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Movers & Makers

April 2021

Cincinnati

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on creativity,
culture &
consequence

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April 2021

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Introducing a new alliance

Cincinnati Cares and Movers & Makers have joined forces. Both organizations are now supported by 501c3 Inspiring Service, founded in 2017 by Craig and Michael Young to reverse the steep decline in Cincinnati's volunteer rates.

Movers & Makers, a print and digital publication serving the nonprofit sector for 25 years, has converted into a nonprofit organization in order to better align its mission with the sector it is covering. Thom and Elizabeth Mariner acquired Express Cincinnati in 2008, then upgraded and rebranded it as Movers & Makers in 2016. They remain co-publishers, and their new nonprofit, Movers & Makers Publishing, is now fiscally sponsored by Inspiring Service.

Cincinnati Cares was created in 2018 as the first project of Inspiring Service, now the nation's leading developer of community and state nonprofit guides. Cincinnati Cares serves as our region's guide to connecting people to the active

nonprofits in Greater Cincinnati. Hundreds of thousands of Greater Cincinnatians use its website, www.cincinnaticares.org, to find ways to help – from mission-delivery volunteering to helping youth thrive to board and skills-based service. Cincinnati Cares users can also make item or money donations and learn more about the impact nearly 700 nonprofits make on Greater Cincinnati.

Both organizations seek to inform, inspire and involve the Greater Cincinnati region's 2.2 million residents – its movers, makers, helpers and shapers – in aiding the region's nonprofits to strengthen and improve the community and themselves.

Simply put: Cincinnati Cares is the nonprofit sector's connection hub; Movers & Makers is its voice and cheerleader. Together, they work to create a more vibrant, equitable and connected region. ■



▲(From top left) Doug Bolton, Elizabeth Mariner, Katie Fiorelli, Carol Roundtree, Thom Mariner, Tina Gutierrez, Sara Braden, Gail Paul, Shasta Tabor, Bridgett Risk, Madeline Anderson, Rick Endres, Shauna Steigerwald, David Lyman, Madeline Leesman

PUBLISHERS' LETTER

We hope you enjoy holding and reading this edition of Movers & Makers as much as we loved putting it together – our first print edition since late last fall. (Pandemic, be gone!)

It is indeed a labor of love for us, even more so now – as we have created a nonprofit organization under which to operate. Yes, it's legit – we have our own board of directors we report to now and who are fiduciaries to you, the public, in overseeing the assets and mission of this publication. We need the support of our readers, advertisers and sponsors even more now than ever – and every bit of support now helps us achieve our vision of a vibrant, equitable and connected Greater Cincinnati.

This first edition back features a new section, something we will do monthly by spotlighting different sectors of the nonprofit community. This month's focus is parks and nature – appropriate as we all seek to begin to enjoy the post-winter outdoors. Our park sector leaders have learned a lot over the last 13 months; we invited them to write about it, and you can find three commentaries on page 19. The still fairly new CEO at the Cincinnati Nature Center, Jeff Corney, sums it up here: "Scientific research has shown spending time in nature is a great way to improve

your mental wellbeing. It has become especially important this past year as we've been dealing with a variety of personal and collective challenges resulting from the pandemic. When you're feeling stressed or anxious, taking the time to step outside and reconnect with nature is one of the best activities you can do to boost your mood and better your overall health." The section features a summary of the CROWN, a 34-mile hiking and biking loop. Momentum is building due to the pandemic and a need for more equity in everything we do. The section also includes ideas from multiple venues about activities to engage in over the next few months. Be on the lookout for next month's focus on festivals, fairs and summertime fun.

Of course, longtime readers will recognize many of our longstanding features and some of our regular writers. But we also welcome and thank a new crop of volunteers for their help in putting this issue together. They were recruited for us thanks to our new partnership with Cincinnati Cares.

In addition, we welcome any ideas you have as we ramp up now for a return to a regular publishing cycle and increase our role as the voice of the entire nonprofit sector.

Until next month,
Thom and Elizabeth Mariner

Movers & Makers

Elizabeth & Thom Mariner,
co-publishers

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JULY	(June 4)	June 30
AUGUST	(July 2)	July 28
SEPTEMBER	(Aug. 6)	Sept. 1
OCTOBER	(Sept. 3)	Sept. 29
NOVEMBER	(Oct. 1)	Oct. 27
DEC '21 / JAN '22	(Oct. 29)	Nov. 23

Also at www.moversmakers.org/publishing-schedule

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By Madeline Anderson

Local illustrator Loren Long puts his mark on superstar Gorman's new book

Bestselling author and illustrator – and Cincinnati – Loren Long was chosen to illustrate National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman's debut picture book, "Change Sings," coming this September.

Long's cover illustration has been seen around the world since Gorman became a household name in January after her presidential inaugural speech. But the process goes back a year and half, when Long first came on board for the project. Their shared literary agent connected them in fall 2019 when Gorman was an up-and-coming senior at Harvard University.

"She's a young person who is very interested in public service and making a change – making her own

and agents will bring authors and illustrators together, but sometimes authors may have a say in who illustrates their manuscripts. This was the case when Barack Obama selected Long to illustrate his 2010 book "Of Thee I Sing," and Gorman also may have had input when Long's name was thrown into the hat.

In a Jan. 19th Instagram post sharing the cover art of "Change Sings," Gorman wrote, "I could not be more humbled by the beauty he brought to my words."

And the admiration is mutual. "[Gorman] really is what drew me to the text," Long said. "She is very interested in unifying people, and certainly that's something our country and the world needs . . .



PHOTO BY PETE COMPARONI

change," Long said. "And I'm guessing that's where "Change Sings," came from. It is about being the change yourself and empowering yourself to be the change."

From growing up in Lexington and attending art school in Chicago, Long came to Cincinnati to build a career as an illustrator. Though he's part of illustrator groups in the region, plugging into the creative community can be difficult when writing and illustration are often solitary arts.

This also means, however, that Long can live in Cincinnati and still connect with writers and leaders all over the world. Editors, publishers

◀ Loren Long

Loren Long illustration from "Someone Builds the Dream" by Lisa Wheeler ▼



It's cool for me to be a little older in life, a Midwestern, middle-aged person looking like me, to do things that I think are meaningful to the world and collaborate with someone who is so different from me."

The book reminds young people that they have the power to shape the world with their actions and voices. Yet illustrating an "anthem," as "Change Sings" is, with words more poetic and lyrical than typical



PHOTO BY NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS CARLOS M. VASQUEZ II

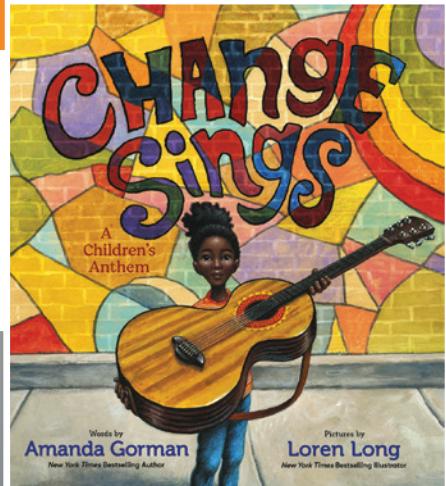
narrative storytelling, can pose a creative challenge, Long said.

"[The text] can be interpreted by so many different people in so many different ways," Long explained. "Because there are these big, vast ideas. And how do you put an image to a big, vast, profound idea that's intended for children? You have to bring it down to a simple form. And that's the fun thing, because then I get to bring my sensibilities and my own convictions to a manuscript."

Long was able to include a visual reference to Martin Luther King, Jr. in "Change Sings" that wasn't referenced in the text. When there's not a distinct problem, solution or character – like a certain red tractor and his adventures from Long's bestselling "Otis" series – the illustrator has the opportunity to make the words even more profound.

"You don't just illustrate the words. That's important. The best books, the best illustrators, bring their own voice to another voice, and it's a collaboration."

There's another recent collaboration Long is especially proud of. "Someone Builds the Dream,"



▲ Cover of "Change Sings" by Amanda Gorman and illustrated by Loren Long

◀ National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman recites her inaugural poem, "The Hill We Climb," during the 59th Presidential Inauguration ceremony in Washington, Jan. 20, 2021.

released March 23 and written by Lisa Wheeler, follows the people who build the world around us.

"[The book is] a statement that is saying something really important in the world about the integrity of labor," Long muses. "It's spotlighting, essentially, the quiet heroes that go to work every day in the skilled trades and how much our world needs them. And they should be championed."

Unlike Long's typical author-illustrator interactions with Gorman so far, which have been through editors and social media, he was able to meet with Wheeler to really grasp her vision for "Someone Builds the Dream." Through phone calls and coffee meetups, they broke down the layers and details, and Long learned about Wheeler's own family history as blue collar workers in the steel industry.

"You know," Long said, "We're very excited about that book because we want it to be inspirational, but also build empathy." ■

→Twitter: @lorenlong; Instagram: @thelorenlong; website: lorenlong.com

New statewide collaboration brings moments of calm to 229 Ohio schools

The Cleveland Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Columbus Symphony are collaborating this spring for the very first time.

A new composition by Dr. Brian Raphael Nabors will have four members of each orchestra play one movement, and then all twelve will participate in the finale.

The 12-minute piece is to be influenced by students who participate in Mindful Music Moments, a program of Cincinnati-based nonprofit The Well. Students, K-12, will share short responses about what they think this piece should sound and feel like. Dr. Nabors will then use these responses to guide the composition of the short, four-movement work for string quartet.

This new work will be played over four weeks in May as part of Mindful Music Moments. These moments of calm and reflection bring classical music and mindfulness to 260 schools daily (229 in Ohio), in partnership with these three

Ohio orchestras. At the beginning of each school day, during the time of announcements, students are asked to remain quiet, relax, and focus their minds, actively listening to a musical composition.

Additionally, a short film will document the process, created by Cincinnati filmmaker Asa Featherstone. The film will be available in June

(date and streaming service to be announced), and also made available on a new Wellness Channel for patients at UC Health. Dr. John and Susan Tew support the Wellness Channel and this is their second commission for Mindful Music Moments.

Brian Raphael Nabors' music draws from



▲ Composer Dr. Brian Raphael Nabors

combinations of jazz, funk, R&B, and gospel with the modern flair of contemporary classical music. He earned both a Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degree in composition at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM).

The award-winning programs of The Well, including Mindful Music Moments, Mindful Poetry Moments,

City Silence and True Body Project, combine aspects of mindfulness, arts, social-emotional learning, play, movement and poetry into practices for regular use within schools, hospitals, and communities.

→ www.thewell.world



▲ One of the Artigo at Home kits



▲ Lindsey Whittle



▲ Cedric Michael Cox



A creative 'night in' designed by local artists

Ready for some screen-free entertainment? Kennedy Heights Arts Center has teamed up with diverse local artists to curate custom kits for a creative night in with family or friends, delivered right to your door.

Artigo at Home provides all you need for a fun, out-of-the-ordinary experience for families, couples or friends.

Five interactive, themed experiences were designed by local professional artists, drawn from their unique arts practice:

- Dream Weaving by Latausha Cox uses vision boards to help participants build a web of their dreams with fibers, paper and more.
- Artist Cedric Michael Cox shares his style and techniques as participants create their own abstract paintings with Watercolor Painting Party.
- Metamorph: A Game of Change by artist collective The Idea Factory incorporates

elements of the absurd and the subconscious into a silly, surrealist parlor game for indoors or out.

• Visual and performance artist Lindsey (Sparklezilla) Whittle offers two experiences to try: create artful collages to mail to friends or strangers with Mail Art (inspired by artist Ray Johnson), or transform basic daily actions into performance art with Fluxus: Performance and Play

Each box contains instructions and materials for a 1-2 hour interactive activity for small groups to create lasting memories from the comfort of their living room.

Artigo at Home kits for up to four participants: \$39-\$59. Custom kits for groups up to 10 available. Order online for curbside pick-up at Kennedy Heights Arts Center or select delivery via USPS for an additional fee.

→ kennedyarts.org/artigo-at-home

Friends of Music Hall resume outdoor tours this spring

April 1-Nov. 27. Thursdays, 4 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m., Music Hall

Ever walked by historic Music Hall and wondered who built it? You can learn about its architect and lots more when you take an outdoor building tour led by knowledgeable guides from the Friends of Music Hall.

With careful attention to safety, groups of eight can learn about Music Hall's architecture and history in a 60-minute, rain or shine outdoor tour.

Guests and guides are required to wear a mask or face covering and remain six feet apart during the walking tour.

Tickets must be purchased in advance, up to three hours before the start of the tour. \$15 per person; \$5 for children under 12. Groups of 5 to 8: \$13 per ticket. Student groups are eligible for \$5 discounts.

→ friendsofmusichall.org, click "Tours" or 513-621-2787

Onward with Matinée Musicale!

Matinée Musicale carried on during an otherwise slow year, holding virtual events and planning for our next recital season which—*fingers crossed*—will be live! Here are the highlights.

PLANNED RECITALS



Pene Pati

TENOR

Sun., June 6, 2021
3:00 PM

The long-awaited return of tenor Pene Pati to the Memorial Hall stage!

Tickets now on sale. There will be limited seating and social distancing.

Call the Memorial Hall Box Office at 513-977-8837.

2021–2022 Recital Season, starting October 3, has been scheduled! Details to be announced shortly on the following artists:



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WIND QUINTET



**Martin James
Bartlett**
PIANO



Nicole Cabell
SOPRANO



**Zlatomir
Fung**
CELLO



**Ryan
Speedo Green**
BASS-BARITONE



**Rachel
Barton Pine**
VIOLIN

AWARDS

Results of the **Nancy F. Walker Scholarship Competition**—with \$50,000 in total awards—to be announced soon!



Kasey Shao
2020 High School Scholarship Winner

Applications for our annual **Grants** to nonprofit music organizations are now open—deadline is May 15, 2021.



For complete information on the above events, please visit www.matineemusicalecincinnati.org.

Visit us on Facebook.

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Cincinnati's hip-hop center scores new visionary

With a Fortune 500 resume, Hoskins takes helm of Elementz

By David Lyman

It seemed an impossible task. Elementz, the hip-hop cultural center, was looking for a general manager, someone to guide the aspirations of the ever-growing center in Over-the-Rhine.

But they weren't just looking for any general manager. The ideal candidate would have to be a superhero; a savvy business person, but one with street cred, as well. An experienced arts administrator, but one with a knowledge and passion for hip-hop as both an art form and as a culture. That was on top of the usual "candidate chemistry" every employer looks for. You know – can the person get along with the people who are already working there?

"I was hopeful that we could find someone who had all that," said Tyssonn Betts, design vice-president ("Right Brain to the Business"), Global Family Care + P&G Ventures, and a past president of the Elementz board. "But honestly, I wasn't optimistic that we could find that person. What we really needed was someone like Damian."

That's Damian Hoskins he's talking about. Damian Hoskins, the 47-year-old former vice president of arts impact at ArtsWave. Damian Hoskins, who helped launch Cincinnati's Preschool Promise program. Damian Hoskins, who had worked for the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative and spent 13 years as a teacher before entering the world of nonprofit fundraising.

Betts got his wish. On Feb. 1, Hoskins became Elementz's first-ever general manager.

"Damian comes with a wide network of connections," said Tom Kent, Elementz's long-time managing director. "And his background has given him an unusual mix of skills. In a relatively small organization like ours, you have to wear multiple hats. It's pretty clear that he can do that."

For the moment, Hoskins is looking to grow the organization and expand its offerings. Precisely how



Damian Hoskins

he'll do that, it's probably too early to predict. But if there is a thread that connects all of his previous jobs, it is a devotion to education and community arts.

Of consequence

"To borrow a phrase I learned from Mary Stagaman, I want to turn Elementz into an organization of consequence," he said.

Stagaman, a consultant with long-standing roots in Greater Cincinnati's cultural and commercial communities, dealt with Hoskins when she was co-chair of the committee developing the FLOW African-American arts series for ArtsWave.

"We were early in the process of developing it," recalled Stagaman. "And we were struggling with a name and then a look and feel for the series. Apparently, Damian went home and worked into the wee hours for several nights. The next thing I knew he sent us a fully developed concept for the entire series."

Stagaman hadn't even known that, on top of his many other attributes, Hoskins is a gifted designer and

visual artist.

"We were gobsmacked," said Stagaman. "He had created a logo and a visual identity. He had everything – bus shelter signs and mobile web design. There was animation, too. It was a fully wrought design presentation."

The future

"The symphony, the opera, the Cincinnati Art Museum and the CAC – all of these arts organizations have resources and they have an impact," said Hoskins. "But they have a 50- to 100-year headstart on Elementz. What I want to do, in making us an organization of consequence, is reduce the timeline of generating the kind of revenue that can elevate us to that kind of level."

He's not just talking about putting on as many performances as the CSO or the Cincinnati Opera, mind you. He's talking about changing lives and communities. Remember, at its heart, Elementz is an institution committed to improving the lives of young people living in some of the city's more underprivileged neighborhoods.

"We want to develop a pipeline of creative professionals who can impact the local economy," said Hoskins. "That is going to be the undergirding of what we do."

Changing the world

The arts, Hoskins seems to be saying, can change the world. It's not a new concept, by any means. But Hoskins is proof of the formidable influence that exposure to the arts can provide in shaping a young person.

Growing up in downtown Cincinnati and Mt. Auburn, he spent an enormous amount of time with his grandmother, who lived a stone's throw from Elementz's Race Street home, two blocks south of Findlay Market. He graduated from the School for Creative and Performing Arts in 1993.

But it's more than location that makes him the person Betts was hoping would step into the job. It's his interests. And passions. And an understanding of what makes young people tick. And, of course, a professional background that, by all rights, should find him sitting in an executive office of a Fortune 500 company.

But, as corny as it may sound, it's not money or glamor that drive Hoskins.

At the top of his bio on the Elementz web site he describes himself in four short sentences: "Native Cincinnati. Creative. Educator. Cultural preservationist."

As an impassioned hip-hop historian, Hoskins sees it greatly significant that he was born in 1973, the same year that is regarded as the year hip-hop culture began to come into its own. Quite literally, Hoskins and hip-hop grew up together.

As he talks about hip-hop's roots and influences, you can hear the teacher in him emerge. Clearly, he is driven to the stories of the culture that continues to feed him today.

Look closely at his record collection and you won't just see hip-hop.

You'll see John Coltrane and Randy Crawford and, if your eyes are really good, you'll spot "BIG Fun," the best-selling disco album by 1970s group Shalamar. Like the sampling that was the backbone of hip-hop, this wildly eclectic collection provides the musical building blocks that influenced a young Hoskins.

The future – part 2

It would be premature to talk about a change of leadership at Elementz. But Kent has led the organization since 2010, so the idea of him stepping aside for a younger leader isn't out of the question. And outwardly, Hoskins' hiring looks like it might be the first step of an executive succession.

"Hiring Damian is a deliberate step for us," said Kent. "We have spent 19 years building up our organization and our culture and finding our voice. And having built all of that, we are ready to take the next big steps; for

Elementz, for Damian, for the arts in general."

Throughout Kent's tenure, he has helped to expand the group's visibility and reputation in the community. Besides growing the budget, he has built collaborative relationships with many of the area's much larger arts organizations.

He has also helped to build a top-notch professional staff, including Abdullah Powell (creative director), April Carr (director of programming and education) and Alex Stallings, who recently created the THRIVE hip-hop orchestra.

So does that mean he would be comfortable stepping away from the center he has so artfully helped to shape? Kent isn't ready to say. This is Hoskins' moment in the spotlight, after all, not his. What he will say is this:

"When we hired Damian, we weren't hiring for the Elementz that is here today. We were hiring for the Elementz we hope to be." ■

Pender publishes two projects, historical and theatrical

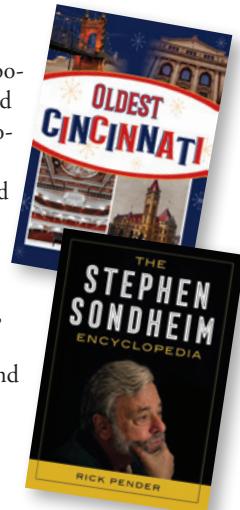
Local historian, author and longtime theater critic Rick Pender has recently released two literary projects.

"**Oldest Cincinnati**" contains stories of "firsts" and "oldests," including many that continue to dot our region – what was one of the first settlements in the Northwest Territory, and for many years the largest city west of the Allegheny Mountains. From the earliest settlers of "Losantiville" in the late 1700s, to the flood of immigrants in the mid-to-late 1800s, Pender shares the stories of those who made their mark on the Queen City.

"**The Stephen Sondheim Encyclopedia**" is a comprehensive reference tool devoted to one of the giants of the musical stage. Entries cover Sondheim's numerous collaborators, from composers and directors to designers and orchestras, key songs and major works. The encyclopedia also contains information about Sondheim's mentoring by Oscar Hammerstein II

and his early collaboration with Leonard Bernstein, with profiles of actors who originated roles and sang Sondheim's songs for the first time, including Ethel Merman, Angela Lansbury, Mandy Patinkin and Bernadette Peters. Also included are a detailed biographical entry for Sondheim, a chronology of his career, a listing of his many awards, and discussions of his opinions on movies, opera and more.

Pender has studied and promoted aspects of Greater Cincinnati for more than four decades. His 2016 book "100 Things to Do in Cincinnati Before You Die" was so well-received that a second edition was published three years later.



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To save, or not to save, a bell tower

What's a landmark church to do with an ailing bell tower and limited funds?

First, a short history: Built in 1895, the First Lutheran Church at 1208 Race Street, across from Washington Park in Over-the-Rhine, was the architectural expression of a congregation that first came together in 1842, more than 50 years before the church was constructed.

Fast forward 125 years and what exists now is not just a church lovingly improved and maintained by its pastor and congregation, but a downtown landmark that has survived numerous iterations of the neighborhood evolving around it.

Along with Music Hall and Memorial Hall, First Lutheran's better-known across-the-street neighbors, the church is one of the most recognizable edifices in the area, situated alongside the park and the burgeoning arts scene that has built itself up over the last decade.

When Pastor Brian Ferguson came to the church in 2014, he and the congregation faced an existential question, one that had been asked many times over the decades: To stay or to go?

They decided to stay. Since that decision, the congregation has spent close to \$1.3 million in improvements to the interior spaces of the building, thereby returning it to some of its former glory and making it more useful to the community.

In addition to its long-standing outreach service, the church has since become a regular purveyor of performance and artistic space, able to offer a low-cost alternative to the more recognizable venues around the park, which include not just Memorial and Music halls, but also the School for Creative and Performing Arts and Cincinnati Shakespeare, all a stone's throw from the church. This low-cost space has enabled arts and community groups to remain in the urban core when they might otherwise have been priced out of the market, a win for Over-the-Rhine.

Everything was going along swimmingly until 2020, when an inspection determined the bell tower was in danger of collapse. The city required either restoration or demolition.

Pastor Ferguson, in cooperation with the wishes of the congregation, solicited demolition bids, the most reasonable of which was \$238,000, while preliminary estimates of a full restoration of the bell tower could cost ten times that much.

And it isn't just that First Lutheran doesn't have a couple million dollars lying around. First Lutheran was already planning a capital campaign to install an elevator, thereby making the building more accessible for other users. The cold, hard reality is that current resources are not available

for a full restoration of the bell tower, even if the congregation was willing to forego things like the elevator which, given the mobility requirements of the congregation and the many others who use the building, is much higher on the priority list.

When word got out about the condition of the bell tower, help arrived in the form of the Cincinnati Preservation Association and the Haile Foundation, both of which have pledged themselves to at least explore the possibility of stabilizing the tower and the feasibility of raising funds to complete the restoration. Each organization could likely donate dollars to the project, but not nearly enough to finance the entire thing, or even anything close to it. Certainly the church, relying on 40 families for its ministry support, is not in a position to be the sole contributor, either. It is clear that if the bell tower is to be saved the money will have to come from outside the church.

When asked what he would like to see happen, Pastor Ferguson was circumspect, and paused before he responded, saying he would like to see the tower saved. I understand this is indeed true, but he and his flock, like any family, are in a perpetual juggling act when it comes to finances.

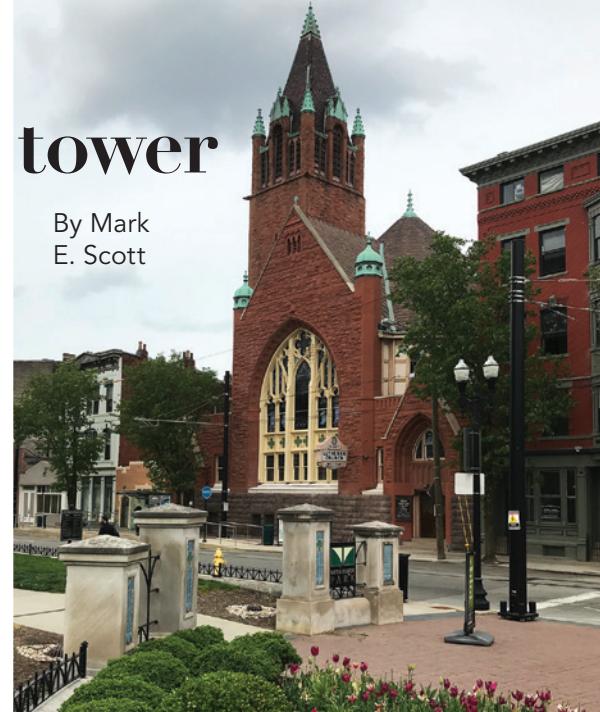
The church is under pressure to act when it comes to time, as well. Given the condition of the tower, the decision window to demolish or stabilize and attempt a restoration is not open very wide. Add to that the fact that costs are rising in the interim, and the need to act is compounded. The worst outcome would be for stabilization costs to become prohibitive, forcing the church to take the tower down, a thing they can do safely without breaking the bank. The church itself doesn't need the bell tower to fulfill its primary mission. When all is said and done, the "church" itself is contained in the people it serves, not by the building in which they gather.

So why bother? Why choose to spend millions to save something that no longer seems practical to maintain?

When asked, Paul Muller, executive director of the Cincinnati Preservation Association, said, "The tower is a perfect example of how architecture can connect us. The design was very progressive. It was a conscious choice by the congregation...to proclaim their forward-looking ideals. The tower...expressed this modern outlook and established a dialogue across the park with Music Hall. Their sky piercing silhouettes proclaimed that Washington Park was a place of importance, a place to enjoy and delight in."

There's more at play here than practicality. There's a desire to remember who we were, who we are, where we've been and where we're going. Aesthetics are important, a placeholder in history.

By Mark E. Scott



FUN FACTS

90 percent of those visiting First Lutheran in 2019 did so for non-church events.

When the congregation bought the 2000-pound bell from Verdin in 1895, it cost \$420. In today's dollars, that would be close to \$15,000.

Something built a hundred years ago will never be built again, and if architecture is one of the ways we define our surroundings, then we are simultaneously defined by it. In that case, saving a 125-year-old bell tower makes absolute sense.

And then there is the fact that taking down the tower would forever alter the unique character of the Over-the-Rhine skyline. Numerous churches in the neighborhood have been torn down or altered over the years. Two glaring examples are on and in view of Washington Park – the edifices now serving as The Transept and Taft's Ale House, with steeples long gone.

In the end, First Lutheran will carry on with or without a bell tower; with or without a new elevator. The congregants have already done Over-the-Rhine a favor by restoring the interior and opening it to the community, when they could have just walked away from the building altogether. So, if you happen to be wandering around the park, take a moment to stand in front of Memorial Hall and look east across the park. Take a picture. It's a great view. ■

Mark E. Scott is vice president, commercial solutions at First Commonwealth Bank and treasurer of the Cincinnati Preservation Association board of trustees.

[Cultural Exhibits/Tours](#)

Cincinnati Food Tours

cincinnatifoodtours.com

- April 10, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
“Meet Me in OTR” Tour

Cincinnati Museum Center

Union Terminal. 513-287-7000.

cincymuseum.org

- Thru April 4. “Maya: The Exhibition”
- Current exhibit. “A Year on the Edge”
- Current exhibit. “An Unfinished Revolution: Women and the Vote”
- Current exhibit. “Inspired by Nature: The Art and Activism of Charley Harper”

Friends of Music Hall

Over-the-Rhine. 513-621-2787.

[friendsofmusichall.org](#)

- Thursdays, 4 p.m. & Saturdays, 10 a.m. Thru November.
Outdoor tours of Music Hall

Dance

Mutual Dance Theatre

Mutual Arts Center. [mutualdance.org](#)

- April 16-May 1. “[S|P|A|C|E]”

Film

Cincinnati Art Museum

Eden Park. 513-721-2787.

[cincinnatiartmuseum.org](#)

- April 8, 8 p.m. “Light on IOWA” by Ann Segal

Cincinnati World Cinema

Garfield Theatre, downtown. 859-957-3456. [cincyworldcinema.org](#)

- Weekends in April. Annual Oscar-nominated short films

FotoFocus

[fotofocusbiennial.org](#)
▪ April. Second Screens: Foodie Edition: “Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory” (virtual)

Friends of Music Hall

513-621-2728. [friendsofmusichall.org](#)

- April 9, 6 p.m. “Girl Shy” (virtual)

Literary/Lectures

Behringer-Crawford Museum

| 859-491-4003. [bcmuseum.org](#)

- April, 7, 14 & 21: NKY History Hour, 6:30 p.m. (virtual)

Cincinnati Zoo

| Clifton. 513-281-4700. [cincinnatzoo.org](#)

- Barrows Conservation Lectures:
- April 21. Patricia Wright “Saving Madagascar: Nature’s Lost Paradise”

Harriet Beecher Stowe House

| 513-751-0651.

[stowehousecincy.org](#)

- April 7, 7 p.m. Black Voices for Justice 2021 Discussion Group. “Uncle Tom is Dead!” After Uncle Tom’s Cabin (virtual)
- April 24, noon. Discussion: “Girl in Black and White: The Story of Mary Mildred Williams and the Abolition Movement” (virtual)

Hebrew Union College

| [huc.edu/campus-life/cincinnati](#)

513-221-1875

- April 6, 6 p.m. “The Qu’ran and The Jews” (virtual)
- April 22, 1 p.m. “If Flame Falls on Cedars, Women Leaders Will Put Out the Fire: The Biblical Deborah Reimagined” Wendy Zierler, Sigmund Falk (virtual)

Jewish Federation

[jewishcincinnati.org](#)

- April 23, noon. “The Changing Dynamics of the Supreme Court” Ronna Greff Schneider (virtual)

Joseph-Beth Booksellers

513-396-8960

- April 6, 7 p.m. Discussion: George Ella Lyon w/ Sue Churchill, Leatha Kendrick & Katerina Stoykova “Back to the Light: Poems” (virtual)
- April 27, 7 p.m. Discussion: Kate Eckman w/ Heather Mitts “The Full Spirit Workout” (virtual)
- April 29, 7 p.m. Discussion: Farmer Lee Jones w/ Andrew Zimmern “The Chef’s Garden” (virtual)

Lloyd Library and Museum

513-721-3707. [lloydlibrary.org](#)

- April 28, 7 p.m. Dr. Gene Kritsky “Emerging Cicadas at the Lloyd” (virtual)

Northern Kentucky University

| [civicengagement.nku.edu](#)

Six@Six Series 6 p.m.

- April 20. Danielle McDonald & David Singleton (virtual)

Over-the-Rhine Museum

| [otrmuseum.org](#) 513-813-7309

The Merchants Behind the Opening Day Parade:

- April 1, 6 p.m. Neil Luken (virtual)
- April 8, 6 p.m. Debbie Knueven Gannaway (virtual)

Music

Bach Ensemble of St. Thomas

| 513-831-2052. [bachensemble.org](#)

- April 11, 5 p.m. Seven Hills Baroque (virtual)
- April 14, 7 p.m. The New Fritts Organ at St. Thomas, Jason Gunnell (virtual)

Chamber Music Cincinnati

| 513-342-6870. [cincychamber.org](#)

Online Concert Series:

- April 11, 4 p.m. Anthony McGill

- April 25, 4 p.m. Virtuous Violins

Christ Church Cathedral

| 513-621-1817. [cincinnaticathedral.com](#)

- Tuesdays, 12:10 p.m. Music Live @Lunch (virtual)

Cincinnati Arts Association

| 513-621-2787. [cincinnatiarts.org](#)

- April 6, 7:30 p.m. Candid Conversations: Black Violin (virtual)

Cincinnati Men's Chorus

| 513-542-2626.

[cincinnatimenschorus.org](#)

- April 10. Spring Concert: String of Pearls (virtual)

Cincinnati Song Initiative

| [cincinnatisonginitiative.org](#)

- April 11, 4 p.m. A World of Song: Celebrating Latinx Voices (virtual)

Cincinnati Symphony & Pops

| Music Hall, Over-the-Rhine. 513-381-3300. [cincinnatisymphony.org](#)

- April 2-3. (Pops) “Mid-Century Songbook: Ella, Nat & More”

- April 9-11. (CSO) Cerrone Brass Premiere & Ellington

- April 24-25. (CSO) “New Crowned Hope” • “Portal to Romanticism”

- April 30, 7:30 p.m. (CSO) Cerrone Brass Premiere & Ellington (digital)

concert:nova | [concertnova.com](#)

- April 14, 7:30 p.m. Jeff Ziegler, cello (virtual)



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ARTS/CULTURE

Hyde Park Methodist |

Hyde Park. 513-871-1345.

hydeparkchurch.org

- April 25, 4 p.m. Aaron David Miller, organ (also, virtual)

Memorial Hall | Over-the-Rhine. 513-977-8838.

memorialhalloff.org

- April 5, 7 p.m. Singin' and Swingin' with Mandy Gaines and the Brad Myers Trio
- April 15, 8 p.m. Memo at Home: Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra (virtual)
- April 23, 8 p.m. An Intimate Evening of Songs and Stories with Graham Nash

Salon 21 | 513-977-4165.

salon21.org

- April 22, 7 p.m. Simon Karakulidi, piano (virtual)

Trinity Episcopal Church |

859-431-1786.

trinitychurchcovky.com

Midday Musical Menu:

- April 21, 12:15 p.m. James Meade, guitar (virtual)

Theater

The Carnegie | Covington.

859-491-2030. thecarnegie.com

- April 2-3, 7 p.m. "Angels in America: Pt. 1 Millennium Approaches" A Staged Reading
- April 30-May 1. "George Remus: Bootlegging & Broadway"

Cincinnati Black Theatre |

Artist Collective |

cincyblacktac.com

- April 9-14. "To Be Black" (virtual)

Ensemble Theatre | 513-421-3555. ensemblecincinnati.org

- Thru April 4. "Side Man" (virtual dramatic reading)

- April 19-May 2. "I Shall Not Be Moved," world premiere (virtual)

Falcon Theatre | 513-479-6783. falcontheater.net

- April 9-14. "To Be Black" (virtual)

Xavier University | 513-745-3939 xavier.edu/theatre-program

- April 9-11. "One" (virtual)
- April 16-18. "The Idols" (virtual)
- April 22-25. "Something Borrowed, Something Blue" (virtual)

Visual Art

1628 Ltd. | Garfield Park, downtown. 513-320-2596. 1628ltd.com

- Thru May 21. "Cocoon: Fibers of Home"

Art Beyond Boundaries |

Over-the-Rhine. 513-421-8726. artbeyondboundaries.com

- Thru May 31. "14th Year on the 1400 Block" (by appointment)

The Barn | Mariemont.

513-272-3700. artatthebarn.org

- April 13-25. Annual Juried Show and "Art is our Passion"
- April 30-May 11. Hog Bristle Painters. ➔ Reception: April 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Caza Sikes | Oakley.

513-290-3127. cazarikes.com

- Thru May 29. "Tributaries: Sheryl Zacharia and Marsha Karagheusian"

- April 3-May 1. "One Nation, Under Art"

Cincinnati Art Club |

Mt. Adams. 513-241-4591

cincinnatiartclub.com

- April 9-18. Founders Celebration Exhibition

Cincinnati Art Galleries |

Downtown. 513-381-2128

- Thru April 30. "Modern"

Cincinnati Art Museum |

Eden Park. 513-721-2787.

cincinnatiartmuseum.org

- Thru May 9. "Frank Duveneck: American Master"

- Thru May 30. Anila Quayyum Agha "All the Flowers Are for Me"

- Thru July 11. American Painting: The Eighties Revisited Thru Aug. 29. "Future Retrieval: Close Parallel"

Contemporary Arts Center |

Downtown. 513-345-8400.

contemporaryartscenter.org

- Thru Aug. 8. "Flaw" Joan Tanner • "End Over End" Steffani Jemison

- April 7-11. "This Time Tomorrow" Performance Festival

- April 9-Sept. 19. "Wild Frictions: The Politics and Poetry of Interruption" Hellen Ascoli

Evendale Cultural Arts Center |

Evendale. 513-563-1350.

evendalearts.org

- April 30-May 3. Evendale Fine Art Exhibit

FotoFocus |

photofocusbiennial.org/see-art

Lens Mix conversation series:

- April 10, 3 p.m. Lens Mix 5: John Miller and Hal Foster (virtual)

Pendleton Art Center |

Pendleton. 513-421-4339.

pendletonartcenter.com

- April 30, 6-10 p.m., open studios

Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park & Museum | Hamilton. 513-868-1234. pyramidhill.org

- Thru May 22. "Out of the Darkness"

- April 24. Art & Earth Day: celebration of Arbor Day, Earth Day, and International Sculpture Day

Taft Museum of Art | Lytle Park, downtown. 513-241-0343. taftmuseum.org

- Thru June 6. "Built to Last: The Taft Historic House at 200" • "Walk This Way" Footwear from the Stuart Weitzman Collection of Historic Shoes

Wave Pool Gallery | Camp Washington. wavepoolgallery.org

- Thru May 1. "New Images of Humans" Sea Dax, Nikita Gross, Prince Lange

Weston Art Gallery |

Aronoff Center. 513-977-4165.

cincinnatiarts.org

- Thru April 24. "Social Recession": 2021 NCECA Ceramic Art Invitational

- March 30-April 17. "Canstruction 2021" ■

Calendar submissions: editor@moversmakers.org

See page 4 for print deadlines.

Over the Rhine & Through the Street Outdoor Music Hall Tours Return

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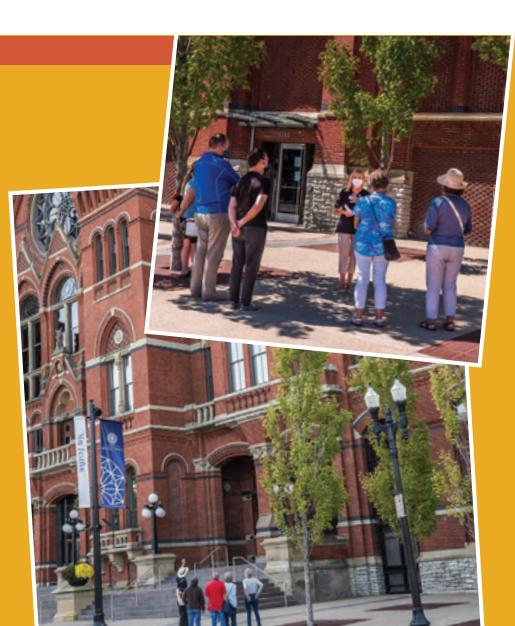
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The Datebook

With a Spotlight on the Movers and Makers behind Greater Cincinnati's Fundraisers, Friend-Raisers and Community Events



▲Bootsy and Patti Collins



▲Eileen Cooper Reed



▲David Dillon



▲Michael J. Graham, S.J.



▲Dr. O'Dell Moreno Owens

Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio honors six 'lions'

Thursday, April 8, 7 p.m., WLWT

The Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio presents its 27th Annual "Glorifying the Lions" Ceremony honoring six community leaders. This event recognizes community leaders who have reached 65 years and distinguished themselves in their personal and professional

lives. ULGSO, along with title sponsor Fifth Third Bank and partner WLWT, will air the televised premiere on Channel 5 with host Ashley Kirklen. The honorees are:

- **Bootsy and Patti Collins**, all-time great funk and R&B bassist, singer, and bandleader; philanthropists and community activists

- **Eileen Cooper Reed**, former state director of the Children's Defense Fund, education advocate and racial equity leader
- **David Dillon**, former Kroger CEO and ULGSO board chair
- **Michael J. Graham, S.J.**, outgoing president of Xavier University, community and racial equity advocate

- **Dr. O'Dell Moreno Owens**, outgoing president and CEO of Interact for Health, healthcare pioneer, leader and advocate
- Event repeats April 10 at 7:30 p.m. and April 11 at 4:30 p.m. on WLWT; April 11 at 11 p.m. on METV; and April 12 at 12:30 p.m. on WLWT.
→ 513-888-7874, ggoings@ulgso.org or www.ulgso.org

APRIL 7, WEDNESDAY

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, Legacy of Leadership: A Region Rises | 7 p.m., WCPO-TV. DETAILS: Legacies of Albert Sabin, Marian Spencer, John Smale, Nathaniel Jones, and dozens of other Great Living Cincinnatians will be highlighted during the program, as well as nurses, artists, business leaders, advocates and other essential workers.

→ www.cincinnatichamber.com

APRIL 8, THURSDAY

Academy of Cinematic Arts, Golden Gala | Cooper Creek Event Center, Blue Ash. DETAILS: Cocktail reception, formal dinner, live auction, silent auction, basket raffle, wine pull.
→ <http://theug.com>

Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio, Annual Glorifying the Lions Ceremony | 7 p.m. WLWT Channel 5.
● SPOTLIGHT: Page 13.

APRIL 19-23, MONDAY-FRIDAY

Santa Maria Community Services, Setting the Table | Virtual. DETAILS: Daily videos highlighting program participants and sharing favorite recipes. Raffle.
→ <http://stt21.givesmart.com>

APRIL 20-25

DCCH Center for Children & Families, Swing Into Spring | Virtual.
● SPOTLIGHT: Page 14.

APRIL 22, THURSDAY

1N5, Annual Spring4Life | 7 p.m. Virtual. DETAILS: Host: Local 12's Jen Dalton. Guest speaker: Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, former lieutenant governor of Maryland and eldest daughter of Robert F. and Ethel Kennedy; testimonials, silent auction. Tickets \$100; students \$25.
→ 1n5.org/calendar/spring4life-2021

YWCA Greater Cincinnati, Career Women of Achievement | 7-8 p.m. Broadcast on WCPO.
● SPOTLIGHT: Page 15.

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DATEBOOK

APRIL 22, THURSDAY (CONT.)

ArtsWave, Arts4Wellness: Healthy Cooking Class with Pam Ford, Chef to Movie Stars | 7 p.m. Virtual. DETAILS: Join virtually at Arnold's Restaurant. Ford will guide the creation of a healthy dish. Film Cincinnati Executive Director Kristen Schlotman will join in with behind-the-scenes stories from famous local productions.

\$15 access.
→ www.ArtsWave.org/
Arts4Wellness

APRIL 24, SATURDAY

DePaul Cristo Rey High School, Rey of Light | Virtual.
● SPOTLIGHT: Page 14.

Oxford Community Arts Center, Art and Nature: Together Again, Virtual Gala | 6:30 p.m. Online. DETAILS: Gala at home with musical performances, virtual art exhibit with artist interviews, wine-tasting, online auction.
→ 513-524-0856, info@oxarts.org or www.oxarts.org

APRIL 25, SUNDAY

Heritage Acres Memorial Sanctuary, Anniversary Open House/Earth Day Celebration | 1-8 p.m. 796 Locust Corner Rd., Pierce Township.
● STORY: Page 23.

The Datebook is online

Make sure your fundraiser, friend-raiser or community event is listed in our Datebook at www.moversmakers.org/datebook

Listings are free. See Page 4 for deadlines. NPOs may send event details and photos to: editor@moversmakers.org

Stand out

Consider advertising. Contact Thom Mariner at tmariner@moversmakers.org for digital and print options.

APRIL 27, TUESDAY

Children's Law Center, Inc., Jockeying for Justice | 5 p.m. Zoom. DETAILS: Join CLC Board of Directors, staff, and special guests for tips on your Derby bets, making the perfect Mint Julep, and more about CLC's work.
→ www.childrenslawky.org

MAY 4, TUESDAY

Cancer Family Care, Joslin Haggart Yeiser Unsung Hero Awards | 6-9 p.m. Hilton Netherland Plaza Pavilion. DETAILS: Cocktails, dinner, and awards program. Tickets start at \$45. Children's tickets \$15.
→ 513-731-3346 or <http://bit.ly/cfcunsung>

MAY 7, FRIDAY

Redwood Rehabilitation Center, Night at the Race | 6-10 p.m. The Gardens of Park Hills. DETAILS: Fun night of pre-recorded horse racing, dinner, raffles and more. All CDC safety guidelines will be followed.
→ www.redwoodnky.org

MAY 10, MONDAY

USA Cares Inc., Charity Golf Open | TPC River's Bend, Maineville. DETAILS: Funds provide emergency aid to veterans and military families during COVID-19 and raise awareness of rising veteran suicide epidemic. Shamble format of

4-person teams, with individual registrations paired to form full foursomes. Carts, lunches, swag packets, and more.

→ <https://ohgolf21.funraise.org>

MAY 13-16, THURSDAY-SUNDAY

Sarah House Cincinnati, Reach for the Stars | DETAILS: Bidding opens May 13, at noon and closes May 16, at 5 p.m.
→ www.sarahhousecincy.org

MAY 13, THURSDAY

Alzheimer's Association Greater Cincinnati Chapter, The Art of Making Memories: A Celebration of Hope | 7 p.m. Virtual. DETAILS: Gather at home with light dinner and curated wine pairings. Hosted by Bob Herzog. Guest of honor Louis Langréé. Packages include tickets to preview auction artwork created by participants in our Memories in the Making program May 7-9 at Kennedy Heights Art Center.
→ www.alz.org/cincinnati/events/art-of-making-memories

MAY 15, SATURDAY

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Great Strides | Virtual.
DETAILS: TBA
→ <https://fightcf.cff.org>

MAY 18, TUESDAY

Woman's City Club, Annual National Speaker Forum and Fundraiser | 7 p.m. Memorial Hall. DETAILS: Keynote: Denise Kiernan, best-selling author and journalist. Tickets start at \$40.
→ www.womanscityclub.org/programs/national-speaker-forum

MAY 24, MONDAY

St. Joseph Orphanage, Golf Outing | 9:30 a.m. Aston Oaks Golf Club. DETAILS: Shotgun, dinner awards.
→ <https://stjosephorphanage.org>

JUNE 4, FRIDAY

Redwood Rehabilitation Center, Redwood Express: Evening of Celebration | 6-11 p.m. DCCH Festival Area, 75 Orphanage Rd., Ft. Mitchell, KY.



▲ Rey of Light co-chairs Julie Ross and Cathy Ramstetter

A virtual 'Rey of Light'

Saturday, April 24, virtual

DePaul Cristo Rey High School's "Rey of Light" Scholarship Benefit will be held virtually this year. An online silent auction and virtual Fund-A-Need Paddle Raise for scholarships will open several days ahead and conclude that evening.

The live auction, led by Lance Walker, will include trips and unique experiences such as a Hilton Head vacation, Reds Diamond Seats, and a visit to The Greenbrier.

DePaul Cristo Rey is a Catholic, college-preparatory high school with a mission to educate young people who have the potential, but limited financial means to go to college. Every student receives financial assistance to attend DPCR. This event has raised \$4.25 million over its nine-year history.

Rey of Light planning is led by co-chairs Cathy Ramstetter, DPCR board member, and Julie Ross, past member of the board. The event is free.

→ 513-861-0600 or www.depaulcristorey.org

DCCH swings spring gala into virtual auction

Tuesday-Sunday, April 20-25, virtual

This year's annual Swing Into Spring Gala, presented by Fort Mitchell's DCCH Center for Children and Families, will now be held as a virtual event. Raffle tickets are on sale now. Grand Prize is \$10,000, with two additional cash prizes valued at \$2,500 and \$1,000. Tickets are \$20.00 each.

Register for free and preview auction items beginning Monday, April 12. Check back often, as new items will be added each day leading up to the event.

DCCH is a 172-year-old organization under the auspice of the Diocese of Covington. Proceeds provide clothing, shoes, nutritious meals, therapy, and a safe place to live. Lead sponsors are St. Elizabeth Healthcare and DBL Law.

→ www.dcchcenter.org



▲Giovanna Alvarez



▲Vanessa Freytag



▲Whitney B. Gaskins



▲Lisa Kelly



▲Kelly Kolar-Eyman



▲Tashawna Thomas Otabil



▲Stephanie Smith



▲Amy Spiller

42nd Career Women of Achievement broadcast again for 2021

Thursday, April 22, 7-8 p.m.
televised and streamed on WCPO

The local leader of Duke Energy, one of the top executives at Fifth Third Bank and the CEO of one of the region's highest-profile nonprofits are among the eight Cincinnati area women named as 2021 Career Women of Achievement.

Presented by the Greater Cincinnati YWCA, the event is the region's longest-standing local women's business award, having recognized 338 women in 42 years.

For the second year, the program – the largest single fundraiser for the YWCA with typically 150 company sponsors – will be broadcast rather

than holding a 2100-person luncheon. More than 14,000 households tuned into WCPO-TV in April last year.

The eight women, selected for their leadership, vision, community service and professional success, were chosen from among more than 75 nominations. This year's honorees:

- **Giovanna Alvarez**, director, Su Casa Hispanic Center
- **Vanessa Freytag**, president and CEO, 4C for Children
- **Whitney B. Gaskins, Ph.D.**, assistant dean of inclusive excellence and community engagement, University of Cincinnati College of Engineering and Applied Science

• **Lisa Kelly, M.D.**, Taylor Asbury Professor of Ophthalmology; medical director Hoxworth Eye Clinics, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

- **Kelly Kolar-Eyman**, president/founder Kolar Design, Inc.+Kolar Experience Institute
- **Tashawna Thomas Otabil**, executive director, TriHealth
- **Stephanie Smith**, senior vice president, chief inclusion & diversity officer, Fifth Third Bank
- **Amy Spiller**, president, Duke Energy Ohio and Kentucky, Duke Energy

The program also includes presentation of the Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Scholarship Award, Fifth Third

Bank, Trustee, to **Angela "Angel" Spurlock-Lang** and presentation of the Mamie Earl Sells Scholarship, by Kroger, to **Trinity Robinson**.

Co-chairs are Stacey Browning, managing director of digital portfolio for CincyTech, and Cathy Bernardino Bailey, director, Greater Cincinnati Water Works. Both are past honorees. Judges were Eddie Koen, president and CEO, Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio; James Price, president and CEO, Empower; Dr. Lakshmi Sammarco, coroner, Hamilton County; and Judge Marilyn Zayas, appellate judge, Ohio's First District Court of Appeals.

→ 513-241-7090 or ywacincinnati.org

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HEALTHCARE

By Shauna Steigerwald

Survey says:

Virtual events here to stay in hybrid model

Don't invest heavily in platforms; be sure 'why' of event is clear

A year after COVID-19 made in-person gatherings impossible, virtual nonprofit fundraising events have become the new normal.

Now, well past the initial scramble to adapt, local fundraisers have learned a great deal about what works – and what doesn't – and they're integrating those lessons into their future.

Lisa Raterman, owner of fundraising consulting firm LARaterman Associates, has produced 30 virtual events, ranging from conferences to galas. She has watched more than 100 virtual events and garnered 100-plus responses to an informal survey aimed at virtual nonprofit event attendees.

Among the survey takeaways: As with other fundraising initiatives,

effectively communicating the organization's mission is key to success. Spending valuable dollars on an expensive platform is not. Virtual events should be free to attend.

"Donors still want ... to feel emotionally connected," Raterman said.

"Make sure your 'mission moments' are right there from the start."

That's especially critical in the virtual realm, where participants can easily fast-forward (in the case of pre-recorded events) or stop watching altogether.

Although she has seen organizations buy expensive software for virtual events, she doesn't think the return is there.

"You can do it on Zoom with your \$200 a year subscription just as easily



Lisa Raterman

as you can on some of these more expensive programs," she said.

Her survey results support that: Rather than flashy platforms, participants wanted ease and flexibility.

"Most people said they don't care what platform it's on," she said. "They want a platform that's easy to get on (and) that they can watch the program when they want. There are definitely people who like to watch it live, but others like that it's recorded and they can watch it later."

Jenna Toon, senior special events coordinator at Talbert House, came to a similar conclusion after supporters expressed fatigue with online events that were only available at a set time.

"We realized the more flexible we could be, the better," she said.

So for their annual Fatherhood Celebration, normally a fundraising lunch, they created a pre-recorded experience supporters could watch anytime. It was set up like their in-person event, with a keynote speaker and honorees. A text-to-give component allowed viewers to contribute as they watched.

Although donations were down compared to 2019, stand-alone videos from the event released on YouTube helped Talbert House reach more people than they would have in person.

Their biggest successes, however, came via a "carry-out concept," which didn't have an online component at all. "Bang Bang in Paradise To-Go" was a variation of the nonprofit's annual in-person dinner outside Bonefish Grill. Instead, supporters purchased a "to-go" three-course meal from the restaurant. To add flexibility, it was offered all weekend rather than just one night.

"We reached a lot of new people we wouldn't have reached with our in-person event," Toon said.

The ability to reach a broader audience is one of the benefits of virtual events, Raterman said.

"Anyone, anywhere could attend



Elise Hyder

“ Doing anything new is scary, but at the same time, it was really exciting to create something new.

There are no normals. You can really be creative and innovative. While it's challenging, it's really kind of exciting.

— Elise Hyder, Beech Acres Parenting Center senior development officer

your event; you aren't just restricted to the people who could attend in person," she said.

At Beech Acres Parenting Center, Senior Development Officer Elise Hyder saw that happen with a virtual "town hall" the organization hosted in place of a donor-appreciation gathering.

"We had donors from all over the country who were able to attend," and attendance was up, she said. "We could engage with our donors who normally wouldn't be able to come."

Virtual events can also be a way to reach tech-savvy younger donors who are less apt to attend galas, "something we've all struggled with for years," Raterman said.

They might even bring in new supporters.

"One thing I'm feeling more and more strongly about – and it showed up in the survey results too – is that folks (shouldn't) charge to attend a virtual event," Raterman said.

She said some 90 percent of her survey respondents attended virtual events because they were connected to the organization. If an event is free, someone who's interested – but not yet

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connected – might tune in to learn more.

"That's the point of these," she said. "You want to broaden the reach of your mission."

On the other hand, as chair of this year's National Philanthropy Day, presented by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Cincinnati Chapter, Hyder and her committee went the fee route.

"People would sign up for free events and not show up," Hyder said. "We felt like we needed them to have some skin in the game."

Additionally, sponsors received complimentary logins. As Raterman noted, virtual events often require creative sponsor benefits.

Whether or not supporters are paying to attend, it's important to keep the program concise.

"We're recommending folks keep it to 90 minutes at most; if they can keep it to 30 or 60 minutes, even better," she said. "People's attention spans just aren't there."

Hyder and her committee had that mindset for National Philanthropy Day. Though they kept many of the elements of the live event, including "chat" time for networking, they condensed the timeframe to go virtual.



Jenna Toon

What's next?

Raterman doesn't expect larger galas with hundreds of attendees to be back this year – maybe not next year, either. For 2021, three of her clients are planning hybrid events with both in-person and virtual components.

"We're going to see hybrid events this year and maybe even into early 2022 ... even four or five years from now," she said.

"I think virtual events are here to stay," said Hyder, noting that Beech Acres Parenting Center is currently planning virtual or hybrid events.

National Philanthropy Day will also be a hybrid event this year.

Going forward, fundraisers need to make sure they're comfortable with the technology. Glitches that were understandable a year ago won't play as well now.

"People are going to have a higher expectation that it's a smoother event," Raterman said.

On the other hand, beware of coming across as too polished, particularly with pre-recorded events, she said.

"The ones that fall flat are the ones that are so canned and so rehearsed and just don't have that emotional connection," she said.

Deciding whether or not to go virtual early on, rather than simultaneously planning in-person, virtual and hybrid options, can help fundraisers create the best possible attendee experience, Raterman said. Three of her clients have already committed to fully virtual galas in November.

Similarly, Hyder and her National Philanthropy Day committee decided early, in May, to go virtual for the November 2020 event.

Raterman suggests reaching out to sponsors and donors about their comfort level to help make the decision.

If it's virtual, where Raterman does advise spending is on audio-visual services, even if that's something a nonprofit hasn't used at live events.

Double your AV budget

"We've been telling people to plan on doubling your AV budget for a virtual event," she said.

Hyder agreed AV was key to National Philanthropy Day and credits partner Prestige with giving the event a "TV" feel. (Having a "rockstar emcee" – theirs was WCPO's Kristyn Hartman – helps, too.)

With virtual events, AV costs can be offset by savings on things like rental space and food.

"Most of the events last year did as well if not better than they had done the previous year. A lot of that is because they didn't have the traditional hard costs of an in-person event," Raterman said.

Hybrid events, however, require AV investment, in addition to rental space and food costs.

"Maybe there will be fewer events because of the cost of having a hybrid event," Hyder said. "I think it's a good reset button," she added. "Events are very costly in time and in money. It pulls the team away from making inroads in developing relationships with major gift donors."

If the return isn't there, "I'm the first person to tell an organization to stop doing an event just because they're used to doing it," Raterman agreed.

Using Hyder's advice, to find the event's "why" or goal, could be a good starting point.

With the National Philanthropy Day virtual event, "We brought a really meaningful event to the community," she said. "That was the real reward – that we spread some joy at a really difficult time. That was our 'why' for 2020." ■

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Focus on Parks & Nature

Pandemic pushes CROWN to unify, create transportation equity

Winding through public parks, orchards, art walks and iconic landmarks, Cincinnati's first urban trail loop looks to connect the city through a sustainable and equitable lens.

As envisioned, The CROWN – Cincinnati Riding or Walking Network – will connect 356,000 residents in 54 communities to a 34-mile trail.

The CROWN is Greater Cincinnati's first comprehensive trail plan, merging its several partners' existing and planned trails into a cohesive vision and a shared mission: to provide a means of discovery, connection and wellness to all of Cincinnati.

Wade Johnston, the director and only employee of Tri-State Trails, has established a coalition of advocates and stakeholders to advance work on the CROWN and has become an essential resource to local governments and nonprofit groups, helping them to "articulate a vision" for the trail, pursue funding, and promote its various sections when built. Tri-State Trails is an initiative of Green Umbrella, a collective impact organization whose goal is to convene partners across sectors to create a "resilient" and "sustainable" region.

Todd Palmer, the CEO of Great Parks of Hamilton County, said Cincinnati's residents have always prioritized trail development, but the events of 2020 put their importance in greater perspective.

"COVID taught us – even more so – how important trails were in people's lives, not just for their physical well-being but their mental well-being," Palmer said.

Today, in collaboration with Tri-State Trails, Great Parks is leading an effort to connect the Little Miami Scenic Trail to the existing CROWN loop with the half-mile Beechmont Bridge Connector. The connector is a complex section of trail that will

By Grace Hill

tunnel under the Beechmont Avenue bridge and extend over the Little Miami River, through a "safe, shared-use trail" that is physically separated from the bridge's traffic and will meet the Armleder Park and Lunken trails on the other side. Construction began in March and is scheduled for completion in 2022.

But Great Parks' connection with the CROWN doesn't end there. Last year, Great Parks built the first leg of a connection stretching west from 50 West Brewing Company toward Mariemont. This year, Mariemont will pick up that project, extending the Murray Path about half a mile.

All around the city, mile by mile, gaps are closing in the CROWN map.

And according to Johnston, the CROWN has seen steady progress since 2019, when Tri-State Trails formed a partnership with the Ohio Riverway and Wasson Way nonprofit groups. Previously, Johnston said, the two groups competed for the same resources, but now, united by CROWN, the entities can work together to achieve funding.

In 2020, Tri-State Trails applied for another federal grant through OKI and secured \$3.76 million to complete that western connection and link Wasson Way to Martin Luther King Drive and Reading Road in Avondale, where UC's Uptown Innovation Corridor will create a development supporting its medical, research and innovation industries.

The city has also planned and secured funding to extend Central Parkway's protected bike lanes in what the CROWN refers to as the Canal Bikeway, which will follow the path of the former Miami and Erie Canal from Marshall Avenue to



▲Map of the CROWN Loop – the envisioned Cincinnati Riding or Walking Network

Ludlow Avenue. This progress will likely be seen by 2023.

In terms of scope, Johnston said these connections would be a "game changer" for the CROWN. As the second largest employment hub in Cincinnati, he said the area around UC would greatly benefit from a safe pathway for bike commuters. And as a community partner of the CROWN project, UC recognizes that benefit.

"We strive to provide a diversity of different transportation alternatives so that when folks are coming to UC, they have options besides just using a single occupancy car," said Daniel Hart, UC's sustainability coordinator.

And while Johnston does see the trail as a means of recreation and exploration, the CROWN also works to promote transportation equity in an effort to counter "a car-centric culture."

"Frankly, it can be difficult to navigate the city if you don't have access to a car," Johnston said. So a goal remains to expand the trails into communities that could truly benefit from a safe and accessible mode of transportation.

"Right now, where many of the trails are located are in our white, affluent communities," Johnston said. If expanded to our more diverse neighborhoods, the CROWN could provide a means for residents to more easily access groceries or jobs.

In the case of Avondale, which is classified as a food desert, Johnston

said the trail could connect the community to the fresh and healthy food it deserves.

Though he admits the trail won't remedy underlying issues, Johnston believes it will help to better connect residents to resources and opportunities outside of their communities.

And according to Johnston, it's also a way to repair communities that have been historically devastated by the city's transportation policies. Johnston refers to the over 25,000 people who lost their homes to the construction of I-75 in the West End, 97 percent of whom were non-white.

"Through this project, we are trying to undo some of the really terrible negative impacts that the highways had on our city and specifically on the Black community," Johnston said.

Johnston believes connecting the CROWN to those communities is an important first step – but one that must be taken with intention and care.

"There is definitely concern from the Black community in some of these neighborhoods that the trail is going to create gentrification or displacement. So we're trying to be a step out in front of that in working with these communities and the city to try to really create affordable housing opportunities," Johnston said. "It's something we're really diving into this year with a partnership with the Urban Land Institute in Cincinnati." ■

→ www.crownincinnati.org

Reflections on a pandemic year

PARKS & NATURE

Adaptations are slow and incremental, and the result of successful adaptation is always beneficial to an organism. The same is true for organizations.

From virtual field trips to new hygiene protocols, the watchword around the Civic Garden Center since March 2020 has been change.

But it will also be remembered as a year with a few silver linings. Concerns about food security, healthy green spaces and environmental justice, combined with a renewed interest in being outdoors in nature, created even greater demand for our programs.

Paradoxically, pandemic disruptions also provided us with an opportunity for renewed reflection: How are we going to provide people with the skills, experiences, and motivation to live more sustainably, to engage with nature more often and with more curiosity? The exposure of societal and environmental inequities during the pandemic also offered us the opportunity to look for diverse and nuanced forms of outdoor learning to ensure that their potential for a more just and sustainable future are maximized for everyone.

We now recognize that virtual learning is here to stay. It has allowed us to reach a wider audience than ever and will be blended in with our in-person learning opportunities whenever possible.

We're also gratified by the number of people who jumped in to volunteer. More than 500 volunteers have provided more than 3500 hours of service since the pandemic began.

We realize that our work for a more sustainable world remains as crucial as ever, whatever the next normal looks like! ☀

Karen Kahle, executive director, Civic Garden Center



SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE

April 17–June 6 • 10 am–5 pm daily

PLANT NATIVE! Create a bright and beautiful garden, while providing a wonderful habitat for bees, butterflies, and birds. Visit the Rowe Visitor Center to gather herbs, native plants, flowering trees, and shrubs at our annual Spring Native Plant Sale.

Daily admission rates apply for nonmembers. Admission provides access to the Nature Shop, Nature PlayScape, and 14 miles of award-winning hiking trails.

4949 Tealtown Road, Milford, OH 45150 • (513) 831-1711 • www.CincyNature.org

Even the great founding visionaries of Cincinnati Parks, Adolph Strauch and George Kessler, could not have imagined what the past year had in store; however, they prepared us for it. Cincinnati Parks, built as oases in the middle of an industrialized city, have experienced unprecedented levels of usage during the COVID-19 pandemic, reminding us how precious these assets are.

The Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners and staff remain proud and grateful to serve Cincinnati as a place for gathering, reflection, health, recreation and expression of democratic rights. As an essential government service, well-maintained, safe and accessible parks are a public good, non-excludable and non-rivalrous. In Cincinnati, this is possible thanks to the enduring support from Mayor John Cranley, City Council, city administration and our staff and volunteers.

Though it has been a challenging year, it has also unearthed opportunities to improve our organization and the services we provide. Virtual nature education programming and drive-through flower sales at Krohn Conservatory are examples of how we dove head-first into this challenge. We will continue to embrace these new service-delivery elements as vital components of our operations. The pandemic also provided an opportunity, if not a necessity, to focus inward. We conducted critical reviews of our operations, staffing structure and processes, which all led to improvements.

As we look to the future, with the help of our thousands of volunteers and partners like the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, your Cincinnati Parks will be here serving you now and well into the future. *

Kara Kish, director, Cincinnati Park Board



At the onset of COVID-19, we knew Great Parks would have a significant role in supporting our community in every way possible – home, work, family, school, and health and wellness. Achieving that required shifting our approach as to what we provide, how we provide it and how we operate. While the pandemic brought many unforeseen circumstances, one thing never changed – our commitment to our guests.

Most importantly, throughout the year our parks remained open – offering recreational opportunities at our harbors, golf courses and campgrounds, as well as on our 78 miles of trails, all providing a safe way for residents to enjoy the outdoors when other local activities and destinations were closed.

Employees also stepped outside their roles in order to keep the parks open and meet our guests' needs. Our team accepted the challenge to find new ways to engage families and schools virtually in the safety of their homes, learning new technologies and repurposing programming in order to adapt. This included Parks@Home, an initiative created to bring the parks to the people and help stay connected through blogs, social media, interactive videos and other assets.

As we head into 2021, Great Parks will continue to provide the exceptional experiences our guests expect. We realize the pandemic has created a new normal, but through our dedicated staff and our commitment to excellence, we're up for the challenge. We have always been, and always will be, here for our community. ☺

*Todd Palmeter,
CEO, Great Parks of Hamilton County*



Great Parks of Hamilton County

Great Parks has been preserving and protecting natural resources and providing outdoor recreation and nature education opportunities for over 90 years. Great Parks comprises 21 beautiful parks and preserves spanning over 17,700 acres throughout the county, nearly 80 miles of trails, eight fishing lakes, six golf courses, playgrounds, dog parks and more.

→ www.greatparks.org



✿ **Free Entry Days** – Guests can experience acres of natural habitat, lakes and river access, trails, playgrounds, dog parks, golf courses and more without the need for a Great Parks Motor Vehicle Permit. See website for dates.

✿ **City Nature Challenge** – This international citizen science event encourages the public to help discover, identify and catalog plants and animals in the region, and to compete for bragging rights with other cities across the world, in terms of participation, nature observations and species found. April 30-May 3.

✿ **Urban Farming Festival** – A nature celebration with live animals, mural painting, planting station, live music, local art vendors, food trucks, crafts and more.
Aug. 28, noon-7 p.m., Nature Center at The Summit, Roselawn



RAPTOR Incorporated

Dedicated to the conservation of birds of prey (hawks, owls, eagles, falcons, vultures), RAPTOR, Inc. rehabilitates injured or orphaned birds of prey and educates the community about the importance of raptors in the environment. 961 Barg Salt Run Road, Milford, Ohio 45150

→ www.raptorinc.org



✿ **Open House** – See birds of prey up close. Interact with educators to learn about these predators, their role in the ecosystem, and to explore biofacts. Reservations: Free, needed only when there is a COVID mandate in place. April 25, May 30, June 27, July 25, Aug. 29, Sept. 26, all from 1-4 p.m.



Cincinnati Nature Center

Just minutes away from the downtown urban core, Cincinnati Nature Center offers tranquility and solace among more than 1,700 acres of forests, fields, streams and ponds. With nearly 20 miles of award-winning trails on two picturesque properties, the Nature Center provides experiences for people of all ages during all seasons. 4949 Tealton Road, Milford, Ohio 45150

→ www.cincynature.org

✿ **Spring Native Plant Sale** – Visit the Rowe Visitor Center to gather herbs, native plants, flowering trees, and shrubs to create a bright and beautiful garden, while providing a wonderful habitat for bees, butterflies, and birds. April 17-June 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

✿ **Garden Tour: Noteworthy Natives** – Join Cincinnati's premier garden tour featuring 12 magnificent gardens in the region. From intimate suburban spaces to grand landscapes, the self-guided tour will feature a variety of creatively designed gardens, including plants native to the area. Tickets: \$40 per person. June 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

✿ **Hoots & Hops** – These two fun summer events feature beer and dessert samples from local craft brewers and area restaurants and caterers, food trucks, live music, and nature education stations along the hiking trails at Rowe Woods. Tickets: \$45 per person. Nature Center's Krippendorf Lodge. July 9 and Aug. 13, 6-10 p.m.

Civic Garden Center

Building community through gardening, education and environmental stewardship, the Civic Garden Center's goal is to be *the* place to go to learn about gardening, sustainability, and horticulture. 2715 Reading Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

→ www.civicgardencenter.org

Explore more parks and nature nonprofits at CincinnatiCares.org



✿ **The Plant Sale** – Civic Garden Center's annual Plant Sale will primarily be an online sale of plants from April 1-May 8, followed by one-day in-person sale on Saturday, May 8.

✿ **Native Plant Class Series** – Learn how native plants provide habitat that supports populations of butterflies, bees, birds and all forms of life and make landscapes more adaptable to future environmental stressors. Tuesdays in April, 6-7 p.m.

Green Umbrella

Green Umbrella leads collaboration, incubates ideas and catalyzes solutions that create a resilient, sustainable region for all. The non-profit's online calendar features hundreds of sustainability-oriented events hosted by member organizations.

→ www.greenumbrella.org



★ Midwest Regional

Sustainability Summit – A regional sustainability conference that brings together businesses, government representatives, experts, nonprofits, and residents committed to creating a more sustainable, resilient and equitable Greater Cincinnati. May 12-14.

★ Breakfast on the Bridge

– The 12th annual Breakfast on the Bridge, celebrates National Bike to Work Day, on the Purple People Bridge. May 21.

★ Great Outdoor Week

– Sample outdoor recreation and nature awareness programs in the Greater Cincinnati region – with nearly 100 events, all free and open to the public. Sept. 18-26.



Cincinnati Parks Foundation

The official philanthropic partner of Cincinnati Parks, Cincinnati Parks Foundation works to enrich the city's top-rated urban parks and programs through the support of private citizens, park lovers, stewards of nature and conservationists.

→ www.cincinnatiparksfoundation.org

★ Stewards of Burnet Woods

Community Yoga – This all-levels, beginner-friendly, peace-filled class is taught by World Peace Yoga. Classes are online now from Trailside Nature Center, but will resume in-person at the bandstand beginning in May. Free. Saturdays, 11 a.m. and Sundays, 4 p.m. www.heart.com/world-peace-yoga

Hats Off Luncheon – Take a small group of friends or family to your favorite neighborhood Cincinnati Park to partake in a community picnic. Donors receive a collapsible, insulated picnic basket that includes picnic essentials. Oct. 1.

Ezz Fest – A West End celebration of its heritage with a festival named for one of the community's most well-known residents, Ezzard Charles. The festival features arts, athletics, children's activities and live jazz music, plus dedication and ribbon cutting of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation's new Ezzard Charles statue and plaza. Free. Oct. 9.



The Nature Conservancy's Richard & Lucile Durrell Edge of Appalachia Preserve

The Edge Preserve, just 75 miles east of Cincinnati, offers breathtaking views of southern Ohio's forests, cliffs, streams and prairie openings from five different trails for a combined 27 miles of hiking. Immerse yourself in the largest privately-owned natural area in Ohio, co-owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy and Cincinnati Museum Center for over 60 years.

Visit nature.org/edgeofappalachia to plan your trip today.

ENJOY ART IN NATURE AT PYRAMID HILL

300+ acres
70+ Outdoor Sculptures
Ancient Sculpture Museum





The Nature Conservancy

Valley View

Valley View is 190 acres of open green space permanently preserved for people of all ages to enjoy. In 2020, the seven miles of mowed and wooded trails throughout Valley View served as an escape for people to enjoy the sunshine, listen to the birds, run, laugh, unplug and enjoy the calm and reassurance that comes from being in our natural world.

790 Garfield Ave., Milford, Ohio 45150
→ www.valleyviewcampus.org

*** Spring Night Hikes** – A unique opportunity for a guided hike after dark, with the chance to catch a glimpse of the full moon. The hike is approximately two miles, winding along the trails through both forest and field. No registration required. March 28, 8 p.m.; April 25, 8:30 p.m.; May 26, 8:45 p.m.

*** Toast to the View featuring The Mondays** – Join Valley View for their annual party at the farmhouse – a casual night with great music and cheer, celebrating the past, present and future. Oct. 9.

*** Run for the Bottoms!** – Choose the 5K or 10K for a tour of Valley View's trails through forest, field and streamside. Post-race party at the finish line by the old Tobacco Barn. Oct. 23.

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy brings people together to help solve today's biggest conservation challenges from climate change and habitat loss to protecting clean water, including nearly 65,000 acres of Ohio's lakes, forests, winding rivers and rolling hills. TNC's Edge of Appalachia Preserve (a short day trip from Cincinnati) offers several hiking experiences across five unique trails. 4274 Waggoner Riffle Road, West Union, Ohio 45693

→ www.nature.org/ohio

*** Wild Biomes: America's Rainforests & Deserts** – On this virtual field trip, travel to Seattle and Arizona and visit two wildly different ecosystems, both dependent on the same precious resource: water. Free, registration required. April 3, 10 a.m.

*** View from a Canoe** – Can you imagine a place with 100 million acres of forest and 30,000 miles of coastline? It exists. Join TNC for a virtual field trip to the Emerald Edge, home to the largest intact coastal temperate rainforest. Free, registration required. May 1, 10 a.m.



Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park & Museum

A unique outdoor museum, Pyramid Hill combines the lure of nature with the dynamic presence of more than 70 contemporary sculptures. Located just north of Cincinnati, over 300 acres of rolling forested hills, meadows, lakes and gardens, populate the grounds. Each season brings new discoveries in this diverse landscape. 1763 Hamilton Cleves Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013

→ www.pyramidhill.org

*** Art & Earth Day** – All-day celebration of Earth Day, Arbor Day and International Sculpture Day with programming for the whole family. Free. April 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

*** Summer Series for Kids** – These specialized workshops are designed for children ages 5 to 12, and offer entertaining, interactive and educational experiences about art, nature and much more. Wednesdays in June and July, noon-1 p.m.

*** Art & Music Festival** – Featuring the 19th Annual Art Fair, this event also includes live music, family activities, food and a beer garden near our Grand Pavilion. \$10 per carload or \$15 for two-day festival pass. Sept. 25, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sept. 26, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Ohio River Foundation

The Ohio River Foundation is dedicated to protecting and improving the water quality and ecology of the Ohio River through environmental education and conservation activities that inspire environmental stewardship for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future citizens.

→ www.ohioriverfdn.org

*** Habitat restoration days** – Volunteers are needed to help remove harmful invasive honeysuckle and caltrop pear by hand saw or trimming plants and trees.

- **Kingswood Park** – April 25, May 2 and 15, Sept. 4 and 12. Times: TBD
- **Alms Park** – March 20, April 24. 9 a.m.-noon
- **Summit Park** – June 6, July 25, Aug. 8. Times: TBD



Cincinnati's only green burial ground hosts unique open house

Sunday, April 25, 1-8 p.m.
Heritage Acres Memorial Sanctuary

Cincinnati's only dedicated green burial ground, Heritage Acres Memorial Sanctuary, will hold an open house on Earth Day to celebrate the grand opening it couldn't have during the pandemic.

This socially distanced, outdoor open house will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony, scattering of flower seeds, handmade jams and jellies from plants harvested at Heritage Acres and more. Individual and small-group, socially distanced guided tours of the property will take place throughout the day.

Also featured will be an exhibition around the grounds of "natural art" by local artists using native materials. The art pieces will remain on site until the elements reclaim them naturally. Guests at the open house will be invited to create their own work of art using natural materials collected from the grounds.

This is a free, masked event. Parking is available just inside the entrance at 796 Locust Corner Road 45245, but please consider carpooling.

→ www.heritageacresmemorial.org

About Heritage Acres

After finding no alternatives to conventional burial in the Cincinnati region, founder Bill Gupton took on the task of creating a natural burial ground for the area.

Green (or natural) burial emphasizes simplicity and environmental sustainability, where the body or cremated ashes are placed into the ground shrouded or in a biodegradable casket or urn.

With the help of more than 50 volunteers in the past year, the site now serves as a center for grieving families, a woodland nature preserve and a host to public events and educational experiences.

Art Museum says, 'Bees, please,' to Queen City Pollinator Project

The Cincinnati Art Museum, in partnership with the Queen City Pollinator Project, aims to help Cincinnati "bee" inspired, "bee" vibrant, and "bee" connected with two new beehives this month.



The Cincinnati Art Museum's focus on community wellness supports bringing in honey bees to aid the health of the entire community. Pollinators are a vital part of a balanced ecosystem, but nearly all pollinators are suffering from declines. Installing hives assists their repopulation.

The Women's Committee of the Cincinnati Art Museum is the hive sponsor. The program is also supported by the museum's Green Team made up of museum staff members.

Success with the program might mean the museum bees produce honey to use and sell. This could mean Terrace Café recipes highlighting honey, and jars to purchase in the Museum Shop.

Educational opportunities featuring bee-inspired artworks are also underway.

→ queencitypollinatorproject.org

**15TH ANNUAL
CINCINNATI PARKS FOUNDATION
HATS OFF LUNCHEON
ART DECO AFTERNOON
Picnic In Your Parks**

Join The Women's Committee of Cincinnati Parks for a revival of the 1920's when art, architecture, and Jazz roared into fashion. Get ready to don your best deco at this afternoon picnic supporting YOUR Cincinnati Parks.

October 1, 2021

Honorary Co-Chairs:
**SHEILA SIMMONS
& ELLEN SOLE**

Tickets available April 2021

Proceeds from Cincinnati Parks Foundation's most vital fundraising event are used wherever they benefit the parks system most, from parks programming, to capital projects, to underwriting general operating support.

CINCINNATIPARKSFUNDATION.ORG

Pyramid Hill's Art and Earth Day

Pyramid Hill is scaling up their offerings for this year's Art & Earth Day, April 24. A joint celebration of Arbor Day, Earth Day and International Sculpture Day, this event includes a wide range of programming throughout the day including the Contemporary Arts Center's Spring Family Festival, noon to 3 p.m. This special event takes art and creativity outside of the gallery setting and features works by local artists.

Another feature is the UC artist walk – outdoor sculpture projects from students at the University of Cincinnati. A continuing tradition, this exhibition offers emerging artists the opportunity to show their work at a reputable venue, and to engage with the public by speaking about its creation.

Happy hour is noon-3 p.m. in the Fretboard Beer Garden.



▲Tom Jones Commons sits below the reservoir in Eden Park

Parks Foundation investment sparks innovation in Cincinnati parks

According to the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, strong and robust parks have the power to transform the environmental, physical, and economic health of neighborhoods, defining their role in building community resilience. Every dollar invested in parks results in two dollars invested in the surrounding area, while improving air quality and inviting physical activity.

The Parks Foundation is developing several new projects, in part due to the 1.4M raised in 2020.

Projects include:

- Opening of Tom Jones Commons in Eden Park
- Dedication of accessible PNC Grow Up Great Playground in Inwood Park
- Free yoga programming at Burnet Woods, Inwood Park, Mt. Echo and Oldenview Park
- Accessible, adaptive programming for people with disabilities through partnerships with Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Luke5Adventures



▲Map of the proposed trail connecting Winton Woods with Glenwood Gardens

Shared-use trail to connect Winton Woods to Glenwood Gardens

Great Parks of Hamilton County is pleased to announce planning for a new shared-use trail connecting Glenwood Gardens and Winton Woods, as well as multiple trails, neighborhoods and businesses in between.

Approximately 3.6 miles in length, the new accessible trail will extend the West Fork Mill Creek Greenway Trail in Glenwood Gardens to the Harbor Loop Trail in Winton Woods. After traveling through Glenwood Gardens, the trail will cross Sheffield Road and wind through the woods of the Glenview Golf Course before turning south at Southland Road and entering the grounds of Winton Woods. Once in Winton Woods, the path will pass by wetlands and through a forest to Lakeview Drive. From there, it will continue to the Winton Woods Campground and link up with the Harbor Loop Trail.

Little Miami trail in final phase

Great Parks of Hamilton County has started construction of the final extension and most significant section of the Little Miami Scenic Trail. This is an important connection within the future CROWN hiking and biking loop.

Known as the Beechmont Bridge Connector, this complex half-mile stretch will connect the existing Little Miami Scenic Trail terminus (near State Route 32 and Beechmont) with the Otto Armleder Memorial Park-to-Lunken Trail, and the future Elstun Road Connector. The extension will allow trail users for the first time to safely travel from the Little Miami Scenic Trail to the Ohio River Trail.

The Little Miami Scenic Trail is already one of the longest paved, multi-use trails in the United States, stretching 78 miles from Springfield, Ohio to Anderson Township.

Smale Expansion will bring more public greenspace to the riverbank

Named 5th Best Riverwalk in the United States by USA Today, Smale Riverfront Park has become an iconic public space for the entire Cincinnati region, with more than 6.7 million visitors in 2019. After many months of social distancing, construction is underway on its next phase, The Smale Expansion – a two-acre, multi-level extension with tree groves, pergolas, a seasonal events stage, performance lawn, and a scenic overlook of the Ohio River, adjacent to the new Andrew J. Brady ICON Music Center. Phase One is scheduled for completion in the late spring. Fundraising for Phase Two is ongoing, led by the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, and the Smale Advisory Committee.

Ezzard Charles honored with statue, festival, running route

Known as the Cincinnati Cobra, Ezzard Charles was a professional boxer and world heavyweight champion from 1949 to 1951. A long-time Cincinnati, he was also an entrepreneur, a musician, a multilingualist, and a good-will ambassador to the West End community, where he lived at the height of his boxing career. The Cincinnati Parks Foundation is erecting a 13-foot statue in his honor within Laurel Park along Ezzard Charles Drive in the West End of Cincinnati.

Each October, the Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses hosts the annual Ezz Fest celebration (Oct. 9, Laurel Park), featuring live jazz, free food and family activities. This year, MadTree Brewing joined the project by planting more than 100 trees in the park and surrounding neighborhood. Cincinnati Bell is installing free Wi-Fi in Laurel Park, where 25 percent of residents are without reliable access. The organization goVibrant is designing a new walking/running route that will follow that of Ezzard Charles, himself.

Parks Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Spieser, sculptor John Hebenstreit and Parks Board Director Kara Kish with Ezz statue▼



In the News

Cincinnati Museum Center launches public phase of campaign to reimagine exhibits and boost endowment

The final push for nearly \$20 million for new exhibits at the Cincinnati Museum Center has gone public.

The "Champion More Curiosity" campaign, the largest in Cincinnati Museum Center history, will fund the development of nine new exhibits and refurbishment of four existing exhibits as well as boost CMC's endowment between now and 2023.

Of the campaign's \$85 million goal, \$40 million will support the development of new exhibits, following the reimagining of several notable CMC exhibits in recent years. CMC has already raised \$67 million.

New exhibits include the Ice Age Gallery (July 2021), John A. and Judy Ruthven Get Into Nature

Gallery (2022), Made in Cincinnati (2022), Mission Ordovician: Cincinnati Under the Sea (2023) and Archaeology and Early Settlement Gallery (2024). In addition, every aspect of the Museum of Natural History & Science and the Cincinnati History Museum will be updated or transformed with a focus on better synergy between science and history with an immersive, innovative experience for guests.

\$20 million from the campaign is designated to inspire the next generation of physicists, archaeologists, astronauts, doctors and researchers, all while closing the race and gender gaps in STEM fields. The campaign will equip state-of-the-art labs within the museum for everyone ranging from

elementary students to doctoral candidates. Through the campaign, STEM Girls, Youth Programs, and Programs-on-Wheels will be able to expand their audiences, cementing CMC as a leader in the scientific community through ongoing research and increased capabilities.

The campaign will contribute \$25 million to CMC's endowment in order to sustain its future and fuel expansion.

The campaign seeks support from CMC's entire community of guests, members, advocates and supporters to hit its remaining goal of \$18 million by 2023. Donors can support by rounding up their sale, adding a donation online when purchasing tickets or memberships or at points-of-sale inside CMC.

→ www.supportcmc.org



2021 National Philanthropy Day nominations now open

Nominations are now being accepted for the awards to be presented at the 2021 National Philanthropy Day in November.

National Philanthropy Day (NPD) promotes philanthropy and recognizes individuals, organizations and businesses that inspire change through their significant impact on nonprofit organizations.

The NPD planning committee will select a winner in each of the following categories: Philanthropist of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Outstanding Corporation/Foundation in Philanthropy, Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy (under 24) and Lifetime Achievement in Fundraising.

Nominations are due April 30. NPD will be hosted on Nov. 18, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., as a hybrid event. The in-person event will be held at Rhinegeist Brewery in Over-the-Rhine. Guests may purchase streaming tickets to attend virtually.

→ www.afpcincinnati.org

2021 Planning Committee:

Lauren Frooman, chair, Cincinnati Art Museum
Spencer Mapes, co-chair, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
Analisa Condon, United Way of Greater Cincinnati
Rita DiBello, Cincinnati Art Museum
Stephanie Eldred, Freestore Foodbank
Troy Fedders, St. Elizabeth Foundation
Matthew Gellin, AFP president-elect, Freestore Foodbank
Sheri Hager, Lighthouse Youth and Family Services
Kila Hanrahan, AFP president, Jewish Federation of Cincinnati
Deanna Hillard, MS Society
Emily Nickolas, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati
Latisha Owens, Guiding Light Mentoring
Carol Rountree, Cincinnati Cares
Carol Serrone, Redwood
Jake Tancer, Habitat for Humanity
Nick Wagner, A Kid Again
Nahamani Yisrael, Nahamani.org



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▲Rendering of Good Samaritan Hospital with coming renovation

Black Achievers President and CEO Michael Moore►



▲The existing CityLink Center in the West End



▲The new St. Elizabeth Cancer Center features a two-story glass-enclosed atrium

Angels to mentor Black Achievers

Cincinnati's most prominent angel investing group, Queen City Angels, is starting a strategic partnership with the 4,000-member Cincinnati-based Black Achievers to further its dedication to diversity and inclusion. Black Achievers members will be offered training on how angel investing and venture capital play in fueling the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Black Achievers president and CEO Michael Moore said the partnership gives his organization's members access to opportunities, a primary goal of the organization. Historically, less than two percent of angel investors have come from the Black community, and only about one percent of venture capital is invested in Black founders.

Xavier, Sonde Health in COVID-19 fight

Sonde Health and the Xavier University Center for Population Health have teamed up to study the effectiveness of Sonde's vocal biomarker platform as a screening tool for symptoms of COVID-19. The collaboration will evaluate the platform's ability to provide an early warning system at schools, workplaces, sporting events, and other places where large groups of people gather. The study will rely on Sonde One, a research-based smartphone app, which identifies objective acoustic features in voice samples that indicate the presence or severity of respiratory conditions such as coughing, chest tightness or shortness of breath, all through a six-second voice sample. The goal of the new study is to validate the vocal biomarker platform's effectiveness as a daily screening tool.

Good Sam gets \$140M renovation

TriHealth's Good Samaritan Hospital will undergo an expansion and modernization beginning this spring. The redevelopment will follow a Master Facility Plan that focuses on the creation

of cutting-edge surgery facilities, construction of a new building, and relocation and expansion of certain specialties including emergency and outpatient departments. Renovations will continue to reorient the main entrance and primary access to the Good Samaritan Campus for more convenient access to I-75.

St. Elizabeth: Giving hits \$35 million

Nearly 1,000 individual and corporate donors have contributed to the campaign for St. Elizabeth Healthcare's Cancer Center, raising \$35 million of the center's \$140 million cost. The six-story, 250,000-square-foot facility opened in Edgewood in late September, and since then has treated nearly 500 cancer patients per day. The center offers a wide range of services, from cancer detection and diagnosis to care, working to lower the high rates of cancer incidences and death Kentucky currently faces. Complementing the center's research and medical care is the doTERRA Center for Integrative Oncology, where St. Elizabeth offers a comprehensive suite of therapies and support services.

Freedom Center, First Financial partner

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and First Financial Bank are launching in April a year-long collaboration to increase financial literacy and address implicit bias. By combining First Financial Bank's sponsorship and expertise in financial education with the Freedom Center's approach to combating implicit bias and history expertise, the two organizations hope to address wealth disparity through financial literacy. "Financial literacy is a critical component to addressing the wealth disparity in this country," said Woody Keown Jr., president of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Scott's gifts yield first major local impact

The first material impact in Greater Cincinnati of national billionaire MacKenzie Scott's local gifts is the merger of Cincinnati Area Senior Services and Meals on Wheels Southwest OH & Northern KY. The two nonprofits that serve older adults in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky agreed in February to merge to form one of the largest local community-based organizations providing direct services to seniors. The new organization will go by the name Meals on Wheels and will serve more than 10,000 seniors annually. They will retain 150 employees and programs and services, including meal deliveries that could exceed 1.4 million per year. A \$4 million gift from Scott – providing the agencies the flexibility to gain efficiencies to grow, innovate and change – was among \$45 million in grants she made to Greater Cincinnati nonprofits late last year.

CityLink seeks final \$1 million

As construction begins this spring on a \$5.3 million expansion of its West End campus, CityLink Center is looking to secure the remaining \$1 million to fund the project. CityLink is a nonprofit that collaborates with leading social service agencies to help individuals advance out of poverty and reach their full potential. The expansion, a mix of new construction and rehabilitation of existing buildings, will add 23,834 square feet to the existing campus. CityLink Center first opened in 2012 to provide members in the community with a path to holistic life change. Collaborating with 14 agencies – such as Center for Employment Opportunities, Per Scholas, ChangingGears, Learning Grove, SmartMoney, Cornerstone Construction and PelotonU – CityLink provides the support, training and relationships individuals need, helping to increase annual household incomes by nearly \$10,000. ■



▲ Noah Welte, Dr. Sanjay Shewakramani, Vincent DiNapoli, Ray Gargano Michael Denlinger, Teri Shirk, Kila Hanrahan, Fred Neurohr, Harold Brown, Dave Bush

► Joe Huber, Terrence Anchrum, Dr. Burns Blaxall, Shane Knisley, Michelle Pittman, Jonathan Stanwyck, Scott Wick

Thomas More University named Noah Welte

Noah Welte, a 2005 Thomas More graduate and administrator since 2013, as assistant vice president for university operations. Welte, a Leadership Northern Kentucky 2021 class member, has been serving as the director of legal affairs and auxiliary services for the university since 2018. As assistant vice president for university operations, Welte will provide leadership and management of key university operations, including legal affairs and compliance, facilities and capital projects, campus safety, risk management, office services, and food service and vending. Welte will serve on the university cabinet as well as additional committees to ensure that operations are fully aligned with the mission and purpose of the University.

of the Brain Tumor Center at The Jewish Hospital-Mercy Health, serves Mayfield patients and communities through clinical excellence, research and education as he consistently benefits patients with innovations in therapy and treatment.

ArtsWave named **Ray Gargano** as vice president, community investments. Previously a grant programs officer for the City of Sacramento's arts and culture department, Gargano will help ArtsWave advance its 10-year "Blueprint for Collective Action" by leading the grantmaking process for the organization while working closely with businesses, civic and arts stakeholders. Gargano is a Cleveland native and previously worked at Cleveland's Playhouse Square and Miami University.

Ohio Gov. Mike Dewine named **Michael Denlinger** of Hamilton County as chairperson of the **Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council**. Throughout Dewine's tenure, Denlinger has served on several of the council's committees. Denlinger, who has cerebral palsy, focuses primarily on housing and transportation for individuals with disabilities. Additionally, Denlinger serves as the host of "Ohio DD Talks," a podcast from the council featuring stories and conversations with Ohioans with disabilities.

Vincent DiNapoli joined the board of the **Mayfield Education & Research Foundation**. The foundation is affiliated with Mayfield Brain & Spine, the region's leading neurosurgery practice. DiNapoli, a physician and director

including the Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Alzheimer's Association, and most recently he served as vice president of program services at Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley.

Kila Hanrahan has been named 2021 president for the local chapter of the **Association of Fundraising Professionals**. She is currently the agency development officer at the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati and director of development at Jewish Family Service. Her decade of experience in fundraising includes a portfolio of work in special events, planned giving, major giving and corporate philanthropy at organizations such as the American Red Cross and the American Cancer Society.

The American Sign Museum named **Fred Neurohr** to its board. Neurohr's affinity for signs traces back to his home, New York City. Neurohr discovered the sign museum when he saw its exhibits at Essex Street Studios. Since relocating to the Queen City, Neurohr has run the pediatric low vision program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in partnership with Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. He hopes to develop an audio-described tour of the museum for people who are blind or severely visually impaired.

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra announced **Harold Brown** will be its first chief diversity and inclusion officer. This newly-appointed position was created to catalyze, guide and implement the organization's ongoing diversity and

inclusion initiatives across the organization. Most recently, Brown served as vice president, strategy and policy at Interact for Health and as vice president of community strategies at the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

Starfire named **Dave Bush** its executive director. With an extensive background in rehabilitation counseling and disability services, Dave's expertise derives from work at organizations like Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services through the Pathways 26 of Hamilton County Program.

Cincinnati Development Fund promoted **Joe Huber** from its senior lending officer to president, continuing to report to CEO Jeanne Golligher. Joe takes on responsibilities including strategic planning, organizational capacity and alignment and external and internal operations.

Cancer Family Care added six new members to its board: **Terrence Anchrum**, senior program manager, FIS; **Dr. Burns Blaxall**, director of precision medicine, The Christ Hospital; **Shane Knisley**, president, Mercy Clermont Hospital; **Michelle Pittman**, 2nd vice president, new business operations, Ohio National Financial Services; **Jonathan Stanwyck**, vice president, sustainable process solutions manager, US Bank; **Scott Wick**, Graydon attorney. ■

Gifts/Grants



◀ Robert G. Luke, M.D.,
Charuhas V. Thakar, M.D.

Gift establishes kidney research chair

A visionary gift honors a University of Cincinnati pioneer in kidney hypertension research and treatment. The \$1 million anonymous gift has helped to create the Robert G. Luke, M.D. Endowed Chair in Nephrology at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine's Division of Nephrology and Hypertension.

This chair recognizes the work of Robert Luke, a pioneer in kidney and hypertension research, treatment and medical ethics, and chair of UC's Department of Internal Medicine from 1988 until 2004.

At a recent meeting, the UC board of trustees approved Charuhas V. Thakar, M.D., professor of medicine and director of the division, to hold this chair in nephrology, which also was supported through matching gifts by the college and alumni donors.

Thakar was recruited to UC as an assistant professor in 2004, during Luke's tenure as the department chair, and appointed as the division director in 2014. He is nationally recognized in his discipline for his creativity and innovation, as well as clinical and educational excellence.



PROVIDED BY THE D.A.D. INITIATIVE

GCF, Cincinnati Black Giving Circle award grants to drive racial equity

Greater Cincinnati Foundation, in partnership with the Cincinnati Black Giving Circle, awarded \$115,000 to six Black-led or Black-serving nonprofits in the Cincinnati area.

The Cincinnati Black Giving Circle, a coalition of African Americans in support of social change, allows donors with shared cultural roots to direct their giving purposefully through awarding grants to deserving nonprofits.

Cincinnati Black Giving Circle Awardees:

- **Found Village**, which empowers teens who have faced traumas to reach their full potential, received a \$25,000 grant to support staff who coordinate volunteers as well as coaches and mentor youth.
- **Rosemary's Babies**, which provides educational and financial support for pre-teen and teen parents and their families, received a \$20,000 grant to support staff salaries and operational overhead.
- **The D.A.D. Initiative**, which readies children of color for a successful future by teaching essential skills not traditionally offered in schools, received a \$20,000 grant to support staff contracts.
- **Cincinnati Preschool Promise**, which works to ensure equitable access to high-quality preschools and better preparation for future schooling, received a \$20,000 grant to provide business services to the owners of mostly Black-owned, in-home childcare providers.
- **Ohio Justice Policy Center** (OJPC), a nonprofit law firm that advocates for fair and equal justice by offering free legal services, received a \$15,000 grant to provide services for single mothers pursuing their secondary education.
- **Housing Opportunities Made Equal** (HOME), which advocates and enforces housing regulations, received a \$15,000 grant to provide families with legal support to maintain stable and healthy housing amidst heightened economic instability.

First Financial's Cincinnati workforce donates 3,700 hours, \$1.7 million

First Financial Bank and its associates responded to a difficult year in 2020 by giving \$1.7 million in contributions and 3,700 volunteer hours by its Cincinnati workforce. Overall, the four-state, locally based bank gave \$3.5 million in financial contributions and more than 8,900 hours in volunteer service. "We are proud to be making a positive difference in our communities, especially in light of

the struggles we all shared last year," said Roddell McCullough, the bank's director of community development. While First Financial's associates were generous with their time in the community last year, volunteering required a different approach because of COVID-19, the need for social distancing, and limitations on available in-person volunteer opportunities.

SHOWcase
WITH BARBARA KELLAR

SATURDAY 6:30PM CET
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Emmy Award Winner
Regional - Interview/Discussion Program



◀ Tim Steigerwald,
president and CEO of Messer;
Jeanetta Darno, MBA, SPHR,
UC Health's first chief diversity,
equity and inclusion officer

Messer funds diversity, inclusion at UC

Messer Construction Co. is partnering with both the University of Cincinnati's College of Engineering and Applied Science (CEAS) and UC Health to establish two funds that support diversity and inclusion programs.

This contribution represents Messer's philanthropic culture and commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive community.

"I commend UC's commitment to bringing more diversity into engineering and construction management programs, as well as UC Health's efforts to advance equity in health care," said Tim Steigerwald, president and CEO of Messer. "This is a meaningful way to put our purpose – building better lives for our customers, communities and each other – into action."

Messer is a longtime benefactor of CEAS and its Office of Inclusive Excellence and Community Engagement (IECE). Both the college and Messer strive to create a diverse pipeline of future engineers.

The Messer Inclusive Excellence Fund will support initiatives and programs that eliminate barriers and encourage underrepresented students.

At UC Health, the Messer Diversity Discretionary Fund will be used for new initiatives and programs aimed at increasing awareness and addressing the need for racial and ethnic diversity in health care. This work will be spearheaded by UC Health's first Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Jeanetta Darno, MBA, SPHR.

OTR Museum to create two-building space

A recent grant, paired with a matching grant from the Over-the-Rhine Museum, will provide preliminary research required to transform a current two-building complex into a museum space, said museum board chair Rob Gioielli. The \$16,286 grant comes from the Ohio History Fund, and will be combined with \$20,000 from the museum. The Over-the-Rhine Museum seeks to inspire understanding and respect for the

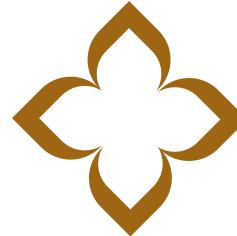
people who have created and lived in the historic neighborhood by uncovering, presenting and preserving their stories in an immersive experience. The project will include research on Over-the-Rhine and the families who have inhabited the current buildings at 3 West McMicken Avenue, as well as a report by Gray & Pape, Inc., a cultural resources management firm located in Over-the-Rhine.

→ www.otrmuseum.org

Foundation gives \$100K to 4C for Children

4C for Children received a \$100,000 grant from the L&L Nippert Charitable Foundation to ensure that local child care providers can access the coaching and training resources they need to increase their Ohio Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) ratings in accordance with state goals. This is critical support for programs as they continue to care for and educate young children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the program is to level the playing field so that every child receives quality care and early learning so they can enter kindergarten ready to succeed, even during a pandemic. There are nearly 900 child care providers in Southwest Ohio who care for more than 16,000 vulnerable children living below the federal poverty level.

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A community of Episcopal Retirement Services in Hyde Park.



Kindervelt celebrates 50 years: Making a difference in children's health care

Children treated at the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) are among its most seriously ill patients, requiring highest levels of medical care and supervision. Growing demand for PICU and other Critical Care and emergency medical services drove CCHMC in 2017 to embark on the construction of a new state-of-the-art Critical Care building, representing a significant expansion of the hospital's main campus that will add 249 rooms when much of the project is activated starting in November 2021.

Working behind the scenes to support CCHMC is Kindervelt, a hospital auxiliary wholly made up of volunteers dedicated to raising funds through events and, at times, through unique partnerships created within Kindervelt's individual neighborhood groups. This spring, Kindervelt will present a check to the medical center for its PICU, donating funds its groups have raised over the past year. In pre-COVID-19 years of 2014-2019, Kindervelt's annual check to CCHMC averaged about \$500,000.

Kindervelt turns 50 this year and will celebrate its legacy of support with a jubilee event, which, at the time of publishing, is scheduled to take place in person in early October. What seems to make Kindervelt so enduringly successful, and considered among Greater Cincinnati's outstanding volunteer organizations, is the unique combination of its structure, its ties throughout the community, and how it fosters camaraderie and shared commitment to serving the common good of the medical center.

Keith Henize, CCHMC director of auxiliary relations, works as the liaison between Kindervelt and the medical center to "support them as best I can to help them raise funds, because everything they do comes back to support programs at the hospital." Henize works with all four of the hospital's auxiliaries, of which Kindervelt is the largest with about 600 volunteers.

Of the auxiliaries, Kindervelt has the most structure, he said, the way volunteers work independently within their own neighborhood groups, but also work together through a citywide board. Also, he said, Kindervelt chooses one area of the hospital to support for a four-year term. "Kindervelt really likes big impact."

This is Kindervelt's first year raising funds for PICU. From 2016-2020, the organization championed CCHMC's division of child and adolescent psychiatry, for which members were able to raise \$2,040,000. Henize called it a "great partnership" between Kindervelt and the division's team of physicians and staff, with the four-year commitment resulting in a new Kindervelt Psychiatric Emergency Assessment Center, providing designated space and

resources within the emergency department designed to improve the assessment, care and support of the hospital's mental health patients during emergency situations. More than 8,000 children and adolescents with a mental health crisis come through the emergency room each year. Therefore, the need to fund this "pioneering unit" – a six-room psychiatric triage center tailored for treating children in mental distress – "was critical," according to Kindervelt.



Katrina Smith joined Kindervelt in 1991 and currently is the organization's city president, serving a two-year term. Although Kindervelt began in 1971 as a women's auxiliary, she said, membership is open to men. "There are no prerequisites," Smith said. "Kindervelt is open to everybody who wants to join." Membership dues are under \$20 for the year. Many people join with neighbors and meet once a month.

The fundraising engine propelling Kindervelt's accomplishments is comprised of its neighborhood and regional groups that mainly meet and work autonomously. There are few limitations as to how the groups raise money.

Individual groups host their own projects, Smith said. "Think of any fundraising event, and one of the Kindervelt groups has done it – from selling water bottles at their neighborhood garage sale, where they turn in \$65, to swanky social events that bring in \$100,000."

Kindervelt's citywide projects include three major annual fundraising events: Kindervelt Krafts, featuring hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind items and baked goods for sale; Kindervelt Fall Event, which this year will be the 50th Jubilee celebration; and Let the Good Times Bowl, canceled this year due to the pandemic. Smith said "we are hoping we can have the Jubilee at the hospital this year and be able to give tours of the new Critical Care building before it opens. That would be fabulous."

Smith has taken a hardhat tour of the new building. "Even in the construction phase, you can see the difference in the space they will have to be able to offer so much more to patients and their families," she said. "We are really excited to be part of it."

The PICU's larger rooms in the new building will allow more efficient and improved care that benefits



Think of any fundraising event, and one of the Kindervelt groups has done it – from selling water bottles at their neighborhood garage sale, where they turn in \$65, to swanky social events that bring in \$100,000.

— Kindervelt City President Katrina Smith

the patients, and also provides ample space for families to have privacy, comfort and be able to sleep in their child's room. Half of Kindervelt's fundraising will directly benefit the construction of the new Critical Care facility and the other half will be used to create an endowed chair for the PICU.

Smith said taking on the presidency during COVID-19 "has not been exactly what I envisioned when I accepted the job." Indeed, in 2020, Kindervelt raised about \$50,000 or so under what it has been able to raise in normal years. But, "we are doing fine – we are making things happen, and I am so grateful that Kindervelt members have the right spirit. We have put our creative juices to work to overcome obstacles."

One such creative new endeavor occurred in February and was actually helped by people spending more time at home during the pandemic, which has encouraged "quarantine cleaning" and the culling of possessions. Kindervelt #50, a group based in Indian Hill, designed a charity auction in partnership with the Everything But the House online platform, to sell contributed items the group was able to gather. Kindervelt keeps 100 percent of the sale proceeds for CCHMC, thanks to the generosity of Everything But the House's commitment to supporting local nonprofit organizations.

As winter wanes, members of Kindervelt's citywide team are increasingly focused on details of the Jubilee celebration of Kindervelt's 50th year. Mary Beth Young, a member of Kindervelt #78, is the fall event chair. She recently unveiled the event logo (above), designed by local art students.

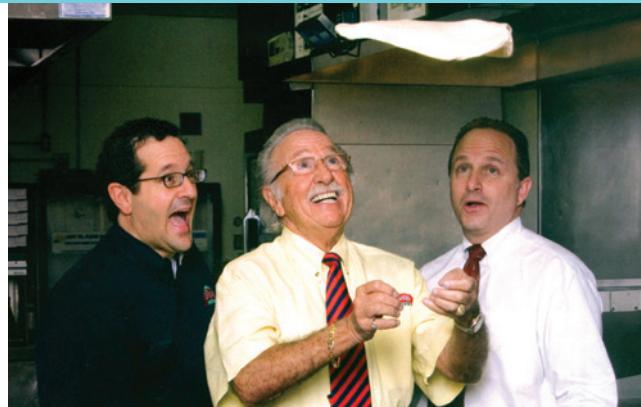
"Kindervelt's long history of serving Cincinnati Children's is enriched by thousands of dedicated and determined women who have united through the years to make meaningful contributions to the medical center, improving the health and well-being of countless children and having a lot of fun as they worked together," Young said. "Kindervelt's Jubilee will celebrate their achievements with the community." ■

→ www.kindervelt.org

Snapshots Who, what, where & why

Prevent Blindness Ohio awards LaRosa's Pizzeria for philanthropic impact

The Ohio affiliate of Prevent Blindness recently honored LaRosa's Pizzeria with the 2021 People of Vision Award for its commitment to philanthropic efforts in the Cincinnati area. In 2020, to honor founder Donald "Buddy" LaRosa's 90th birthday, the LaRosa Family Foundation was launched to support youth and adolescent development through athletics, education and life skills training. LaRosa's Pizzeria works with schools and several local organizations to sell "Buddy Cards" to neighbors, family and friends to raise funds to support academic and athletic activities in the region. Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization and has recognized and awarded select organizations and their leaders for visionary leadership and community service since 1985.



▲ LaRosa's Pizzeria founder Buddy LaRosa tosses pizza dough flanked by sons Mark and Michael.

Tire Discounters founder honored with donation to May We Help

Recognition of Cincinnati Chip Wood as the "2020 Tire Dealer of the Year" by an industry publication led to a \$17,000 donation by the magazine to a local charity founded by Chip's father, Bill Wood.

Cincinnati-based May We Help, which develops custom, life-enhancing devices for people with disabilities, was the recipient of the donation from Modern Tire Dealer Magazine. May We Help was created by three mechanical engineers, all named Bill. One was Bill Wood. Chip, founder and chairman of Tire Discounters, was recognized as the nation's top independent tire dealer for his industry achievements, business expertise and community involvement.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Rob Seideman, May We Help has grown into a team of engineers, industrial designers, inventors, welders, woodworkers, seamstresses, doctors, and occupational and physical therapists who design, build and deliver unique devices for individuals with special needs.



▲ Modern Tire Dealer's Editor Mike Manges, with Anna Wood and Chip Wood of Tire Discounters, and May We Help's Executive Director Rob Seideman

Learning Grove, Scarlet Oaks open Sharonville Early Learning Center

Learning Grove, a nonprofit child care provider, and Great Oaks, a career and technical school for high school students and adults, opened a new Early Learning Center on the Scarlet Oaks Career Campus in Sharonville.

The joint venture is designed to address current shortages of qualified early education teachers and available child care facilities for working families. The new center will provide early learning for infants through preschoolers, while offering experiential learning opportunities and a workforce development program for early childhood education students at Great Oaks. Both organizations expect the synergy to benefit young children, aspiring teachers, families and the community they share.



▲ Bill Ferguson, board chair for Great Oaks, and Shannon Starkey-Taylor, CEO of Learning Grove, cut the ribbon in front of the new Early Learning Center at Scarlet Oaks.

Securing the Future conference examines the 'future of belonging'

More than 340 Greater Cincinnati leaders registered to participate in the 2021 Securing the Future program in March, hosted by Leadership Council for Nonprofits.

The "future of belonging" was the theme for the 2021 conference, held virtually due to the pandemic.

Attendees heard from keynote speaker Vanessa Mason, research director at the Institute for the Future in Palo Alto, Calif., an organization that explores how to remodel approaches to fulfill the basic human need for belonging, especially over the next decade as loneliness, alienation and exclusion become more pervasive.

"For me, one of the many takeaways from her talk on belonging is the idea of "Welcome, Connect, Understand and Act," said Jenny Berg, Leadership Council CEO.

Mason articulated those ideas as:

- **Welcome** – What is your welcome? What is your digital front door? Who is/is not welcome in your spaces?
- **Connect** – Who is able, or who is not able, to make connections?
- **Understand** – What is the collective understanding that can help us do things together?
- **Act** – What can YOU choose to act upon TODAY? And what will you learn from that?

"I loved the keynote speaker," said one attendee. "I learned so much from her and about future trends. I would have loved to hear her speak more, she had so much great info to share. I also enjoyed the breakout sessions – so many great topics to choose from and the ones I attended were really well done."

Securing the Future, in its 21st year,

presents speakers who provoke, stimulate, inspire and motivate attendees to gain a broader understanding of current and future trends on the local, national and global level so they can help the organizations they serve to secure the future.

Three individuals and a nonprofit were recognized with the Leadership Legacy Award. (See pictures and captions.) One agency received the Inclusive Culture Award, which recognizes an organization that is welcoming at every level to every individual: The Children's Home of Cincinnati, a Madisonville nonprofit that provides educational, behavioral and health services to local families.

"The engagement our organization has with every colleague within the agency, from the newest, most junior member up to and including our senior leadership is a mindset of "people first, mission always" and it permeates throughout The Children's Home from top to bottom and laterally," said nominator Steven Wilson, communications director. "The Children's Home fosters a climate of diversity and inclusion on our staff and the governing Board of Trustees to best reflect the diverse community where we live and serve." ■



▲ In 2020, Leadership Council for Nonprofits created the **Leadership Legacy Awards** to recognize nonprofit leaders and organizations whose leaders demonstrate efforts to "secure the future" of the organizations they serve and support allowing these nonprofits to continue to build and secure the future of every individual they serve.

The **Visionary Board Leaders** award honors a proven board member of a Greater Cincinnati nonprofit who has led their organization through transformational

change, weathered difficult circumstances and demonstrated outstanding vision and achievement. One recipient was **Deborah Allsop** (top center), chair of the Preschool Promise Governance Committee and executive director/CEO of Families Forward. Pictured with Allsop are her colleagues Tonya Williams (left) and Leslie Henry (right). The other honoree was **Tom Stoll** (not pictured), board chair of Brighton Center.

▲ A third individual was named a **Vision, Understanding, Clarity & Agility (VUCA) Leader**, which recognizes an early-career individual who positively impacts their organization and the community through demonstrated vision, understanding, clarity and agility. Presenting the award to **Jennifer Steele** (above left), CEO, Meals on Wheels, is Jenny Berg, Leadership Council CEO.

◀ The conference featured multiple breakout sessions, including one by Judy Ellis – senior vice president, diversity, equity and inclusion advisory for the Americas region of AMS – about "Boards of the Future: Sustainably Diverse & Inclusive. Ellis' presentation included an interactive slide asking the audience in 1-3 words, describe your most significant challenge in diversifying your board. The most popular answer was "finding" diverse candidates.

Keynote speaker Vanessa Mason directed Securing the Future conference attendees to tools that can be used to begin "futures thinking" especially in a post-pandemic world.
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Mardi Gras for Homeless Children goes virtual for 30th anniversary

The annual Mardi Gras for Homeless Children took place on Fat Tuesday for the 30th consecutive year, though this time the benefit was hosted virtually. Participants received a “Party at Home Kit” with beads, masks and party supplies along with provisions to make the event’s signature Hurricane drink, a bottle of vodka, and a coupon to a participating Mardi Gras restaurant. The event was broadcast live from the Metropolitan Club in Northern Kentucky and featured Mardi Gras regulars such as emcees Scott Sloan and Tiffany Potter and virtual guests Sheila Gray, Giovani Bernard and Don Paparella. Local band Tickled Pink provided live music for the occasion.

Proceeds support Bethany House, Brighton Center and Welcome House of NKY, helping to fund meals for families and children experiencing homelessness.



▲ Mardi gras at home kits

◀ The Anderson family celebrating the event from home

Mobile vision clinics provide 500 local adults, children with eye exams, glasses

OneSight, a Cincinnati-based global vision nonprofit, partnered with the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation to provide free eye exams and glasses to underserved and uninsured Greater Cincinnati residents in March. Optometrists and opticians saw 500 adults and children in the mobile clinic, a state-of-the-art van equipped with a vision center and optical lab that allowed most participants to receive glasses onsite. The clinics were made possible by a charitable grant from the foundation and supported by OneSight and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield personnel and volunteers, who helped run the clinics.



◀ Dr. Jamie Anderson, a OneSight volunteer optometrist, giving an eye exam to a student in the OneSight vision van

Cincinnati volunteers spent time helping the students in Reading schools see more clearly, thanks to OneSight.▼

Life skills are goal of ‘Loads of Love’

In 2019 the local nonprofit Learning Through Art, launched a program called “Loads of Love: Life Skills Through Laundry,” which met people in their neighborhoods, provided free laundry services and shared life skills during wash and dry cycles. Employing COVID-19 precautions, the program relaunched with sessions in February and March at Avondale Town Center Super Laundry.

“Powered by the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center Avondale Partnership and Investment-Capacity Building Grant, with sponsorship support provided by Avondale Town Center Super Laundry, “Loads of Love: Life Skills Through Laundry” is designed to help heads of households build sustainable life skills while they perform a necessary component of modern-day living — laundry.

Suds Sessions run every Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. until June 1.



◀ Paul Meise of Avondale Town Center Super Laundry, and Michelle Hopkins of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

▼ Co-founders
Kathy Wade and Erica Page



DAN BEARD
COUNCIL, BSA

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Scouting Continues to Impact our Community



Congratulations to Stephen L. Hightower

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A Special Thank You to our Top Sponsors of the **2021 Good Scout Award Luncheon**

Virtual Event held on Thursday, March 11, 2021

► Your support continues the impact of Scouting in our community!



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Cub Scout Pack 943 participated in Trash the Trash Clean-Up where they helped to clean up their community.



Our outreach program provides a free camp opportunity for local youth to enjoy the outdoors.



Anthony W. from Troop 44 3-D printed mask ear guards for healthcare workers in his community during the pandemic.



Local Cub Scouts get to learn by doing and explore many adventures at camp such as archery, fishing, swimming, and more!

► **COMMUNITY SERVICE:** In 2020, Scouts performed 78,524 hours of community service locally!

► **OUTREACH:** Continues to provide outreach programs to thousands of youth so that every child has the opportunity to be a Scout.

► **EAGLE SCOUTS:** In 2020, 283 Scouts reached the rank of Eagle Scout!

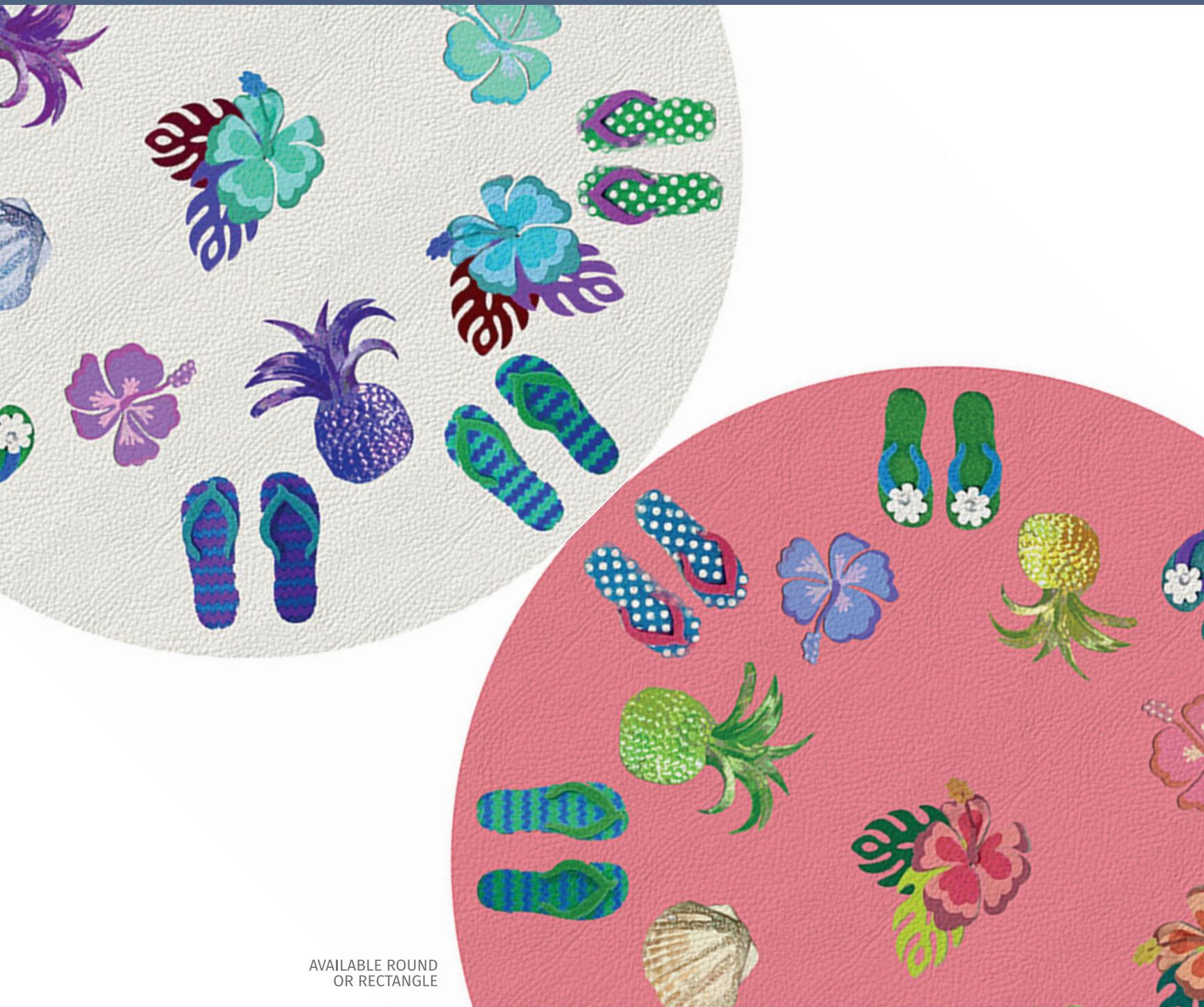
► **VIRTUAL SCOUTING:** Over 80,000 views of our virtual Scouting videos—created to continue virtual Scouting at home!

► **MERIT BADGES:** Scouts earned 7,530 merit badges last year!

► **SUMMER CAMP:** By following safety protocols, Scouts safely attend Summer Camp and experience outdoor adventures!

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