

From the President & Executive Director



"Things alter for the worse spontaneously, if they be not altered for the better designedly." - Francis Bacon



We invest a fair amount of time and money in our homes, in part because they represent significant investments, but also because they've been around for a long time and need the occasional improvement.

Likewise, if left unattended, our lawns and gardens would soon be overrun with weeds or bare patches. That's why we water and mulch and trim branches and fill countless numbers of those giant paper bags.

Shouldn't we care just as much for our city?

For the past 10 years, residents of Cleveland Heights and University Heights have supported FutureHeights because we exist to give voice to its citizens in matters that impact our investment in our cities. While we might not all agree on the specifics, it is important that every resident has an opportunity to be heard.

During the past 18 months, both cities hired new police chiefs and Cleveland Heights is embarking on hiring a new city manager for the first time since 1985. Our public school system is pursuing an ambitious facilities master plan and the improved capital markets will

undoubtedly lead to new housing and retail developments.

These are not insignificant changes in the history of our cities, therefore it is as important as ever that our citizens be a part of any conversation about our civic futures.

In our Neighborhood Leadership Training held in April, we discussed how groups of neighbors who band together can start those conversations. Some are using the latest technologies to communicate, while others prefer face to face.

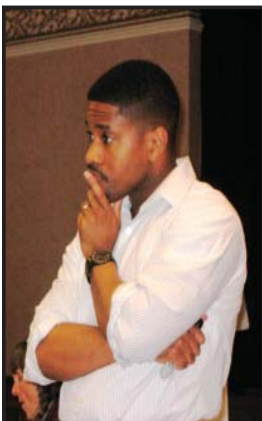
At our Annual Meeting in June, we heard from Harvey Garrett about how one group of neighbors radically transformed a failing area in Buffalo by taking on the challenge together. He encouraged us to be the agents of change in our own cities because if not us, who?

However and whenever you want to be engaged in the community, FutureHeights will continue to provide the necessary tools and support, just as we have for the last ten years.

Home. Yard. Neighborhood. City. Be proud of all of them.

Lloyd Bell
President, Board of Directors

Deanna Bremer Fisher
Executive Director



News and Notes

As we look over the past year and a half, there are several accomplishments worth noting:

Providing information

Now in its fifth year, the *Heights Observer* continues to be a trusted source for Heights-centric news and information. In 2011, with the help of many dedicated volunteer citizen-journalists and editors, we published another 12 issues of the *Observer* print edition and a weekly edition of the e-news. In March of 2012, we fulfilled a long-standing goal to hire a part-time editor-in-chief, Kim Sergio Inglis, to manage our volunteers and editorial production process. We also welcomed Bob Rosenbaum in the role of advertising sales and business development, and reached record ad sales in August 2012. We continue to be amazed each month as this hyper-local community news project continues to grow and more people become involved, helping us distribute the print issue and reporting on issues that are important to them.

Through the *Observer*, Heights residents have greater opportunities to interact with each other and participate in public life. We've provided comprehensive coverage of the CH-UH district's school facilities planning process and the two community-wide discussions that were held following the 2011 Coventry Village Street Festival.

We are thrilled to see other communities launch citizen-journalism projects, such as the *Campus District Observer* and the *Greater University Circle Neighborhood Voice*, and have been pleased to share our knowledge with those projects' leaders.

Providing education and fostering dialogue

In 2011-12, we hosted many opportunities for residents to hear community leaders speak on a variety of topics. Through our speaker series, we hosted events with Howard Thompson, the new economic development director for Cleveland Heights; and Doug Heuer, superintendent for the CH-UH schools. We also hosted Meet the New Police Chiefs, where residents could meet Cleveland Heights Police Chief Jeffrey Robertson and University Heights Police Chief Steven Hammett.

At our 2011 Annual Meeting, we provided an opportunity for residents to view and discuss "The New Metropolis," a two-part documentary that explores the issues facing inner ring suburbs. One of several outcomes of the meeting was a partnership with two other local nonprofits, Friends of the Heights Libraries and Heights Community Congress, to welcome new residents to our community. We held a New Neighbor Welcome and Open House on July 1, where new residents could meet community leaders and learn more about our community's assets. We hope to make this an annual event.

Our 2012 Annual Meeting featured neighborhood activist Harvey Garrett, who discussed the ways his neighborhood reversed trends of disinvestment to create one of Buffalo, New York's fastest growing real estate markets. While he was here, Garrett met with several neighborhood leaders to discuss specific issues and offer advice.

We provided more assistance to neighborhood leaders in April 2012, when Chris McKee of the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative, and Trevelle Harp of the Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope shared their knowledge

about how to identify issues, recruit neighbors and take action at a neighborhood level.

Led by FutureHeights, community forums on land use and development and the school facilities process enabled residents to learn more about these important public issues and make their voices heard. We partnered with the League of Women Voters to host a candidates forum and publish a Voter's Guide in the October 2011 issue of the *Heights Observer* to enable residents to learn more about candidates for municipal elections.

Advocating for issues important to residents

FutureHeights is a convener. We brought together members of the Heights Nonprofit Network to discuss the ramifications of the incident at the 2011 Coventry Village Street Festival and learn more about programs for youths in our community.

When it became apparent that more dialogue was needed between the CH-UH Board of Education and the city councils of the two cities, we urged a joint meeting where our elected officials could discuss school facilities plans.

We continue to provide advice and support for the work of grassroots organizations, such as the Sustainable Heights Network, the Heights Independent Business Alliance and the Cedar Taylor Merchants Association.

Promoting our community

We never tire of promoting the Heights as a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. This year, we were pleased to receive a grant from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture to create tours of four Cleveland Heights neighborhoods using the Cleveland Historical mobile phone app. Working with the Center for Public History and Digital Humanities at Cleveland State University, the Cleveland Heights Historical Society and the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, we will create a new tool for residents and visitors to explore our neighborhoods and learn, through historic photos, audio and video clips, about the rich history that gives our Heights neighborhoods their unique character.

We acknowledge the contributions of independent business owners, through our annual Best of the Heights Awards; and of individual volunteers, through induction into the Innovator's Circle. In 2012, FH inducted 13 new Innovator's Circle members: Charles Ault, Doris Allen, John Boyle III, Nancy Cappelletti, Lana Cowell, Rev. Ned Edwards, Harry Fagan, Linda Johnston, Bernice Lott, Jeanne Martin Diamond, Betty Nelson, Susanna Niermann O'Neil and Suzanne Nigro. All were active in the Heights in the 1970s and helped to create the vibrant diverse community we enjoy today.

Looking to the future

FutureHeights was pleased to have been elected to membership in Greater Cleveland Community Shares, an organization that provides operational support for nonprofits that promote positive change in our communities. We will continue to invest your donation dollars wisely to engage Heights residents in building a better place. We will continue to offer tools and training for grassroots organizations in our neighborhoods and promote increased collaboration to create a vibrant and sustainable Heights community. Thank you for your support!

Staff



Deanna Bremer Fisher

Cleveland Heights resident for 18 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 Restaurant in Coventry Village • Loves the diversity of the Heights and its niche neighborhoods

2011-2012 Interns

James Helmsworth
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Meet the 2012 FutureHeights Board of Directors



Lloyd Bell

President

Has two children thriving in the CH-UH school system • Director of the corporate finance group of Meaden & Moore, Ltd. • Resident of Cleveland Heights for 18 years



Gina Cheverine

Immediate Past President

Lives in the Oxford neighborhood • Enjoys the wide variety of restaurants in the Heights • Vice President, for business development, YWCA Greater Cleveland



Richard Stewart

Vice President

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



Clare Taft

Vice President

Associate at Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff • Resident of Cleveland Heights for 14 years • Loves the character of Cleveland Heights's neighborhoods and homes.



Kristin Hopkins

Treasurer

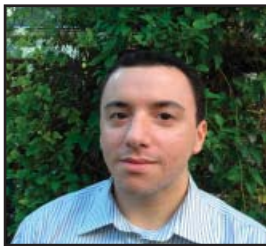
Moved to the Roxboro neighborhood to be close to everything • Loves the tree-lined streets and meeting neighbors from her front porch • Land use planner



Rebecca Stolzman

Secretary

Resident of University Heights for 14 years • Director of grants management for Cuyahoga Community College • Loves the easy access to everything in the Heights.



Daniel Budin

Lifelong resident of Cleveland Heights • Vice president for Alex Machaskee & Associates • Lives in the Fairfax neighborhood and loves the walkability of the Heights



Mark Chupp

Assistant professor in community and social development at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at CWRU • Lives in Coventry, an urban village with all you need within a short walk



Jeff Coryell

Artist, community volunteer, and former government attorney • Cleveland Heights resident for 18 years • Proud of our legacy of diversity, engagement, values, arts and culture.



Adam Fleischer

Owner of The Wine Spot • Lifelong Heights resident with two children in the school district • Loves the diversity of all aspects of the Heights



Mike Kinsella

Director of alumni relations for the Cleveland Institute of Art • Resident of Cleveland Heights for 14 years • Drawn to area by its active and engaged citizenry



Michael Knoblauch

Resident of Cleveland Heights for 34 years • Along with his wife, Sarah, raised 3 graduates of Cleveland Heights High School • President of DVUV Holdings,



Bryan Loretz

He, his wife and sons attended Heights schools • Works in safety and security for the CH-UH schools • 12-year veteran of the CH police • Loves the close knit neighbors in the Oxford area



Judith Miles

Attorney with the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office • Small business consultant • Lives in the Oxford neighborhood of Cleveland Heights



Jewel Moulthrop

Former editor at Oxford University Press • Moved to Cleveland Heights in 2007 to be closer to grandchildren • Loves the cultural diversity and activism of the Heights



Vince Reddy

Project manager for LAND studio • Resident of Cleveland Heights for 16 years



Kevin Smith

Real estate transaction manager for Progressive Insurance • Resident of Cleveland Heights for 20 years



Lisa Smith

Director of marketing and communications at The Music Settlement • Resident of Cleveland Heights for 13 years • Loves all the Heights has to offer from great restaurants to one-of-a-kind shops

Our thanks to former board members Lisa Baskin, Patrick Paoletta, Phil Robinson, Bob Rosenbaum and Audrey Wynne for their dedicated service to the mission of FutureHeights.

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FutureHeights
 2163 Lee Road, Suite 103
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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.

2011 Financial Statement

Unaudited condensed statement of activities

Revenue and Support

Grants	\$16,456
Memberships	18,634
Annual fund	9,735
Interest Income	5
Product Sales	0
Online Auction	12,340
Advertising Revenue	87,603
Misc.	11,916

Total Revenue and Support 156,689

Expenses

Program	\$111,360
General and Administration	46,841
Fundraising	5,347

Total Expenses 158,201

Change in Net Assets	1,512
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	70,617
Net Assets at End of Year	\$69,105

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.