

Future Heights NEWS

FutureHeights is dedicated to preserving and strengthening neighborhoods and commercial districts in Cleveland Heights. We advocate citizen participation in planning and development.

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Consultant Gina Cheverine conducts a strategic planning workshop

FutureHeights plans its future

Many of you recall the birth of FutureHeights in 2000 as a grassroots group of concerned citizens who came together around the fate of the historic Cedar-Fairmount commercial district. Others know us as a citizen-based professional organization working to connect people to their community through volunteerism, education, and support of the local economy.

If we've done our job correctly, you have a greater understanding of how locally-owned businesses support the community in important ways; why well planned neighborhoods contribute to Cleveland Heights' quality of life; and how citizen participation in identifying and confronting community challenges is crucial to maintaining strong neighborhoods. We hope you have a greater appreciation for the "power of place" and how it affects all aspects of life in Cleveland Heights.

FutureHeights is nearing the end of its organizational infancy. We know that our work will only become more complicated over the coming years, and we must be prepared to become a stronger organization if we are to meet the challenges ahead. To this end, through generous funding from The Katherine and Lee Chilcote Foundation and The

George Gund Foundation, we recently engaged an outside consultant to help us focus our mission and programs so that we can be most effective going forward.

We employed the Appreciative Inquiry process, which identifies and builds upon organizational strengths toward positive change and involves an active examination of stakeholder opinions. In January, the board and staff interviewed and collected input from over 80 people: FutureHeights members, foundation and corporate funders, local policy makers, business owners, and interested residents. This information has become an invaluable part of our strategic planning process and the results of the planning will be available soon. We are very grateful to those of you who participated.

This is an exciting time for FutureHeights and we look forward to meeting the challenges ahead with the members and local partners who have been so crucial to the success of the organization.

I thank you for your support in 2006 and value your continued involvement as FutureHeights works to improve the quality of life in our community.

Sarah Wean, President

Making Sense of Place



Cleveland: Confronting Decline in an American City

You are invited

FutureHeights 2007 Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 12th, 5:30 p.m.

The Cedar-Lee Theatre

2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights

Special viewing of the new documentary *Cleveland: Confronting Decline in an American City*, the second film in the series *Making Sense of Place* produced by Northern Light Productions in collaboration with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. *Cleveland: Confronting Decline in an American City* traces the urban decay, and efforts at revitalization, in what was once America's 5th largest city. For more information about the film, visit www.makingsenseofplace.org/cleveland/. Movie is free and open to the public.

Reception to follow at Studio You, 2180 Lee Road. Reception free to FH members/\$20 nonmembers (includes one year membership). Stop by and chat with the FutureHeights board and meet the newly elected officers for 2007. Seating limited. RSVP required for movie and reception. For information or to RSVP: (216) 320-1423 or info@futureheights.org. Online signup at www.futureheights.org

From the Executive Director

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Northeastern Ohio*

Michael Wellman
*Architect, Richard Bowen
and Associates*

Executive Director

Julie V. Langan

Administrative Assistant

Jane Flaherty

The adage “time sure flies when you are having fun” aptly sums up 2006, my fourth year as director of FutureHeights. Where does the time go? With a staff of only 1.5, every day this past year was busy at the FutureHeights office. In keeping with our mission, we focused on programming aimed at encouraging community engagement, supporting our commercial districts and the exchange of information. We also surveyed our members about what they liked and disliked about our programming, converted to a new and wonderful database, welcomed Jane Flaherty as our part-time administrative assistant and designed and fundraised for a strategic planning process to guide us through 2007 and beyond.

Certain moments in 2006 stand out. Surely one was the Annual Meeting in March when we hosted filmmakers Heather Hughes and Hanson Hosien and screened *Independent America: The Two Lane Search for Mom & Pop*. In May, in celebration of National Historic Preservation Month, we joined forces with the Cleveland Heights Historical Society and the Landmarks Commission of the City of Cleveland Height to co-sponsor a series of preservation lectures. When a pivotal piece of property became vacant in Coventry, FutureHeights used the power of our website to gather community input regarding what residents would like to see occupy the former Medic Drug space. The many comments received were forwarded to the property owner. This fall, FutureHeights hosted Mayor Kelley’s State of the City address for the first time. In October 2 Annual

Best of Cleveland Heights Awards drew a capacity crowd to Nighttown to cheer on the winners. Not wanting the fifth anniversary of the Civic Vision plan to go unnoticed, we hosted a retrospective forum that reengaged the community in this important community undertaking. Our last event of the year focused on the important relationship between Cleveland Heights and University Circle, when we hosted a dynamic presentation by Chris Ronayne, the President of University Circle Inc. No wonder the year flew by!

The year 2007 promises an exciting lineup of programs and events aimed at informing and engaging the residents of Cleveland Heights. Please mark your calendar for the first two—our annual meeting on April 12, and a lecture by Cynthia Nikitin of Projects for Public Spaces in New York, co-sponsored by the Cleveland Chapter of the Ohio Planning Conference, on May 23. We will, of course, continue using our website and e-newsletters to keep residents informed of community news and upcoming FutureHeights programs. I look forward to seeing you at our events and hearing from you throughout the year regarding your interests and issues of concern.

Finally, our successes and accomplishments of the past year wouldn’t have been possible were it not for the generous support we receive from the community. Whether you donated financially, or gave the gift of volunteer hours, please know that both were appreciated and integral to our success.

Julie Langan, Executive Director

Program Highlights

Advocacy and Education:

Community planning, the local economy and historic preservation were primary focuses over the past year. In addition to being addressed in our quarterly publication *FutureHeights News* and through the monthly electronic *eNews*, event programming also highlighted these topics.

During the month of May, a preservation lecture series was inaugurated to correspond with National Historic Preservation Month. As has been tradition over the past couple of years, FutureHeights hosted members on a members-only walking tour in June. This event introduced attendees to the history of



Seitz-Agin Hardware owner cleans up at Best of Cleveland Heights Awards

the Mayfield Heights neighborhood and provided an opportunity to tour several homes before concluding at a reception hosted by the owners of the Preyer House.

In the fall, FutureHeights sponsored the Mayor Kelley's State of the City Address, a public forum entitled Civic Vision Revisited, as well as a talk by UCI President Chris Ronayne regarding the relationship between Cleveland Heights and University Circle.

HeightsShops: FutureHeights continued to champion the importance of local independent businesses to our local economy. Our annual meeting in March was devoted to this topic and included a showing of the documentary *Independent America: The Two Lane Search for Mom & Pop*, which included footage of the filmmakers visit to Cleveland Heights. A second showing of the film was held in conjunction with Cleveland Originals.

The FutureHeights gift certificate program grew in popularity, with more participating merchants and a huge increase in gift certificate sales. 90 businesses, all of which are independently owned, accept the certificates. FutureHeights continues to offer this program at no charge to merchants and those purchasing the certificates.

The second Annual Best of Cleveland Heights awards attracted hundreds of voters who selected their favorite businesses in nineteen categories. The awards ceremony in October was held at Nighttown and drew a standing-room only crowd. The overall big winner in the Favorite Business category was Seitz-Agin Hardware, which won for the second year.

Clean and Green: Our primary focus for spring and fall cleanups was Cedar Hill, the city's most prominent entryway, seen by thousands each day as they commute to and from downtown. FutureHeights thanks University School for lending a hand in the spring, both at Cedar Hill and Cain Park. FutureHeights members responded to our call for help in the fall. Our efforts were coordinated with Andre Spencer of the Public Works Department of the City of Cleveland Heights who ensured that the city followed up on our work by hauling away debris in a timely fashion. Thanks to the great work of the Public Works Department, FutureHeights volunteers were not needed at the city-owned lot at the corner of Euclid Heights and Derbyshire or the mini park on Lee Road.

Preyer House tour



Community Outreach: FutureHeights realized significant growth in community support during 2006. Not only did we gain new members, but our members increased their financial support. Our continued sustainability depends on increased revenues from community donations. In addition to membership dues and annual fund contributions, many significant donations were made as in-kind gifts to the 2006 Online auction which raised \$17,000 for FutureHeights operations and programs. Not only did the auction raise much-needed funds, it served as a showcase of businesses in the community.

During a recent survey of members, many stated that one of the most important benefits of membership is the information they receive from FutureHeights regarding community news. Towards that end, FutureHeights continued to place an emphasis on serving as a source of information within the community, using our website, electronic eNews and our quarterly newsletter as our primary vehicles.

During 2006, FutureHeights supported the efforts of the Heights Nonprofit Network, Friends of Cedar Fairmount, Cedar Lee Special Improvement District, Noble Nela Merchants Association, Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District, and Mayfield & Lee merchant group. FutureHeights is proud that we were present at every summer festival and street fair hosted by the city's various district organizations.



FutureHeights is dedicated to preserving and strengthening neighborhoods and commercial districts in Cleveland Heights. We advocate citizen participation in planning and development.

- To advocate community improvement through attention to both historic preservation and excellence in new design
- To support local, independently owned businesses and our neighborhood commercial districts
- To promote an ongoing process for citizen input in creating community vision

Your tax-deductible membership contribution goes directly to supporting the community-based programs and projects of FutureHeights that help strengthen our wonderful neighborhoods. Join online today with a credit or debit card at www.futureheights.org or by calling 216-320-1423. Thank you!

Unaudited condensed statement of activities

Grants	\$ 67,154
Memberships	20,496
Annual Fund	5,227
Interest Income	1,532
Product Sales	906
On-line Auction	18,052
Miscellaneous	11,100
Total Revenue and Support	124,467

Programs	72,031
General and Administration	42,772
Fundraising	12,965
Total Expenses	127,768

Please visit [GuideStar.org](https://www.guidestar.org) to view the organization's Annual Form 990 and other organizational information.



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