

NEXUS

THE COLUMBUS
FOUNDATION

FALL
2022



PICTURED (l-r):
Giancarlo Miranda and
Tim Morbitzer

A LEGACY BUILT TO LAST

Tim Morbitzer and Giancarlo Miranda share a passion for many things—among them, promoting the arts, supporting organizations that advance social justice, and giving back to their community. It is through these mutual interests that the couple of more than 20 years shape their philanthropy and the legacy they hope to leave behind.

“We are big believers in giving back. We’ve been very fortunate, and we don’t take that for granted. The idea of giving back is paramount to us,” said Morbitzer. “We are strong believers in improving the world we live in and making it better for everyone. Everybody is better off when we help the whole community.”

Through the *Morbitzer-Miranda Foundation*, a Donor Advised Fund that the couple established in 2017 after being inspired by friends who had opened a fund at The Columbus Foundation, Morbitzer

and Miranda have given generously to organizations serving the central Ohio region. These organizations include the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, Equitas Health Inc., Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio, the central Ohio chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Columbus Humane, Columbus Museum of Art, and Jazz Arts Group of Columbus.

Morbitzer, who grew up in Columbus, graduated with a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree from The Ohio State

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Thousands of residents came together for a day of community-wide conversations

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GREEN FUNDS GROW TO NEW HEIGHTS IN 2022

Grants support local organizations and projects that promote environmental stewardship



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Douglas F. Kridler
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Team Columbus Foundation's 5K runners at the Columbus Sports Commission's Community Cup this summer.

AMONGST THE MANY JOYS of the fall season, this is a great time of the year to be a sports fan. Major League Baseball has kicked off its playoffs. Tomorrow night, as I write this, our Columbus Blue Jackets have their home opener. In a week, the NBA begins its regular season, and college basketball not far thereafter. In just over a month, the U.S. men's national team begins its play in World Cup Soccer matches. And, the biggest of all, the football Buckeyes are on an impressive march to another great, hopefully championship, season.

Last night, at a celebration for Shadowbox Live's 35th anniversary—a wonderful milestone for the enterprising theater company—I was seated with Larry James, who, along with the extraordinary Donna James, we recognized as this year's *Harrison M. Sayre Award* honorees. Before the show began, we caught up on many things about society, our community, and... sports. As the house lights dimmed for the show to begin, Larry closed our conversation with an observation about the nature of sports—how it offers a sense of unity that has endured despite increasing polarization and tension in our world.

We can be thankful for that, but do you notice anything missing from the first paragraph? No mention of women's sports, which actually in many cases has been where the U.S. has excelled the most. Women may not be televised as much, or as professionals not yet get paid as much, but the grit, talent, and achievements of women in sports, and the

inspiring ways in which women have defined excellence despite the barriers they face, are often *primus inter pares*—first among equals.

We are blessed with the successful Greater Columbus Sports Commission, run and founded by Linda Logan, who has led the effort to get some of the most memorable events in any sport to happen right here in Columbus—many of them in women's sports. And we have been blessed with some great sportswriters in Columbus to cover it all. One such writer is Michael Arace, writing for *The Columbus Dispatch*. Michael recently wrote a column devoted to the memory of Phyllis Bailey, "the bringer of equal rights in athletics to Ohio State," who died this year at the age of 96. It was an inspiring and fitting tribute.

For Phyllis, the journey to equal rights wasn't easy, as you might guess. Katie Smith summed her up eloquently, as quoted by Michael Arace: "She was degraded, belittled, dismissed, but she battled through it all and kept going and going and going," said Katie, Ohio State '96, who is enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame. "Man, she was such a major piece in all of this history, and it's so cool that she was part of my journey. I hope I always continue to honor her by helping continue her mission. Equal opportunity. I want to do well by her."

Honor, achievement, opportunity, equity, and unity—these are things that matter, things that we try to uphold, strengthen, and celebrate at The Columbus Foundation. To us, philanthropy, like sports, is the human spirit in motion, and in philanthropy, YOU get to be its champion.

THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

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OUR MISSION

To assist donors and others in strengthening and improving our community for the benefit of all its residents.

OUR PROMISE

To help you help others through the most effective philanthropy possible.

Want to share NEXUS with a friend?
Find our digital version online at columbusfoundation.org/fall2022nexus



STUDENT APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2023 Summer Fellowship Program

EACH YEAR, The Columbus Foundation inspires the next generation of nonprofit leaders through our Summer Fellowship Program, a 10-week program that provides college students, recent college graduates, and graduate students the opportunity to work with local nonprofit organizations.

By participating in the Summer Fellowship Program, students receive valuable experience and a paid stipend for their work, while also building the organizational capacity of central Ohio nonprofits.

The Columbus Foundation is accepting student applications for the 2023 Summer Fellowship Program through December 9! To learn more about the program, including student eligibility and the application process, visit cbusfdn.org/summerfellows.

For more information, visit columbusfoundation.org or call 614/251-4000.



Photos by Challen Brown, unless noted.



Confirmed in compliance with national standards for U.S. community foundations.





Pictured (l–r): Tim Morbitzer and Giancarlo Miranda at their home in German Village.

University. One of 11 children, Morbitzer previously worked as the President of ABC Home Services, a family-owned business, until the company’s sale in 2017. Miranda, who grew up in El Salvador before moving to the United States for college, received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master’s degree from the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University. After relocating for various job opportunities, Miranda eventually landed in Columbus, where he worked for JPMorgan Chase & Co. as Executive Director of Branch Branding.

Now retired and living in German Village, the couple enjoys staying busy, traveling, and volunteering. Both active members of the Wexner Center for the Arts,

Morbitzer and Miranda also deeply value the important role arts and culture play in building a vibrant community and strongly believe that the arts should be accessible to all.

“The arts have really enriched our lives,” explained Miranda. “We’ve been able to experience arts and cultures in different parts of the country and the world, and it’s very uplifting. So, for us, it’s important to make sure that the community where we live has a thriving arts community so that it can uplift and enrich others.”

In recent years, the couple began asking themselves how they could not only maximize

the impact of their charitable giving now, but also make it long-lasting. Not sure where to begin, Morbitzer and Miranda reached out to The Columbus Foundation to learn more about the different ways they could continue their charitable legacy after they’ve passed. Through these conversations, they made the decision earlier this year to name The Columbus Foundation as a beneficiary in their estate plans.

“The Columbus Foundation has been hugely helpful to us. Knowing that there were options and different ways that we could continue to make an impact after we’re both gone was reassuring,” said Miranda. “It gave us peace of mind that the things that are important to us will still be supported.”

Working with their attorney, financial advisor, and The Columbus Foundation, Morbitzer and Miranda carefully developed their planned gift and entrusted The Columbus Foundation with grantmaking discretion after their deaths. As part of that plan, the couple elected to have their existing Donor Advised Fund—the Morbitzer-Miranda Foundation—become a Field of Interest Fund upon their deaths, with funds being distributed to organizations that promote social justice, the arts, and the welfare of dogs.

“As individuals who are very active and hands-on with their charitable giving, Tim and Giancarlo are thoughtful about the many cultural and community interests they support,” said J. Bradley Britton, JD, LLM, Director of Planned Giving and General Counsel at The Columbus Foundation. “Through their generous giving and foresight to plan out the future of their fund, Tim and Giancarlo have mapped out a charitable plan that will benefit generations to come.”

With the future of the fund now secured, Morbitzer and Miranda said they are able to breathe a sigh of relief—and they were surprised how simple and seamless the process was.

“At the end of the day, we have peace of mind. Now we know that when something happens—whether it’s today, tomorrow, or somewhere down the road—we’re taken care of,” said Miranda.

“This is a reliable, trustworthy, proven way to establish a legacy. It was the obvious choice for us,” added Morbitzer.

“It’s important to make sure that the community where we live has a thriving arts community so that it can uplift and enrich others.”

— GIANCARLO MIRANDA

Moving the Community Forward, One Conversation at a Time

The return of The Big Table® inspires the community to imagine a better future, together



SINCE 2016, The Big Table has brought central Ohio residents together for a day of dynamic and inspiring conversations. The Big Table is designed to cultivate authentic human connection and civic engagement through small group conversations—whether at a coffee shop, a house of worship, a local business, a library, or a public park.

On October 6, The Big Table returned to in-person gatherings after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We’re pleased to share that the community showed up in a BIG way.

The Columbus Foundation joined forces with several community partners to host a series of Big Table conversations open to the public. Additionally, individuals and organizations throughout the central Ohio region hosted their own Big Table conversations, inviting friends, neighbors, and even strangers to pull up a seat and talk about what matters most to them and their community.

During this year’s Big Table, thousands of central Ohio residents came together to share their voices, listen to one another’s experiences, and discuss how our community can move forward, together.

Thank you to all who made this year’s Big Table an uplifting and impactful day of connection. Together, we’re helping to build a kinder, more connected community where everyone has a seat at the table!



Big Table ambassador and local creative Donte Woods-Spikes, center, leads a conversation with community members at Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams’ home office.

Photo by Kathryn D. Gentry

“This gives us all a reason to take pause, come together, and focus on ways to improve our community!”

—2022 BIG TABLE HOST



Brutus Buckeye joins Dwight Smith, former Columbus Foundation Governing Committee Chairperson and Co-Founder of My Special Word, at a Big Table conversation co-hosted by My Special Word and The Ohio State University at United Schools Network.

2022 Philanthropy Awards Announced at Annual Celebration of Philanthropy

In September, The Columbus Foundation welcomed donors, friends, and guests to our annual Celebration of Philanthropy. After two years of virtual events, it was inspiring to honor exemplary leadership in philanthropy and service in action throughout our community with the presentation of the 2022 Philanthropy Awards.



THE HARRISON M. SAYRE AWARD HONOREES

Donna and Larry James

The Harrison M. Sayre Award, given in honor of The Columbus Foundation's founder and volunteer director for 25 years, recognizes leadership in philanthropy in central Ohio.

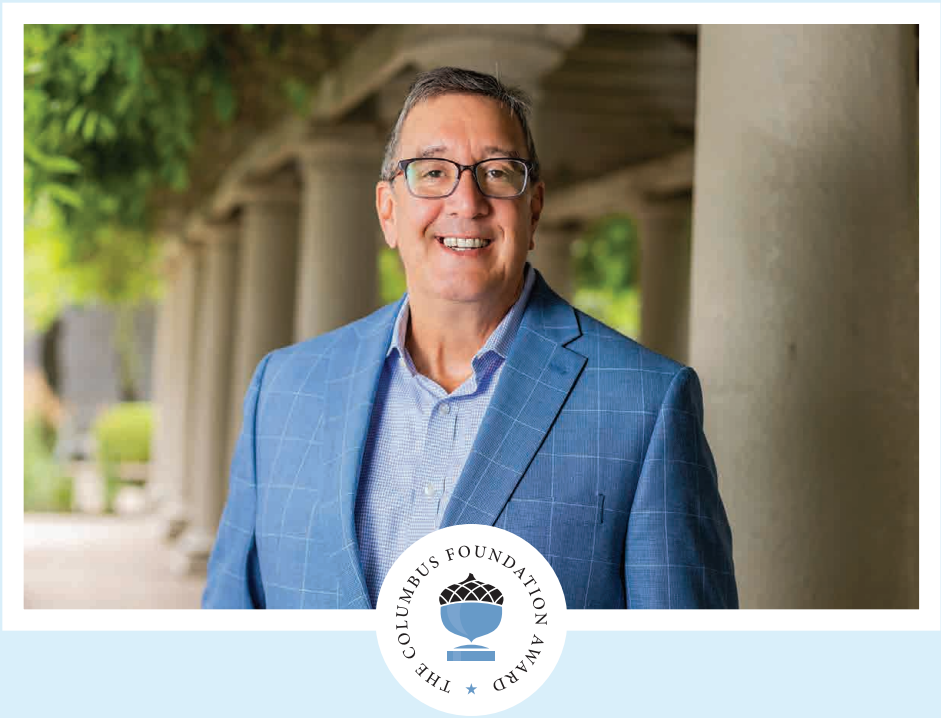
DONNA AND LARRY JAMES exemplify leadership in community and philanthropy. Perhaps the motto of Larry's alma mater, Wittenberg University, best encapsulates the couple's giving spirit: *"Having Light, We Pass It On to Others."*

Through the *Larry H. and Donna A. James Fund*, a Donor Advised Fund at The Columbus Foundation, the Jameses have given generously to numerous charitable causes in central Ohio and beyond. Among the many organizations the couple has supported through their fund are the Columbus Museum of Art, the Lincoln Theatre Association, United Way of Central Ohio, and The Center for Healthy Families.

Donna and Larry also played leading roles in funding the Aminah Robinson Legacy Project at the Columbus Museum of Art.

A respected litigator and Managing Partner at Crabbe, Brown & James LLP, Larry is Co-Founder of the African American Leadership Academy, which is dedicated to increasing the number of African American leaders in central Ohio. Previously, Larry served as President of the Lincoln Theatre Association Board and President of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Performing & Cultural Arts, as well as a Board Trustee for the Greater Columbus Arts Council, Columbus Museum of Art, and Columbus Urban League, to name a few.

Donna's dedication to the community runs just as deep. In addition to being the Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of the African American Leadership Academy and Co-Founder and former Board Chair of The Center for Healthy Families, a nonprofit focused on transforming the lives of pregnant and parenting teens and their children, Donna is also a Board Trustee for OhioHealth and a committee member of the *Gideon Development King-Lincoln District Scholarship Fund* at The Columbus Foundation.



THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION AWARD HONOREE

Directions for Youth & Families

The Columbus Foundation Award recognizes organizations that have made a difference in the quality of life in our community.

Pictured: Directions for Youth & Families CEO Duane Casares, MSW, LISW-S

FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS, Directions for Youth & Families has carried out its mission to build and inspire hope, healing, and resilience for youth and families. Directions for Youth & Families serves thousands in central Ohio each year with counseling, education, and support programs.

"We believe that communities can heal themselves. We believe in the people we serve."

— DUANE CASARES, MSW, LISW-S, CEO, DIRECTIONS FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

Through resiliency-oriented, trauma-informed care, Directions for Youth & Families provides emotional, mental, and behavioral health services to both parents and children, as well as traditional case management support.

Programs at Directions for Youth & Families are offered in three main categories: clinical counseling programs, where individuals, families, and groups can receive counseling on a range of issues including trauma,

depression, anxiety, and aggression; education programs, including early childhood education and parenting classes; and afterschool and summer programs, where youth can receive homework help, access to computer labs, leadership development, and more. More than 95 percent of services are provided at no cost to individuals and families.

In recognition of the important role this organization plays in bringing stability and opportunity to youth, families, and neighborhoods, Directions for Youth & Families has been selected as the 2022 honoree of *The Columbus Foundation Award*. As part of the award, Directions for Youth & Families received a \$100,000 unrestricted grant from The Columbus Foundation.



Scan the QR code to learn more about the 2022 Philanthropy Award honorees.

INITIATIVES IN ACTION

A snapshot of ongoing initiatives at The Columbus Foundation, fueled by the generosity of donors and supporters like you.

GIFTS OF KINDNESS FUND

\$4.9 million

granted from the [Gifts of Kindness Fund](#) at The Columbus Foundation since 2014. Today we partner with 45 local nonprofits to help lift up our neighbors and inspire others to give the gift of kindness.



EQUITABLE SMALL BUSINESS FUND

\$5 million

allocated to the Equitable Small Business Fund, a Program-Related Investment that was launched earlier this year to provide critical capital to entrepreneurs of color and Black-owned and Black-led businesses in our community. A committee of small business champions, pictured above, oversees the evaluation and decision making for investments.

Pictured (l-r): Equitable Small Business Fund committee members Elizabeth Blount McCormick, Anthony Joseph, Timmy McCarthy, Sandra Moody Gresham, and Doug McCollough.

SCHOLARSHIPS

\$3.2 million

in scholarship grants distributed to date in 2022 to help students achieve their education goals. The Columbus Foundation is on pace to exceed last year's scholarships total of \$3.7 million, a record high.

Pictured: Columbus Foundation scholarship recipient Miles Balfour.



CRITICAL NEED ALERT

\$670,000

raised through The Columbus Foundation's ["Our World, Our Community"](#) Critical Need Alert in 2022, providing immediate financial resources to seven nonprofit organizations serving refugees in central Ohio.

Photo courtesy of Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services

CLIMATE ACTION

\$760,173

granted in 2022 to organizations and projects that are working at the intersection of climate change mitigation and equity. Grant recipients are working to improve both the natural environment and the lives of our community members most impacted by climate change.



BETTER TOGETHER

19

[Better Together](#) projects completed to date in 2022. These online crowdfunding projects have raised more than \$120,000 to support a variety of initiatives throughout the community this year, such as providing athletic shoes to local children, covering the cost of professional cleaning and laundry services for older adults, and purchasing food and supplies for rescue dogs adopted by veterans.

RECENT CATALYTIC GRANTS

\$500,000

to the [RAPID 5 Project Fund](#) at The Columbus Foundation, established earlier this year to receive support from companies and the community for RAPID 5, whose goal is to create the largest inter-connected park system in the country.

\$250,000

to the [American Journalism Project](#), a national effort with ties now in Ohio, dedicated to helping local nonprofit news organizations grow and sustain their newsrooms.

Ingram-White Castle Foundation Empowers Community Through Generosity

ON TRACK FOR A RECORD-SETTING YEAR OF GRANTMAKING IN 2022



FOR DECADES, the Ingram-White Castle Foundation (IWCF), a Supporting Foundation of The Columbus Foundation, has invested in programs that help students succeed in school and

prepare them for careers. Through its generosity, the IWCF has opened doors to many individuals in our region, providing students and their families the opportunity to achieve their academic dreams. The IWCF continues to carry on this legacy today and is on track to set a new record in grantmaking in 2022. It is projected to grant more than \$3 million, the highest single-year total in the Supporting Foundation's history.

For Erin Shannon, Corporate Relations Manager of White Castle and great-granddaughter of E.W. "Billy" Ingram, the founder of White Castle, this record-setting year builds upon the legacy of her great-grandfather.

"Since 1949 when Billy Ingram created the Ingram-White Castle

Foundation, we have been continuously building on this foundation to establish goodwill for the community," said Shannon, who also serves as the secretary of the IWCF. "This historic year for grants illustrates and honors the collaboration between our community and our partner organizations. This is very exciting for the Ingram-White Castle Foundation as well as our great Columbus community where we work, live, and raise our families."

The IWCF has granted to numerous organizations in the community this year, providing crucial support in areas such as education, social services, and the arts. Among the organizations to receive grants in 2022 are Asian American Community Services, CelebrateOne, Disability Rights Ohio, Furniture Bank of Central Ohio, Ruling Our eXperiences (ROX), The Salvation Army (Central Ohio), and Sanctuary Night. More organizations are slated to receive grants this fall.

"The central Ohio community has benefited greatly from the incredible generosity and stewardship of the Ingram-White Castle Foundation," said Tami Durrenre, Vice President for Supporting Foundations at The Columbus Foundation. "Through grants, scholarships, and awards, the Ingram-White Castle Foundation is empowering young people to reach their educational goals, which in turn transforms lives and communities."



Pictured: E.W. "Billy" Ingram, founder of White Castle.

Photo courtesy of White Castle



BUILDING A PLACE FOR COMMUNITY

ON A HOT JUNE DAY earlier this year, Duane Casares, MSW, LISW-S, watched as 10-year-old Grady stepped up to the microphone to read the poem “The Rose That Grew From Concrete” by Tupac Shakur. To a spirited crowd that included local families, community members, and elected officials, Grady recited:

*Did you hear about the rose that grew from
a crack in the concrete?
Proving nature’s law is wrong it learned to
walk without having feet.
Funny, it seems, but by keeping its dreams,
it learned to breathe fresh air.
Long live the rose that grew from concrete
when no one else even cared.*

Casares, a social worker by trade and longtime CEO of Directions for Youth & Families (DFYF), had been waiting for this day for years. At last, he was watching his own rose grow from the concrete; construction was finally beginning on the new Crittenton Community Center, a 20,000-plus square foot social services center in the Eastland area operated by DFYF. This milestone was cause for celebration.

DFYF has played a vital role in the community for more than a century, offering mental, emotional, and behavioral health services to thousands of youth and their families each year. Through counseling, education, and support programs, DFYF is building healthy individuals, strong families, and safe communities.

For years, DFYF has operated two youth centers: the Ohio Avenue Youth Center and the Crittenton Center on Kimberly Parkway. These youth centers provide young people with safe, positive environments to engage in creative thinking, try new experiences, develop tools for self-expression, and give back to their community through service projects and the arts. All of the youth centers’ activities are provided free of charge.

However, at less than 4,000 square feet, the former Crittenton Center struggled to keep up with demand. Within the first week that DFYF opened the Crittenton Center in 2015, the afterschool program filled to capacity.

At the same time, Casares recognized that the neighborhood surrounding the Crittenton Center

lacked many community resources often found in other neighborhoods—there was no library, no recreation center, and no Boys & Girls Club. It quickly became clear that, in order to better serve the neighborhood, DFYF needed not a bigger youth center, but instead a community center.

“We realized that building a bigger space only for afterschool and summer programs was putting a band-aid on a much bigger problem,” explained Casares.

In partnership with 23 nonprofit organizations, the Crittenton Community Center will offer services that address food insecurity, housing stability, workforce development, education, legal aid, mental health, support for seniors, youth programming, and more. This one-stop shop will help DFYF expand its reach, providing critical social services to even more youth and families.

According to Casares, the physical space of the new Center was developed with great intentionality. The building, designed by the local architectural firm DesignGroup, will include lots of glass, large windows, and soft edges—a deliberate decision intended to convey an atmosphere that is both welcoming and open. The lobby in the Crittenton Community Center will also prominently feature a Social Justice Tree, an artistic installation that, according to DFYF’s website, “symbolizes the continued growth of a community.”

However, building the Crittenton Community Center has not been without challenges. Construction was initially scheduled to begin in October 2021 but was repeatedly delayed due in part to supply chain issues and rising costs for material and labor. The cost to demolish the old Crittenton Center and build the new Center grew by more than \$3 million over initial estimates.

As the cost grew substantially, DFYF faced tough choices in order to keep the project moving forward. Casares and his team were prepared to make the difficult decision to remove the gymnasium from the building plans.

“This community has waited long enough. We had to move forward,” said Casares. “If anything, the pandemic emphasized how much the community needs a social services center like the Crittenton Community Center.”



Renderings of the new Crittenton Community Center, courtesy of DesignGroup.

The Robert F. Wolfe and Edgar T. Wolfe Foundation, a Supporting Foundation of The Columbus Foundation, stepped in with an incredible \$2 million gift. Thanks to the generosity of the Wolfe Foundation, the Crittenton Community Center will have a gymnasium when its doors open, providing a space for recreation and connection.

“The Wolfe Foundation is pleased to support Directions for Youth & Families in the construction of their new Crittenton Community Center because of their long history of providing excellent assistance to families and helping them to connect to critical support services. This Center will offer much-needed resources for families living in challenging circumstances, including access to a brand new gymnasium,” said Katie Wolfe Lloyd, speaking on behalf of the Wolfe Foundation.

“This is going to change the lives of the youth and families we serve for generations to come.”

— DUANE CASARES, MSW, LISW-S,
CEO, DIRECTIONS FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

The Columbus Foundation also supported DFYF’s capital campaign, providing grants totaling \$110,000 toward the construction of the Crittenton Community Center, which is expected to be completed by June 2023. This support was made possible thanks to the generosity of the *Agnes Marie Trimmer Fund*, the *Alfred L. Willson Charitable Fund*, the *J. Ray and Lillian W. Waller Fund*, and the *Richard C. and Nanciann Kaufman Ninde Fund*.

Casares, who expressed deep gratitude to the Wolfe Foundation and The Columbus Foundation for their support, said that he is looking forward to welcoming the community once the doors to the new Center open.

“We have a great, giving community. The kids are so excited,” said Casares. “This is going to change the lives of the youth and families we serve for generations to come.”

2 MINUTES WITH...

Trabian Shorters



In August, The Columbus Foundation hosted local nonprofit leaders for an event featuring Trabian Shorters, a *New York Times* bestselling author and international thought leader on an award-winning cognitive framework called “Asset-Framing®.”

SHORTERS IS A RETIRED tech entrepreneur and former Vice President of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. His nonprofit social impact network, [BMe Community](#), is award-winning for innovation, impact, and storytelling and includes Black leaders and institutional allies committed to building “equity without stigma.”

The Columbus Foundation’s Matt Martin, Director, Community Research, sat down with Shorters to record a podcast during his visit. Below is an excerpt of their conversation.

For those who might not know about your approach, what is “Asset-Framing”?

Asset-Framing is based on an understanding and cognitive science about how human beings actually make decisions. At the root of it is understanding cognition and decision making. It turns out that human beings are far more narrative-driven than we’ve been giving ourselves credit for being. As long as we use fear triggers, threat triggers, or crisis triggers to engage people, we’re actually creating negative headwinds against the change that we want to make. Asset-Framing explains why that is the case and gives people a better way to make social engagement arguments.

How can the philanthropic community be more supportive of Asset-Framing, while not losing sight of systemic barriers and challenges?

Asset-Framing is about answering for yourself the question: Do you do this work because you want to solve problems? Or do you do this work because you want to fulfill people’s aspirations for themselves in life? When I ask people, “Do you exist to solve problems?” people say, “Yes, I exist to solve problems.” Then I get to the second half of the sentence: “Or do you exist to fulfill aspirations?” they’re like, “Oh yeah—actually, I exist to do that second one.” We have to solve problems along the way.

Asset-Framing is a truer way, a more consistent way of talking about why we do it. We don’t do it just to solve problems. When you really stop and think about it, we are not in the business of solving problems. Our job is to make a higher functioning society. How do we fulfill people’s greatest aspirations? How do we make the best nation that we can be? That’s what we really exist to do.

What is your advice on how to practice and build skills around Asset-Framing?

If you have some of the basic skills related to pluralism—the ability to see people’s value, to relate to people about what is valuable about them, their contribution, their worth—if you have that skill and you hone that particular skill, then you will see resources where other people do not. You’ll have relationships where other people can’t build relationships.

You always start with what makes people worthy. You always start with what makes them valuable. The people at the center of the question deserve respect. They deserve rights. They deserve the things that they’ve worked for. People think of Asset-Framing as being nice. It is not about being nice, I promise you. It is about recognizing the value of the person in front of you so that the two of you can achieve your aspirations together in a way that you wouldn’t have even considered otherwise.



To listen to the full conversation, please visit cbusfdn.org/podcast.

Sowing the Seeds for a Greener Future

Environmental grantmaking at The Columbus Foundation grows to new heights in 2022

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE URBAN FARM on the grounds of an established United Methodist Church in North Linden. Creating a sensory garden and trails that increase accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Supporting Earth Day 2023 beautification projects such as tree, seedling, and pollinator plantings. These are just a few of the diverse projects that received grants from *The Green Funds* at The Columbus Foundation in 2022.

Established in 2011 by a group of committed donors, The Green Funds seeks to support nonprofit organizations that are working to make the community smarter, healthier, cleaner, and more eco-friendly.

The idea of a dedicated fund at The Columbus Foundation for conservation efforts was first pioneered in 2001, when Conservation Committee members Ellen Tripp, Anne Powell-Riley, Irene Probasco, Ed Hutchins, Dan Prater, and Bill Wolfe established *The Conservation Fund*. The fund, with support from Sally Hoffman and Beth Crane, eventually grew into The Green Funds.

This year, The Green Funds granted a total of \$210,723 to local nonprofit organizations, the single largest grantmaking year for The Green Funds since its inception.

For Bill Habig, Chair of The Green Funds Board of Trustees, this historic year of grantmaking demonstrates the growing support of the community to promote the responsible use of our natural resources and ensure the availability of these resources for future generations.

“The growth in our grantmaking reflects the needs of local environmental nonprofits as well as our increased resources from Green Funds board members and others who support The Columbus Foundation,” said Habig. “What stands out for me is the strong dedication of our Green Funds trustees and applicants, the ever-increasing number of methods local nonprofits are using to improve our environment, and the growing number of contributions to our cause.”



Left: Franklinton Farms’ U-Pick Garden. Right (pictured l-r): Victoria Prokup, Community Research and Grants Management Administrator at The Columbus Foundation with The Green Funds Trustees Mark Real (Vice Chair), Anne Powell-Riley, Frances Beasley, Beth Crane, and Jerry Smith.

During a recent tour of Franklinton Farms, which has received several grants from The Green Funds over the years, Mark Real, Vice Chair of The Green Funds Board of Trustees, said that having a dedicated, established fund like The Green Funds is vital to protecting the community’s natural resources—especially since the region is on the cusp of major growth.

“For more than a decade, The Green Funds has supported initiatives that are looking forward,” explained Real. “What should Columbus look like in the next 50 years? How do we preserve green space? Do we have enough parks and recreation? To have a group in place that’s thinking about these issues is really important.”

As more individuals, nonprofit organizations, and businesses work together to protect the environment, promote sustainability, and respond to a changing climate, The Green Funds remains ready to support local organizations that exemplify environmental leadership in action.

“From scenic nature trails and waterways to vibrant community gardens and public parks, the central Ohio region offers a unique array of natural resources right outside our doorsteps,” said Dan Sharpe, Vice President for Community Research and Grants Management at The Columbus Foundation. “As our community continues to grow and confront the realities of climate change, The Columbus Foundation is proud to support organizations that are harnessing the power of education, community dialogue, and hands-on activities to promote environmental stewardship.”

To learn more about The Green Funds, visit cbusfdn.org/greenfunds.



This year’s holiday
Better Together program
will support the following:

2nd & 7
Columbus Humane
Community Development for All People
Gifts of Kindness Fund (The Columbus Foundation)
Girls on the Run
Green Columbus
Meals-on-Wheels (LifeCare Alliance)
ProMusica
Student Success Stores



THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, SPREAD JOY AND KINDNESS.

THE HOLIDAYS are just around the corner. This year, consider giving gifts that strengthen the community by supporting The Columbus Foundation’s holiday Better Together program. When you donate to a holiday Better Together project, you’ll receive a festive, personalized gift tag that you can share with recipients letting them know that a gift has been made in their honor.

Hosted in The Giving Store, Better Together projects are designed to lift up opportunities that positively impact individuals served by central Ohio nonprofit organizations. To maximize your gift’s impact, 100 percent of your donation will go directly to the nonprofit organization of your choice in support of the holiday Better Together project.

Your support can help make the holidays a season of hope and kindness for our neighbors.

Scan the QR code to learn more about the holiday Better Together program or visit **cbusfdn.org/holidays**.

IN THIS ISSUE:



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