

NEXUS

THE COLUMBUS
FOUNDATION

SPRING
2019



NEX·US (nĕk'səs) N., **1.** A MEANS OF CONNECTION; A LINK OR TIE. **2.** A CONNECTED SERIES OR GROUP. **3.** THE CORE OR CENTER.



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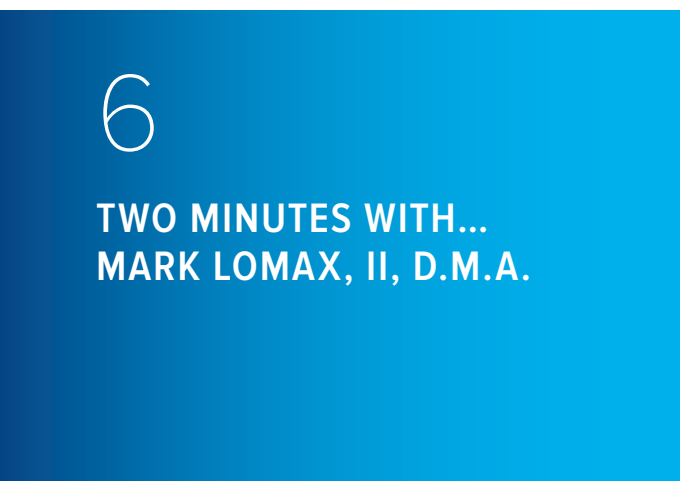
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PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE



Douglas F. Kridler
President and CEO

THE ACCOLADES AND MARKS of progress keep on coming for Columbus. Earlier this year, Columbus was named by *The New York Times* as one of the top 52 places to visit in the world in 2019.

We were one spot behind Hong Kong, and eight spaces above Tahiti!

Then, the reporter who wrote that article recently visited Columbus and wrote the following: “The capital of Ohio, one of the fastest growing cities in the United States, lives largely in the future tense.” We are so fortunate that we live in a community that has such a palpable sense of a brighter future. You only have to have lived in a community whose peak was reached decades ago to understand how valuable growth and an optimistic spirit are to a community. Part of our success is found in our collaborative spirit, and how we pursue solutions by building civic ecosystems, not ego-systems.

Another element of our growth was made evident when we were named the #1 Hottest Real Estate Market in the U.S. Number two was Boston, and number nine was San Francisco. We are on an amazing roll.

And, yet, our challenges haven’t gone away. From enrollment in early childhood education to the state of public education, from youth homelessness to the opioid crisis, we have many things to continue to work to address, improve, and solve. It is unacceptable that one’s future be so largely determined by one’s ZIP code—we can do better.

For all the specific conditions that need improvement and opportunities that need to be expanded, there is also work to be done to ensure that everyone has a chance to feel a sense of belonging, a part of the extraordinary arc of

progress that our community is on. It isn’t just a sense of community pride. It is a matter of feeling valued; it is a matter of human dignity.

That’s why we chose to celebrate the day we were founded seventy-five years ago the way we did. We decided to not make it about us, but rather about providing opportunities for others. We called the celebration The Big Explore, and, simply put, it was one of the most extraordinary community celebrations I have ever witnessed, let alone been a part of. We arranged for, and covered the cost of, free transportation on COTA, and free access to our leading museums and Franklin Park Conservatory for the day.

The result? Over 55,000 people participated, with Frederic Bertley, CEO of COSI, estimating that around 85 percent of the over 21,000 people that got to attend and experience COSI that day would otherwise not have been able to attend because of the cost of admission. I walked the lines for hours at COSI, and then at Franklin Park Conservatory, and rode the packed buses that day and talked to hundreds of families and individuals—there was such a great spirit in the air!!

My favorite reaction to The Big Explore was from a mother of a family living in a home built by Habitat for Humanity. She so appreciated the opportunity to take her children to the museums, saying, “It showed me that our community cares about us.” That was our fondest hope.

A civic leader recently described The Columbus Foundation to me as “one of our most important engines for civic progress, and our moral compass.” Those are big responsibilities to live up to; thank you for your support and encouragement as we help this community become something exceptional, for all.

 Spring 2019

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GOVERNING COMMITTEE

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Nancy Kramer
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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/spring2019nexus

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



Photos by Lynsey Pipino, unless noted.



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



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SAVE THE DATE!

The Big Table—August 28, 2019

Mark your calendars now to participate in The Columbus Foundation’s fourth Big Table event on Wednesday, August 28! We invite you to host or attend one of the hundreds of conversations that will take place around central Ohio on this day of dialogue, inspiration, and community building. Stay tuned for more details this summer at columbusfoundation.org.

A Legacy of Love

CLINTONVILLE TEEN LIVES ON BY HELPING OTHERS

IAN VAN HEYDE believed in his heart that he was going to have his own restaurant one day.

The culinary student and employee at Cameron Mitchell's Martini Modern Italian restaurant in the Short North had big dreams, and the outgoing personality, innate talent, and dedicated work ethic to make them a reality.

Ian's dream was tragically cut short in October 1998, when a traffic accident took his life during his senior year of high school.

While nothing can prepare a family to face such tremendous grief, Steve and Nan Van Heyde, in collaboration with their friends and family, worked through their loss by creating an extraordinary legacy honoring Ian—one that allows others to pursue their own culinary dreams.

The *Ian Van Heyde Memorial Culinary Scholarship Fund* was established in December 1998. The first scholarships awarded in 1999 went to two of Ian's classmates from Northeast Career Center, where he spent part of the day during his junior and senior years immersed in the culinary program. Ian had transferred from Bishop Watterson to Whetstone High School his junior year so he could participate in the program.

“People who came into contact with Ian, even when he was a small child, were permanently touched by his enthusiasm and wholesomeness.”

—STEVE AND NAN VAN HEYDE

One of Nan's favorite quotes is, “Every child is an ever fresh and radiant possibility.” That sentiment is at the heart of the couple's quest to honor their son.

“The thing we love most about Ian's fund is that every year we are exposed to kids that have the same dream,” Steve said.

Through the fund, students pursuing culinary arts at schools including Columbus State Community College, the Bradford School, Hocking College, the University of Akron and more, are able to pursue a passion Ian had from an early age. His parents recalled his constant presence in the kitchen, from the time he was a child through his adolescent years.

Even as a child, Ian wasn't content with cans



Steve and Nan Van Heyde hold a photo of their son, Ian, in their Clintonville home.

of soup or a box of macaroni and cheese. He would prepare his own tomato sauce, blending in cheeses or meats as he grew older.

“Ian was exposed from an early age to our appreciation of the fine art of cooking,” his parents wrote in a reflective narrative they put together after his death. “We were pleased, and Ian knew it, that he had decided to take our love and avocation and pursue it with vigor and determination.”

Ian's spirit is very much alive today in his parent's Clintonville home, where photos and sketches of a grinning boy greet visitors. His parents describe their son as a happy, smiling, caring young man who had a remarkable ability to connect with people of all ages.

Ian's life also lives on in the four individuals he was able to help through organ donation.

When Ian got his driver's license, he signed the form indicating he wanted to be an organ donor. This didn't surprise his parents, knowing his giving nature. Steve and Nan heard from three of the individuals who received Ian's organs following the accident, and met one recipient a year after the donation, a woman they continue to keep in contact with today.

Through his fund at the Foundation, Steve, Nan, his siblings Peter and Stephanie, and all his family and friends can see his bright light carried forward.

“The biggest thing is you do not want your child to be forgotten. The fund helps keep Ian's memory alive,” Steve said.

GOVERNING COMMITTEE PROVIDES ONGOING STEWARDSHIP

THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION is grateful to the officers and members who serve on its Governing Committee, a group of nine volunteers who provide stewardship for the Foundation and its charitable activities. Over the past seven decades, more than 40 community leaders have served as valued members.

Appointed as the newest member of the committee is Jeffrey W. Edwards, who serves as Chairman, President, and CEO of Installed Building Products as well as President of Edwards Companies. In addition, Edwards serves as a member of The Policy Advisory Board of Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies, as well as the Columbus Partnership.



Jeffrey W. Edwards

Edwards has served as Board President of the Columbus Museum of Art and is a member of its executive committee. He is a past Chair of The Salvation Army Advisory Board and continues to serve

as an Emeritus Member of its Board. He was a founding member and past chairman of the United Way of Central Ohio's Young Leadership Group, and a past member of the Brewery District Commission and the Columbus Landmarks Foundation. Edwards has served on various other architectural review commissions.

“The Columbus Foundation is a trusted partner in the central Ohio community,” said Edwards. “I look forward to working with fellow Governing Committee members and the staff to continue its mission of helping donors realize their charitable goals, and investing in the future of central Ohio.”

Retiring from the committee is C. Robert Kidder, who completed seven years of service at the end of 2018, including two years as Chairman and two years as Vice Chairman.

“Columbus and The Columbus Foundation are distinguished by the quality of leaders willing to give so generously of their resources and counsel,” said Doug Kridler, President and CEO of the Foundation. “We became one of the world's leading community philanthropies through the generosity of donors and the oversight of seasoned stewards of our community, like Jeff Edwards and Bob Kidder.”

Matthew D. Walter, Founder and Managing Partner of Talisman Capital Partners, was elected to serve his third year as Chairman of the Governing Committee. Nancy Kramer, Chief Evangelist of IBM iX, as well as the Founder of Resource/Ammirati, was also elected to serve a third term as Vice Chairman.

Governing Committee members continuing to serve in 2019 are George S. Barrett, Joseph A. Chlapaty, Michael P. Glimcher, Lisa A. Hinson, Dwight E. Smith, and Katie Wolfe Lloyd.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Collaborative Program Helps Neighborhood Efforts Shine

IN 2007, THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP GRANT (NPG) program was launched to assist neighborhood-based projects in low-and moderate-income areas in central Ohio. This innovative, collaborative concept brought together The Columbus Foundation’s Neighborhood Partnership Program Fund and United Way of Central Ohio’s (UWCO) Neighborhood Partnership Center.

For 2019, a total of \$210,000 was awarded to 72 community building programs and projects through NPG. The Columbus Foundation, UWCO, and PNC Bank all provided funding to make the 2019 grants possible.

“The Columbus Foundation supports the Neighborhood Partnership Grant program because of the profound impact that can happen in a community when neighbors come together to address mutual concerns and to celebrate their common bonds,” said Matthew Martin, Community Research and Grants Management Officer.

One of the grant recipients from 2018 was South Central Commons Block Watch, a coalition of residents in the neighborhood that surrounds Columbus South High School, located near South Parsons Avenue and Thurman Avenue.

The \$2,200 grant was awarded to assist the Bulldog Band Boosters, a group formed by the Block Watch, to provide meals to band members and support upkeep of the South High School marching band’s uniforms and instruments.

Staci McWhirter, one of three project coordinators for the Bulldog Band Boosters, said before the group was formed, many members of the



Pictured, from left, Bulldog Band Boosters project coordinators Leah Moehlman, Staci McWhirter, and John Fogg. A Neighborhood Partnership Grant provided food, repairs, and cleaning to support the South High School Marching Band.

Photo courtesy of Staci McWhirter

band and drill team did not have dinner supplied before their Friday night performances. The band director and drill team coach were paying for uniforms to be cleaned out of their own pockets. And, in addition, some band items were desperately in need of replacement, including drum sticks that, according to McWhirter, were “more tape than wood” after years of use.

“This grant was important to us because the students are a part of our community,” said McWhirter. “We can’t truly be an inclusive community if we don’t make the effort to know everyone that makes it special. There was little community presence at the school before this, and we’re excited to see the relationship continue to evolve.”

The block watch continues to grow, and serves as a way to bring the community together.

“What started as a collection of concerned citizens has grown to be an active group of friends. We are now a 501(c)(3), maintain a community garden that is free and open to any neighbor, started Bulldog Band Boosters, and schedule trash clean-up events,” McWhirter said.



CELEBRATING OUR NATIONAL NUMBER ONES

The Columbus Foundation celebrates the outstanding work of those who were named the best in the United States in the past year. The skills and dedication of these National Number Ones bring great distinction to our community.



★ OUR NATIONAL NUMBER ONES

Battelle
Trevor Petrel, PhD., Director of Advanced Technology Development
R&D100 award for ThreatSEQ™ webservice
R&D 100

Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio
Jennifer Seifert, Executive Director
Community Pharmacy Innovation in Quality Award
Pharmacy Quality Alliance

Columbus
#1 City for College Graduates
Smart Asset
(represented by Raven Jackson-Stone)

COTA
Joanna Pinkerton, President and CEO
Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award
American Public Transportation Association

Greater Columbus Sports Commission
Linda Logan, Executive Director
Sports Event of the Year
2018 NCAA Women’s Final Four
Sports Travel

Middle West Spirits
Ryan Lang, Co-founder
Gold Medal and Best in Category
OYO Double Cask Sherry-Finished Bourbon
American Distilling Institute

National Association of Women Business Owners Columbus
Christy Farnbach, Executive Director
#1 Chapter in the U.S.
National Association of Women Business Owners

National Veterans Memorial and Museum
Guy V. Worley, President and CEO, Columbus Downtown Development Corporation
First National Veterans Memorial and Museum
U.S. Government

Nationwide Children’s Hospital
Steve Allen, M.D., CEO
ABMS Multi-Specialty Portfolio Program Outstanding Achievement in Quality Improvement Award
American Board of Medical Specialties

Ohio State Center for Automotive Research
1st Place, EcoCAR 3 Advanced Vehicle Technology Competition
U.S. Department of Energy
(represented by Kerri Loyd)

Claire Rhodes, Liberty Elementary School student
Most Visionary Award
National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation

Ken Schnacke, President and General Manager, Columbus Clippers
Executive of the Year
International Baseball League

Worthington Library
Chuck Gibson, Director / CEO
#1 Ranking, 2018 Index of Public Library Service
Library Journal

Pictured, seated (l-r): Linda Logan, Columbus Foundation Governing Committee Chairman Matt Walter, Dr. Steve Allen. First row (l-r): Ken Schnacke, Joanna Pinkerton, Christy Farnbach, Claire Rhodes, Raven Jackson-Stone; Second Row (l-r): Columbus Foundation Governing Committee Member Dwight Smith, Columbus Foundation Governing Committee Member Jeffrey Edwards, Dr. Trevor Petrel, Kerri Loyd; Third Row (l-r): Chuck Gibson, Guy Worley, Ryan Lang, Jennifer Seifert

Photo by Eclipse Studios



5 Nonprofit to Watch leaders (l-r): Michael Corey, Human Service Chamber of Franklin County; Lisa Chambers, TECH CORPS; Janet Chen, ProMusica; Gina Ginn, Ph.D., Columbus Early Learning Centers; Oyauma Garrison, A Kid Again.

Photo by UA Creative Studios

Columbus Foundation Announces 5 Nonprofits to Watch in 2019

On March 19, The Columbus Foundation announced the five organizations selected for 2019: **A Kid Again, Columbus Early Learning Centers, Human Service Chamber, ProMusica, and TECH CORPS.**

“The extraordinary work of these nonprofits promises to move our community forward,” said Doug Kridler, President and CEO of the Foundation. “Collectively, these five organizations are tackling challenges and creating hope for a bright future where all in our community flourish.”

5 Nonprofits to Watch debuted in 2014 as an annual program of the Foundation, and honors remarkable nonprofit organizations working to strengthen and improve our community. Each 2019 recipient organization received a \$7,500 grant in honor of their good work and the Foundation’s 75th anniversary.

More about this year’s honorees:

A Kid Again

A Kid Again hosts year-round adventures to support children struggling with life-threatening health conditions, providing memories for the kids and their families that will last a lifetime. Last year, A Kid Again served more than 12,000 people in central Ohio, and, since its founding more than 20 years ago, has served over 200,000. A Kid Again is currently in expansion mode, with plans to strengthen family services and increase connections among those living with life-threatening illness locally and regionally. The regional expansion will bring new opportunities for industry partnerships, engagement with other illness specialties at hospitals, and, most importantly, the opportunity to serve more children.

Columbus Early Learning Centers

For more than 130 years, Columbus Early Learning Centers (CELC) has been providing early learning and care to Columbus children. A tradition of affordable access to high-quality early childhood education has strengthened the lives of thousands of children, families, and the communities in which they live. Half of the pupils come from families that make \$20,000 or less annually, and 75 percent are living at or below 200 percent of the poverty level. Currently, four centers are operating between the Near East Side and Linden. A fifth center is under construction in Franklinton to restore CELC’s presence in that neighborhood, after being absent since 2012. The new center will create the capacity to care for sick children, which is important in ensuring

that low-income workers need not decide between earning money for their family and caring for their sick child.

Human Service Chamber of Franklin County

A backbone of our community, the human services sector is integral to the survival of many of our neighbors. The Human Service Chamber of Franklin County (HSC) brings a coordinated and energized voice to its 70 members through its core functions of public policy advocacy, driving of collaboration, and education of its agencies and of the community at large. Influencing and tracking local, state, and federal laws and regulations of interest to members is a top priority, and HSC will continue to respond with vigilance as organizations feel budgetary pressure from government and increased community needs. In recent years, HSC has demonstrated extraordinary organizational value and increased its membership, resulting in a stronger, more unified sector.

ProMusica

Celebrating 40 years of creative expression, the mission of ProMusica is to deliver a world-class and unique classical music experience through innovative chamber orchestra programming, educational outreach, audience intimacy, and artistic excellence. The organization kicked off its anniversary season with the world premiere of *The Flood*, which *The Wall Street Journal* lauded as “a remarkably sophisticated piece of storytelling.” Widely recognized as a national leader in presenting new and contemporary repertoire, ProMusica has commissioned 67 pieces and has presented more than 110 world and regional premieres. With a strong commitment to learning and education, ProMusica’s community outreach programs touch 16,800 lives each season.

TECH CORPS

For more than two decades, TECH CORPS has worked to ensure K-12 students have equitable access to the technology skills, programs, and resources that enhance early learning and prepare them for college and career. TECH CORPS brings additional technology opportunities to K-12 students and teachers through partnerships with educational institutions, businesses, the government sector, and the community. One such partnership is the IT Collective, a collaborative, cross-sector group working to develop a comprehensive and inclusive strategy to connect Columbus residents, particularly underrepresented groups including Opportunity Youth, to current and future technology career opportunities. These strategic partnerships will continue to increase the impact of TECH CORPS in central Ohio as the organization grows nationally, creating additional pathways from elementary school to technology careers.



Photo courtesy of Mark Lomax

2 MINUTES WITH...

Mark Lomax, II, D.M.A.

Mark Lomax, II, D.M.A., is a man of many talents. In addition to being a valued member of The Columbus Foundation’s Community Research and Grants Management team, where he focuses on ways to engage and lift up at-risk youth in our community, Mark is an award-winning composer, acclaimed recording artist, and renowned jazz drummer. We sat down with Mark to see how his worlds intersect, and to find out more about his recent album release.

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In January, you released *400: An Afrikan Epic*, a 12-album cycle that represents the history of Black America. How did you come up with this idea, and why do you feel it’s an important story to tell through music?

Interestingly, I had just started working at the Foundation and was feeling overwhelmed as a result of having to learn a new organization, a new job, and new people. I felt I hadn’t been as active as an artist as I would have liked, so I took some time to meditate in my studio. The number 400 entered my consciousness and suddenly, my whole being was resonating at the implication of having realized that 2019 marked the 400th commemoration of the first Afrikans being brought to the “new world” as enslaved human beings. This inspired me to sketch what eventually became the 12-album cycle.

I believe this is an important story first, because it is an epic story of the human spirit’s ability to thrive through the worst atrocity in the history of humankind. Throughout history, people have exerted force to deny the humanity of other people. But never before had there been the type of chattel slavery practiced by Europeans against Afrikans in what came to be known as America. Secondly, it goes without saying that this story is not only the story of Black America, it is the story of America, and we cannot collectively move forward toward healing until we decide to face this country’s past together. Finally, it is important because the effects of this tragic history undergird many of the social ills we experience today. Knowing and accepting the past informs who we are today and helps us shape the future.

You have worked with at-risk youth in central Ohio for many years, first with Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus and now leading Foundation efforts with Opportunity Youth, young adults age 16–25 who are not in school, college bound, or working. Why is this population a critical one, and why is helping them important to you?

Frederick Douglass said, “It is easier to build strong children than it is to repair broken [wo]men.” I think it is important for a community to do the work of nurturing, strengthening, and building the capacity of each individual as part of that community. This is what most excites me about working at a community foundation. I get to work with people who are concerned with making sure our community is the best it can be. Our Opportunity Youth work is focused on ensuring that you enter adulthood prepared to pursue opportunities to live well. When our young people have a solid foundation, they can flourish in adulthood and help our community continue to thrive.

When did you start playing the drums? Composing?

I started playing drums at 2! While I played around with ideas earlier, I didn’t start composing music that I was comfortable performing until high school.

What’s next for you?

I’m working on a symphony and chamber piece that will be finished up this summer. Then I’m going to take a break before starting on an oratorio about the “nadir,” a word we use for reconstruction.

Foundation Welcomes VP of Information Technology

GREGG OOSTERBAAN joined The Columbus Foundation as Vice President of Information Technology in February. He is responsible for driving the strategic technology direction of the Foundation, as well as developing and supporting the Foundation’s portfolio of enterprise business applications and core infrastructure services, including the Foundation’s dynamic online giving marketplace, The Giving Store.

“Those who are around me long enough will hear me use the phrase ‘technology enables purpose’,” Oosterbaan said. “In short, if you find a purpose you truly believe in, and apply technology as an enabler, it becomes



a very powerful combination. The Columbus Foundation has such an impactful history of helping donors strengthen and improve our central Ohio community, that the opportunity to be a part of that purpose and to leverage new innovations in technology to enhance it is something I really look forward to.”

Oosterbaan’s technology roots run deep. His father was a computer engineer, which he admits had a strong early influence on him.

“The time period I grew up in had so many pioneering developments in technology that it was hard not to be involved in it from a young age,” he said. “The advent of the Internet was what really hooked me, and now when my kids spend too much time online, I like to remind them that we are the ones who built the foundation of it. And what Dad giveth, Dad can still taketh away!”

In his previous role, Oosterbaan served as Vice President of Technology for the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Franklin University, is a member of the Columbus CIO Forum, and serves as a technology advisor to the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

Grant Will Connect Near East Side Seniors with Neighbors and Community Resources

THE ISABELLE RIDGWAY FOUNDATION, a Supporting Foundation of The Columbus Foundation, was established in 2017 with the purpose of promoting the health, wellbeing, independence, and dignity of African American seniors in our community, an effort Ms. Ridgway herself championed for decades during her lifetime.



In February, the foundation announced its first grant, awarding \$79,000 to support the creation of a new Village Coordinator position that will act as a connection point

that bridges the needs of seniors on the Near East Side. Central Community House was the recipient and has developed the position.

“The Board is proud to support this bold step in serving our community’s seniors, and in doing so, we honor the legacy of Ms. Isabelle Ridgway, who believed in a world where we treat our elders with dignity, respect, and compassion,” said Patricia Mullins, Board Member of the Isabelle Ridgway Foundation.

As the population of residents in central Ohio aged 65 and over is expected to double over the next 35 years (Age Friendly Columbus Survey Report, 2017), it will become increasingly important to meet the specific challenges of an aging population in ways that improve the quality of their lives and maintain their dignity.

“What makes this grant so unique is the flexible and innovative nature of the Village Model, which allows us to build upon the assets and needs of the primarily African American senior population that lives on the Near East Side,” said Tammy Forrest, Ph.D., Executive Director of Central Community House. “The newly created position will enhance our capacity, allowing us to get out of our building more and into the neighborhood, creating volunteer networks, and building upon the foundation that we already have.”

There are currently several community-based village systems operating in Franklin County. However, none serve the two neighborhoods where the highest concentration of African American seniors resides: Linden and the Near East Side. This grant is a terrific first step in expanding the model to address the needs of this population.

The Columbus Foundation Celebrates 75th Anniversary with Gift to the Community

ATTENDANCE RECORDS BROKEN ON HISTORIC DAY OF CELEBRATION!



Photo by Rick Buchanan Photography

Tens of thousands of central Ohioans hit the streets to check out some of our city’s extraordinary cultural attractions on December 29 as part of a city-wide jubilee to celebrate The Columbus Foundation’s 75th birthday.

THE BIG EXPLORE, the Foundation’s “thank you” to the community for its support during the past seven decades, offered free COTA rides and free admission to seven of the area’s most prominent cultural attractions: Columbus Museum of Art, COSI, Franklin Park Conservatory, National Veterans Memorial and Museum, Ohio History Connection, the Pizzuti Collection, and Wexner Center for the Arts.

In total, 55,867 people attended one or more of the attractions, and more than 45,500 people rode COTA that day, a 78 percent increase over that same day last year, according to Jeff Pullin, Public Information Officer for COTA. Attendance records were broken at COSI, Franklin Park Conservatory, National Veterans Memorial and Museum, and the Pizzuti Collection.

Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams offered \$.75 scoops of ice cream in all their Columbus shops that day and served an incredible 9,578 scoops! Frederic Bertley, President and CEO of COSI, as well as John Lowe, CEO of Jeni’s, both announced that their organizations would donate back \$20,000 of their proceeds from the day to the Foundation’s *Gifts of Kindness Fund*, which provides one-time grants to help community members experiencing an emergency hardship.

The celebration came full circle this spring when Experience Columbus named The Big Explore as a winner of one of its annual EXPY Awards. The awards “recognize outstanding contributions by businesses, groups, organizations, or individuals to the local hospitality industry and the Greater Columbus visitor experience in 2018.”



Photo by Rick Buchanan Photography

“The historic and inspiring level of community participation in The Big Explore is a testament to the spirit of Columbus. Without a doubt, this event showcased what makes our city so special: its open and engaged people.”

—DOUG KRIDLER, President and CEO, The Columbus Foundation

FOUNDATION SNAPSHOTS



SWEET TREATS
The Columbus Foundation was excited to again be part of *Columbus Underground’s* annual **Sweet Treats** event. Not only did we get to sample some of Columbus’ very best desserts, but we also collected notes of kindness to share with individuals at Lutheran Social Services’ new CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence shelter. In addition, a portion of ticket sales from the event went to the Foundation’s *Gifts of Kindness Fund*.

THE FOUNDATION CELEBRATES COLUMBUS’ TRUE ORIGINALS



Photo by Rick Buchanan Photography

In January, community members were recognized during the launch of a new event at The Columbus Foundation. **Columbus’ True Originals** celebrates those in our city who expand the horizons of Columbus through groundbreaking, original work. A second award, the Columbus True Original Legacy Award, was presented to Sherri Geldin for her 25 years of leadership at the helm of the Wexner Center for the Arts. Honorees included: Jeni Britton Bauer, founder, Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams; David Brown, founder, Harmony Project; poet Barbara Fant; Opera Columbus and ProMusica’s World Premiere production, *The Flood*; author Wil Haygood; Dr. Mark Lomax II, composer of world premiere, 12-CD work, “400: An Afrikan Epic”; and community members behind the Save the Crew effort.

HARMONY PROJECT PRESENTS ITS BIGGEST CONCERT EVER!



Photo by Rick Buchanan Photography

Harmony Project’s Concert for US 2018, **Sing Out/March On**, was held in December at Nationwide Arena. The concert featured an ensemble cast of more than 1,000 people, including all those engaged in weekly Harmony Project programs, a 40-piece band and orchestra, and guest performing artists including Columbus Children’s Choir, Momentum, Izetta Nicole, and Joshua Brian Campbell. The event, attended by approximately 7,000 people, was made possible through the support of Kind Columbus, the Columbus Performing Arts Prize, The Columbus Foundation, and the *Robert J. Weiler Family Fund* of The Columbus Foundation.

THE FLOOD WOWS AUDIENCES



The Wall Street Journal gave a rave review of **The Flood** by Opera Columbus and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, calling it “a remarkably sophisticated piece of storytelling.” The opera, which made its world debut in February at the Southern Theatre, is about the Ohio Flood of 1913 and its lasting effects—the legacy of trauma and how it is passed down through generations. A \$150,000 Columbus Performing Arts Prize helped commission the piece. The Columbus Performing Arts Prize was created by George Barrett and Doug Kridler, and is supported by a group of Columbus Foundation donors through the *Arts Innovation Fund* at The Columbus Foundation.



IN THIS ISSUE:



NEXUS



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SPIRIT OF COLUMBUS AWARD HONORS THE GRIT AND DETERMINATION OF THOSE WHO HELPED SAVE THE CREW!

The *Spirit of Columbus Award*, affectionately known as The Jerries®, was established in 2013 to honor aviatrix Jerrie Mock, a visionary who ignored the doubts of others and blazed into history as the first woman to fly solo around the world.

That same undeniable spirit was evident in the recent collaborative effort to keep the **Columbus Crew SC** in Columbus. Since playing its first game in 1996, the Crew has become an important thread in the fabric of our city. Though many believed a move to Austin was inevitable, thanks to the Herculean efforts of many people throughout our city and beyond, and a dogged determination and refusal to back down, 2019 dawned with an announcement that the team would remain in Columbus.

We honor these individuals who helped with the effort to save the Crew, as well as countless others who truly display the Spirit of Columbus.

“The bold action and iron will of those who worked so impressively together to save the Crew is a shining example of the spirit that moves Columbus forward.”

—**DOUG KRIDLER**
President and CEO,
The Columbus Foundation



“This moment and this award are an opportunity to celebrate all that we’ve accomplished together. It was a massive effort and a significant achievement for Columbus that will pay dividends for a long time to come.”

—**DR. PETE EDWARDS, JR.**
new co-owner of the Columbus Crew SC

Members of the Save the Crew movement, honored as the 2019 Spirit of Columbus Award recipient, joined by previous award winners and members of the Columbus Foundation Governing Committee.

Photo by Rick Buchanan Photography