NEWSLETTER

Another Completed Project
PUBLIC ART PROJECT IN THE UNION MILES AREA
HONORING BLACK HISTORICAL FIGURES IS COMPLETE

E131 at Miles SB
Former US President Barack Obama
Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The month of December for most of us is filled with events. It’s a time for the family gatherings and preparing for the holidays. As we bring the year to a close, we wanted to highlight some of this year’s events and the people who made it possible. As I reviewed our current newsletter, I am extremely proud of what has been achieved in 2023. It has been a very busy, but productive year. However, it is not our accomplishment alone. I want to personally thank our board, staff, funders, volunteers, partners, and other community stakeholders. Your support is truly appreciated. Although the 2023 year is ending soon, our efforts don’t stop. We are working hard and excited about the upcoming projects and events scheduled for 2024 and look forward to working with you all in moving the communities forward in Union Miles and Mt. Pleasant.

Until then I want to wish everyone a very happy and safe Holiday Season.

R. Sample
Roshawn Sample
Executive Director

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE ADDITION OF 9 NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Mayor Annette Blackwell
19th Mayor
City of Maple Heights

Ms. Clarissa Foster
Managing Member
National Paralegal Services, LLC

Mr. Donald Jolly, II
Superintendent
Warrenville Heights City School District

Mr. Kyle Jones
President
KBJ, Incorporated

Mary Norris-Pack
Community Engagement Manager
Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging

Lydia Pope
32nd President
National Assn. of Realtors

Gregory Reaves
Alumni Network Coordinator
Towards Employment

Brenda Tufts
Senior Executive Field Specialist
USPS

Tyniece Wingfield
Care Coordinator
Ohio Guadestone
Today, it seems as though littering should be a problem of the past. Unfortunately, it is still a huge problem for the world. People litter for many reasons; for example, because they don’t feel responsible for taking care of the environment, because they believe someone else will take care of the litter, or because there is already so much litter in an area that they don’t think one more piece will make much difference. The best way you can discourage people from littering is by setting a good example. Don’t throw your litter on the ground, pick up litter you see and dispose of it in the trash when you see it. Litter that is thrown on the ground may not seem like much, but that litter is usually blown around until it ends up in a stream, river, or the ocean. In addition, litter can harm or even kill many animals who might ingest or get caught in litter. We want to remind people that even if they don’t see what goes on, litter that is thrown on the ground will, at some point, become the problem of another human or animal. The concern of litter and dumping is City wide, not just within UMDC footprint.

UMDC has clean-ups each year, participants included other grass root organizations, youth, seniors, and other stakeholders. However, we wanted to implement program all summer to include youth to assist with making visible impactful change by helping to remove litter that is a constant in this neighborhood. Getting the youth involved allowed them to participate in the change of a clean environment and see the importance of community involvement. In addition, youth were educated on litter prevention and revitalizing the neighborhood at the same time.

The southeast side of Cleveland is comprised mostly of the Union-Miles and Mt. Pleasant Neighborhoods. Each neighborhood which shares a similar demographic makeup: Union-Miles has a total population of 16,540 individuals (95.6% Black/African American), in which 3 in 5 residents live at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Mt. Pleasant neighborhood has a total population of 15,059 (95.3% Black/African American) which 3 in 5 residents, live at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (City of Cleveland Neighborhood Fact Sheets, Sept. 2021). Each neighborhood once considered to be the mecca for middle-class black families, have suffered the impact of decades of gross disinvestment due to racially discriminative practices such as “red lining”.

**Union Miles Area Youth Leaders Working on Keeping Their Streets Clean**

The best way to discourage people from littering is by setting a good example. Everyone deserves a clean place to work, live and play.

To Volunteer for Community Clean-ups Call 216.341.0757

UMDC COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER / WINTER 2023
Business

This year we are very excited about the many programs and events held for our areas small businesses located on the southeast side.

Southeast Side Business Owners Have a Conversation With Mayor Justin Bibb
In June of this year, “A Conversation with the Mayor”, was held at Killingsworth Meeting Place located in the Miles Plaza. The Cleveland City Mayor Justin Bibb engaged with southeast side business owners in a round table to discuss plans for the SES area and to hear from business owners.

A special thank you to Cleveland City Mayor Justin M. Bibb!

Future Business Leaders Attend The UMDC Youth Financial Literacy and Marketplace
A special event entitled Young Entrepreneur Financial Literacy and Marketplace was held for young business owners 13-21 years of age. These young budding business owners learned the basics of running a business. Engaged with a panel of young successful business owners and ended the day by implementing what they learned by participating in the youth marketplace where they sold their products and services to the public.

Fall Family Fun
Great Costumes, Candy and FUN at the UMDC Trunk or Treat

Thank you to all our partners for candy donations!!!
UMDC offers older area residents many opportunities to stay socially engaged and independent. Programs can play a key role in improving emotional, intellectual, physical wellness and overall health as a person grows older.

For everyone, being socially involved and active gives one a sense of belonging and provides health benefits. Staying socially active is especially important for older adults who can sometimes become lonely and isolated. One-way seniors can stay socially engaged is through technology.

According to Pew Research, nearly 60% of American seniors 65+ are now online, a number that is increasing rapidly each year. The benefits of seniors having access to the Internet and technology are many; it can provide access to news and current events, allows those who are not mobile to stay in touch with other seniors and family, research the latest information on medical conditions, search for healthy recipes and they can also play brain-stimulating fun games!

In recent years studies have shown that Cleveland has the highest percentage of households without internet access which directly affects families and seniors in our service area. More and more seniors are ready and willing to jump into the technology movement. Some find themselves intimidated or frustrated by technology but eager to learn.

This summer UMDC hosted Intro to Technology Classes for Seniors, an innovative way to meet the area seniors’ aspirations to get connected and learn about technology. As the city moves forward with initiatives to close the digital gap, we must keep in mind the aging population within our area.
Another Completed Project
The Union Miles Area Honors 7 Black Historical Figures

The Union Miles Development Corporation has completed six bus shelters honoring seven historic black leaders with a “Black Lives Matter” theme. The purpose of this project is to give the Union Miles residents, stakeholders and community leaders a sense of belonging and validation through art in the neighborhood. Thank you to the National Endowment of Arts for their support and “Mr Soul” for his creativity.

Black History Leaders List and Location

MLK at Avon NB - Stephanie Tubbs Jones

Miles at E. 131 WB - Fred Hampton

E131 at Miles SB - Barack Obama

E 131 at Harvard NB - Harriet Tubman

E 131 at Glendale NB - Carl and Louis Stokes

E 131 at Harvard SB - Malcolm X

Walt Collins Veteran Housing
Breaking Ground In 2024

UMDC is excited to begin work on the Walt Collins Veteran Housing project, this new construction project will utilize the vacant land on Harvard Avenue, east of East 93rd Street. The facility will provide affordable housing options for male and female veterans, providing a solution to many that have housing needs in Southeast Cleveland. Rid-All Green Partnership will engage the veterans through interactive programming onsite, promoting healthy living and providing actionable stability for our veterans.
UMDC Has Expanded it’s Service Area Footprint

The Union Miles Development Corporation (UMDC) is expanding its footprint to include both the Union Miles and Mt. Pleasant neighborhoods. With this exciting change comes the opportunity to establish a new branding identity for UMDC. Each neighborhood is unique; however, this step forward will create a larger engaged community that has more voices to advocate and progress toward a vibrant future, ultimately “Better Together.”

Our new branding identity starts with the people in the community. Which is why we invited and encouraged residents to participate in 3 Creative Community Branding Sessions entitled “Think outside the box” positive vibe workshops to hear their creative ideas. The in-person sessions were dynamic and fun. However, there were multiple ways in which the community could participate in this process: 1) attending in-person meetings, 2) completing an online survey, or 3) visiting the Union Miles or Mt Pleasant location to fill out a survey.

Our goal is to produce a brand identity and messaging that the residents find relatable and reflective of their experience. We hoped that residents of both neighborhoods would seize the opportunity to participate in developing a new brand that will serve as a north star for the Union Miles and Mt. Pleasant neighborhood CDC. And we are so excited about the percentage of participation.

A Day of Giving
Thank you to all our partners that made our Turkey Giveaway possible!!
UNIONMILES


Newsletter Winter 2023

NOTE: MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS DATES MAY CHANGE DUE TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON CALL 216.341.0757 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

WARD MEETING - Last Tuesday of Each Month
Killingsworth Meeting Place, 4127 EAST 131ST, CLEVE. OH 44105

4th DISTRICT SAFETY MEETING
The 4th Wednesday of Each Month
3342 East 119th Street

UMDC Team

Main Office - Location 4127 East 131st, Suite 100 Cleveland OH 44105
Roshawn Sample, Executive Director
Artrace Smith-Lane, Managing Director
Donald Woodruff, Housing & Development Director
Laurice Kennedy-Brown, Community Engagement Director
Charone Gray, Workforce Officer
Chenoa Valpando, Office Manager
Mary Liggins, Office Assistant
Jameesha Alexander, Neighborhood Sustainability Officer
Joe Jones, Maintenance

Union Miles Neighborhood Office - Location 4127 East 131st, Suite 100 Cleveland OH 44105
David Parker, Healthy Homes Specialist
Jahaad Fruits, Community Engagement Specialist
Jayson Grant, Business Development Officer

Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Office - Location Murtis Taylor Building 13402 Kinsman Rd, Cleveland, OH 44120
Michael Eppich, Healthy Homes, Specialist
Melvin Jones, Housing Coordinator
Dalonzo Curges, Community Engagement Specialist
Desmond Stanley, Business Development Officer