

Cleveland
Neighborhood
Progress



investing for vibrancy

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CLEVELAND NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRESS AWARDS \$125K TO EFFORTS THAT ADDRESS RACIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION FOR 2017 NEIGHBORHOOD SOLUTIONS AWARDS

CLEVELAND, OH – On Tuesday October 31, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress hosted over 250 attendees from northeast Ohio at its fourth annual Progress Institute. At this day-long symposium, it convened Cleveland's community development field for learning, connecting, and inspiration. During the event, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress announced the winners of its 2017 Neighborhood Solutions Awards.

The focus of this year's awards was *Fostering Racial Inclusion through Comprehensive Community Development*. Community development work is, at its core, focused on people and place, and people in place. Throughout the organization's Year of Awareness Building, it has sought new opportunities to support Cleveland's robust system of community development corporations (CDCs) in their efforts to operationalize a Racial Equity & Inclusion framework.

Joel Ratner, President & CEO of Neighborhood Progress, states "The purpose of this year's Neighborhood Solutions Awards is a natural extension of this far-reaching paradigm shift. These capital grants provide critical resources to grassroots-level organizations and community leaders seeking to implement innovative ideas around issues generally faced by neighborhoods throughout Cleveland."

The winning proposals from Cleveland community development corporations scored highest in the traditional Neighborhood Solutions Awards categories-Innovation, Impact, Collaboration, Thought Leadership, and Replicability-and impressed the multidisciplinary panel of experts gathered to judge the Finalists' presentations. Most importantly, each of the selected grantees demonstrated a willingness to wrestle with the complexities of creating inclusive communities, and the courage to imagine creative solutions to foster a sense of belonging among historically marginalized members of their community.

The following CDCs received a Neighborhood Solutions Award:

- Union Miles Development Corporation (UMDC): \$20,000
Solution: UMDC and PASSAGES, Inc. will provide a pathway to employment for returning citizens and remediate deteriorated housing in the neighborhood. teach returning citizens construction skills so that they may rehabilitate blighted homes and become certified in the trade.
- Metro West Community Development Organization (MWCDO): \$20,000
Solution: Facilitators will lead discussions with youth in the neighborhood to discuss how structural racism impacts their lives. They will then work with artists to translate their experiences into painted expressions on doors while will be installed in highly-visible vacant lots around the neighborhood.
- Famicos Foundation (Famicos): \$26,500
Solution: Working with young people in the neighborhood to catalogue Glenville's history while exposing them to urban planners and community development leaders so they may better understand how these professions have impacted their neighborhood and city.
- Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC): \$28,500
Solution: Engaging in culturally appropriate organizing to build connections to communities of color and resident leaders who may help the organization be more inclusive and representative in its outreach and programming.
- MidTown Cleveland, Inc. (MTI): \$30,000
Solution: An audit of MTI's real estate development process to deepen its understanding of where inequities may exist its current real estate development pipeline, and to identify opportunities to insert more racially equitable and inclusive development policies and practices.

Neighborhood Progress staff will remain engaged with each recipient CDC over the next 12 months to monitor and assess the progress of these innovative efforts.

Neighborhood Progress is a local community development funding intermediary with nearly thirty years of experience investing in community revitalization work in the city of Cleveland. It serves a unique function as the only local intermediary in the region and is proud to be nationally highlighted as a leader for engaging in best practices in various facets of nonprofit programming. The Board and staff strive to lead industry partners on new and existing initiatives to improve the quality of Cleveland's neighborhoods and the quality of life for Cleveland's residents.

For more information on Neighborhood Progress, please visit www.clevelandnp.org.

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