

Cleveland
Neighborhood
Progress



investing for vibrancy

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:30 PM

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress Celebrates Vibrant City Award Winners;
*The Late Judge Raymond L. Pianka Honored With
Morton L. Mandel Leadership in Community Development Award*

CLEVELAND, May 24, 2017 — Today, Cleveland’s thriving community development industry celebrated the creation of an innovative promotional campaign in Old Brooklyn, a community driven neighborhood funding initiative in Collinwood, a healthy living program on the near west side, a socially conscious bridge painting in the Campus District and transformative efforts by local developers and civic champions.

It all happened at the third annual Vibrant City Awards Lunch, where over 500 city leaders, stakeholders and community development professionals gathered to celebrate leading neighborhood revitalization efforts. The event was hosted by Cleveland Neighborhood Progress and presented by KeyBank. Guests gathered at Cleveland’s Edgewater Park to enjoy a food truck lunch coordinated by Chef Chris Hodgson of Driftwood Catering and to honor the 18 award finalists and eight Vibrant City Award recipients.

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress president Joel Ratner offered enthusiastic praise for all of the vital partnerships and collaborative efforts from those in attendance that have allowed the city to take important strides forward. “Cleveland’s neighborhoods would not be where they are today without the vision, passion and dedication displayed by the partners joining us here at the Vibrant City Awards Lunch” stated Ratner. “We are proud to honor the leading efforts in community development that are attracting new residents to our city and creating stronger neighborhoods for those who choose to call Cleveland home.”

Debbie Berry, Metroparks Commissioner, welcomed the guests and kicked off the event.

Cleveland Public Library received the Vibrant City Impact Award for being an invested neighborhood institution that is contributing to the lives of Clevelanders every day through its services and programs.

The emotional highlight of the event happened when the late Judge Raymond L. Pianka was named as the recipient of the 2017 Morton L. Mandel Leadership in Community Development Award. Pianka, who was the founding director of Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, a former city councilman and most recently the Housing Court Judge, passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. His daughter, Kirsten Pianka, accepted the award on his behalf.

Jeff Kipp, Director of Neighborhood Marketing for Cleveland Neighborhood Progress and the coordinator of the Vibrant City Awards Lunch, noted the importance of highlighting these efforts taking place across the city. "Important activities and programs that strengthen these urban neighborhoods are happening every day in the city of Cleveland. We think it's vital to celebrate these efforts and share this progress with individuals and community partners throughout the region."

Additionally, six other efforts received Vibrant City Awards. They include:

CDC Community Collaboration Award

Ballot Box by Northeast Shores Development Corporation:

The Ballot Box Project was a collaborative effort of 13 partners to increase civic involvement amongst residents in Collinwood. Project planning, monthly meetings and facilitated discussions informed residents on the proposed projects and an election process followed. As a result, 3,400 community members played a role in funded projects throughout the neighborhood.

CDC Placemaking Award

A Bridge that Bridges by Campus District Inc.:

A Bridge that Bridges mural project was developed to physically connect the Campus District while publicly addressing the longstanding division of race in Cleveland. Throughout this project a diverse group of community stakeholders engaged in intentional conversations about race, racism, privilege and segregation while co-designing a mural. The project visually transformed the experience of crossing the East 22nd Bridge while also socially connecting the neighborhood and acting as catalyst for conversation on racial equity.

CDC Economic Opportunity Award

The Build Health Challenge by Metro West Community Development Organization:

Metro West joined the Build Health Challenge to identify bold, integrated, and data-driven solutions to improve health equity in low income communities. Through its leadership, Metro West has been able to work with residents through one-on-one outreach, conducted dozens of in-home surveys to identify causes of environmental health ailments, and identified funding to remedy situations that contribute to conditions like asthma, lead poisoning and COPD. Its work in Build Health is also leading to a robust rental registry that holds landlords accountable to healthy home standards.

CDC Neighborhood Branding & Marketing Award

#WhatsYourOldBrooklyn by Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp.:

Old Brooklyn is a Great Place to Grow: That is the brand promise developed by Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp. To deliver this messaging, the CDC created the #WhatsYourOldBrooklyn social media campaign. Through this campaign, the CDC convened and trained social media ambassadors, created themed events aimed specifically at promoting the community to visitors and newcomers, and provided a social media vehicle for local residents and businesses to promote their neighborhood.

Urban Developer Award

Daryl Anderson, Mustard Seed Development:

Mustard Seed Development is a community based business that specializes in the renovation of real estate for renters on the near West Side of Cleveland. Daryl Anderson and family members are

committed to providing housing for newcomers and refugees. Daryl works closely with the Refugee Services Collaborative of Greater Cleveland; and his tenants are from war torn areas of the world, such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Syria, Ivory Coast, Nepal, Rwanda, or Iraq. Daryl also is currently an active partner in the International Village, a larger redevelopment strategy in the Metro West service area.

Civic Champion Award

Dawn Arrington, Buckeye resident:

The nickname for Dawn Arrington is super neighbor. Dawn and her family live in the Buckeye neighborhood, where they started a monthly Exchange with neighbors. Dawn also leads Neighbor Up's Community of Practice, teaching neighbors about community network building and she also organizes sessions for the jobs pipeline Step Up to UH. She is a regular participant at the Greater Buckeye Network Night and also a member of the Larchmere Porchfest planning committee.

About Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress is a nationally-recognized nonprofit that works in partnership with community development corporations, local foundations, the business community and government to support Cleveland's neighborhoods and improve quality of life for city residents. More information on the organization and the Vibrant City Awards Lunch may be found at www.ClevelandNP.org/VCAL.

For questions and comments about the event, please contact Jeff Kipp at 216.375.4529, or jkipp@clevelandnp.org.

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