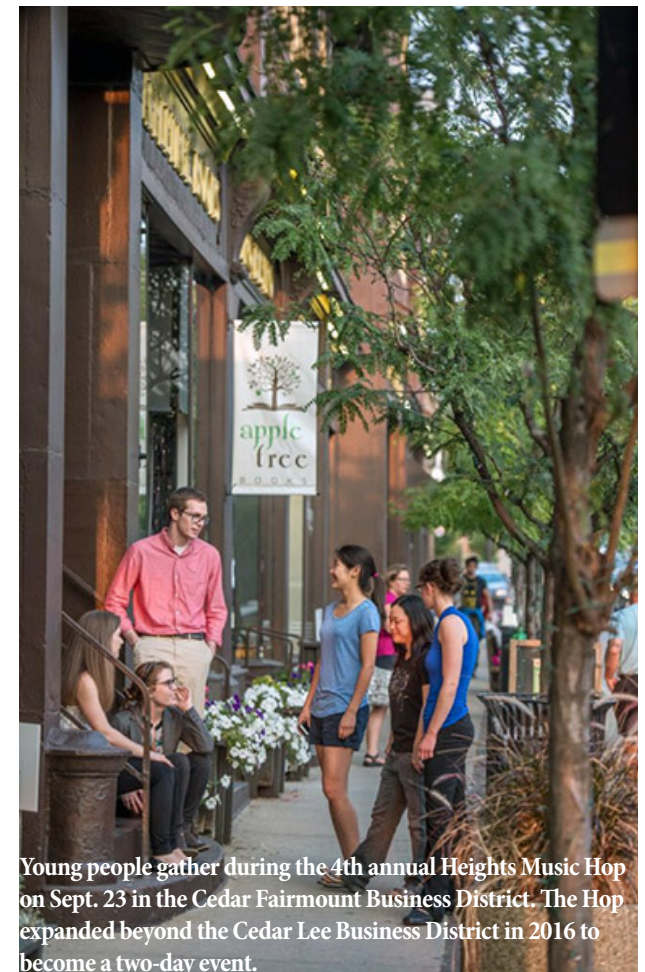
Senior/Student

Anonymous (6)
 Ms. Doris Allen
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bailis
 Ms. Patty Bakewell
 Ms. Pamela Barr
 Mr. and Mrs. Rolf Bergman
 Ms. Judie Bernstein
 Ms. Barbara Brennan
 Mrs. Sharon G. Broniatowski
 Ms. Delores L. Burt
 Mrs. Patricia Cangelosi-Williams
 Ms. Kathleen M. Carrick
 Jan Devereaux
 Ms. Nancy L. Dudwick
 Ms. Belinda L. Farrow
 Mr. Hardy Flickinger
 Ms. Barbara S. Framke
 Dr. Jane Glaubinger
 Ms. Deborah Glosserman
 Ms. Barbara Gustafson
 Mrs. Anita J. King
 Ms. Elizabeth Martin
 Ms. Kathryn McWilliams
 Damaris Dede Moore
 Ms. Patricia Morris
 Ben Nichols and Shari Nacson
 Jon Goldman and Karstin Olofsson
 Mr. and Mrs. Kendall Pim
 Ms. Susan Prendergast
 Ms. Renee Psiakis
 Ms. Leatrice Rabinsky
 Mrs. Jane Reynolds
 Ms. Barbara A. Rogers
 Nancy Sherwin
 Mrs. Lucy H. Simm
 Ms. Peggy Spaeth
 Mr. and Mrs. David Steinweg
 Ben and Sonja Taeusch
 Ms. Peggy J. Van Buskirk
 Ms. Judith Van Kleef
 Ms. Mariel W. Wallace
 Earl Waltz
 Mrs. Barbara Wherley
 Ms. Janice Wood

Mr. Dominic Gideon
 Brooke Fischbach
 Ms. Sherry Ball
 Ms. Amanda Bash
 Ms. Dorothy J. Broz
 Dr. and Mrs. William Cappaert
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Charlick
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary Collins
 Ms. Roslyn S. Collins
 Mr. and Mrs. E. Richard Csoltko
 Mrs. Dorothy Dawson
 Mr. Benjamin Faller
 John and Pam Gibbon
 Mrs. Gloria M. Hanson
 Ms. Beth Holbein
 Mr. William Jones
 Ari Klein and Ditte Wolin
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Labus
 Marilyn and Chris Langmack
 Ms. Brenda Modliszewski
 Mrs. Deborah Morse
 Mr. and Mrs. Wayne A. Mortensen
 Ms. Nancy E. Olton
 Mr. and Mrs. David Perelman
 Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Pitman
 Ms. Paule Prebus
 Ms. Ellen Rosen
 Saint Luke's Foundation
 Mrs. Carolyn Snyder-Kelly
 Mr. and Mrs. Glenn F. Solomon
 Ms. Jody Taslitz
 Howard and Sara Tucker
 Mrs. Rena Wertheim
 Mr. Theodore R. Wilson
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Yandek
 Mrs. Stephanie Ash
 Ms. Linda Martin
 Ms. Brenda May
 Mr. Francis Chiappa and Ms. Dorene Davis
 Ms. Sondra Jacobs
 Mrs. Ilene B. Saginor
 Mr. Richard A. Schreck
 Ms. Ellen Barrett
 Ms. Evelyn D. Jones
 Ms. Dawn Hanson

Other

Anonymous
 Ms. Brady Dindia
 Mr. Douglas Glawe
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haring
 Mr. and Mrs. Kasib Husain
 Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Jamieson
 Ms. Naomi Klarreich
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pierce
 Mr. John H. Sibbison, III
 Miss Sylvia Steen
 Mr. David P. Wohl



Young people gather during the 4th annual Heights Music Hop on Sept. 23 in the Cedar Fairmount Business District. The Hop expanded beyond the Cedar Lee Business District in 2016 to become a two-day event.