From Our Executive Director

2020 is unfolding in ways we never could have expected. The COVID-19 crisis puts strains on the economy and community, yet we also see neighbors caring for one another and organizations adapting to provide support for the people they serve.

The work of LISC Greater Cincinnati in 2019 in housing becomes even more necessary as homeowners and renters continue to struggle to make their payments. Over 200 people helped create the first-ever comprehensive housing strategy for Hamilton County, Housing our Future. This strategy provides a roadmap for how we can emerge from this crisis stronger, and with more and better housing options for people at all levels of income.

We also partnered with ULI Cincinnati to create the Real Estate Accelerator Lab (REAL), an industry-supported program designed to educate and mentor the next generation of Greater Cincinnati real estate professionals typically underrepresented in the real estate development industry, specifically people of color and women.

On a personal note, I will be retiring from LISC in June 2020. My 11 years at LISC have been the most fulfilling of my career. While our work is never easy, supporting the often-hidden work of community leaders is rewarding beyond measure. I would also like to thank my team for their hard work and dedication and the unwavering support of our Local Advisory Committee and funding partners. I leave LISC feeling proud of all we have accomplished together.

Thank you and be well,

Kathy Schwab
Executive Director

LISC Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Staff
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Patrick Duhaney, City of Cincinnati
Christie Kuhns, UC Health
Ross Meyer, United Way
Steve Smith, Model Group
Robie Suggs, First Financial Bank
Thomas Williams, North American Properties

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Robie K. Suggs, First Financial Bank
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Chuck Vliek, LISC PVP
Kenneth Webb, Republic Bank
Chuck Winger, Community Volunteer

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The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
The Manuel D. and Rhoda Mayerson Foundation
U.S Bank Foundation
Union Savings Bank
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
Wells Fargo
Western & Southern Financial Fund

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

$5,426,836
Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Investment

$1,373,365
Grant Funding

$4,053,471
Development Financing

$48.5 MILLION
Place Matters Leverage Funds

$35,506,948
Leveraged Development Funds

$287,115
Invested in Small Businesses

4,080
Neighborhood Volunteers Engaged

367
Partners Engaged

82,891
Sq. Ft. Commercial Space Developed

94
New or Rehabbed Housing Units Developed

10
Capacity Building Events

9
Quality of Life Plans Adopted

Financial Opportunity Centers

521
People Placed In Jobs, With An Average Wage Of $12.25 Per Hour

143
People Improved Their Credit Score

103
People Improved Their Net Worth By Working With A Financial Coach

Neighborhoods Supported
Avondale
Bond Hill + Roselawn
Covington
Madisonville
Newport
Norwood
Price Hill
Walnut Hills
West End
Housing Our Future
Strategies for Cincinnati and Hamilton County

The 2017 Housing Affordability in Hamilton County study kicked off LISC’s 100% Housing Initiative, becoming today’s strategy which aims to address the 40,000 unit gap needed to serve the county’s most housing vulnerable. Housing our Future is the collaborative effort of the steering committee representing stakeholders from a variety of sectors throughout Cincinnati and Hamilton County. LISC continues to act as a convener in the process, with the final report and recommendations for intervention in the region’s housing market to be released in mid-2020.

Housing our Future is a strategic response to the needs of our community, which aims to:

» Produce new, affordable units
» Preserve existing units as liveable and affordable
» Protect the most vulnerable residents from housing insecurity
» Alter the underlying systems that affect our resident’s ability to afford quality housing and our region’s ability to effect meaningful change

This strategy for increasing access to quality, affordable housing acknowledges the role of housing in promoting positive, equitable, and long-term social, economic and health outcomes throughout our community.

“Affordable housing is something that every human being needs. The development of a community wide housing strategy will ensure the community is moving towards providing equity for everyone.”

Gregory Johnson, CEO, Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority

200+
Individuals Attended Public Meetings

500+
Attendees At Community Engagement Events

50+
Stakeholders Interviewed

We are grateful to the sponsors of the Housing Strategy:
Greater Cincinnati Foundation
PNC Foundation
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
Bethesda Inc.’s bi3
Well Fargo
The Manuel D. and Rhoda Mayerson Foundation
BB&T Bank

And to the steering committee members who have participated in its development:
Kristen Baker, LISC Greater Cincinnati
Nia Baucke, CoHear
Jeff Beam, The Community Builders
Liz Blume, Community Building Institute
Harold Brown, Interact for Health
Mary Burke Rivers, Over-the-Rhine Community Housing
Kevin Finn, Strategies to End Homelessness
Jeanne Gollliher, Cincinnati Development Fund
Dani Isaacsohn, CoHear
Gregory Johnson, Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority
Jeniece Jones, Housing Opportunities Made Equal
Cali Khakoo, LISC Greater Cincinnati
Robert Killins, The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Joy Pierson, Hamilton County
John Schrider, Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio
Kathy Schwab, LISC Greater Cincinnati
Steve Smith, Model Group
James Wilson, Talbert House

Cincinnati Access Fund: Coffee Exchange Reopened in Pleasant Ridge

We celebrated the reopening of Coffee Exchange in Pleasant Ridge in early 2020, after their business became the first to successfully borrow from the Cincinnati Access Fund (CAF) in 2019.

Made Possible By:
City of Cincinnati
Fifth Third Bank
First Financial Bank

The coffee shop had been a busy and beloved community gathering space before a fire destroyed the original building in 2018. Funds from the CAF made the reopening possible, when insurance money and other fundraising fell short. For co-owners Sarah and Joe Peters, leaving Pleasant Ridge was never an option. Their new location is 6041 Montgomery Road, 45213.
PLACE MATTERS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

It is more important now than ever that investments in our partners in the Place Matters network continue to meet the needs of residents, especially as we prepare for the anticipated impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated health, economic and housing impacts in our community. The Place Matters communities are likely to be hardest hit by this crisis and the networks supported by Place Matters leads will be critical to demonstrating an equitable recovery as we build upon the successes from the past year.

Avondale
- Quality of Life plan approved by Planning Commission and Community Council
- Avondale Home Improvement Program funded by Cincinnati Children’s Hospital
- 21 Homeowners assisted through the Avondale Property Enhancement Program

Newport
- 100 trees planted throughout West Newport with the neighborhood association
- Completed construction at Buena Vista fitness court
- Formed the Education Task Force and completed a resident led strategic plan for Newport Schools

Covington
- Section 8 landlord certification
- New restaurant property under construction which will be home to Olla Tacqueria
- Leadership for Covington’s Park Advisory group in redevelopment of Little People’s playground and other design processes

Norwood
- Quality of life plan culminated with the launch of the Norwood Community Agreement
- Formation of new community based Norwood Together, a resident-led group to improve the quality of life in Norwood. Norwood Together leads park and street clean-ups, provides welcome bags and hosts porch and block parties to unite residents

Price Hill
- New mixed-use and commercial projects in all three Price Hill’s
- Homesteading Pilot improvements with Legal Aid, LISC, WIN and SMCS as partners
- Project LIFT funding secured by Santa Maria, increasing the number of families served

Walnut Hills
- Launched Food Forest
- Resurrected Beecher and Taft community gardens
- Leveraged partnerships with Milhaus, Model Group and Yard & Co.
- Held 69 community engagement events

West End
- Properties placed in holding with the Port for a future LIHTC project
- Single family home on Baymiller held by the Port for affordable homeownership
- 6 families served by Home Improvement Program
- 88 families served by Eviction Assistance Program

Made Possible By:
- United Way of Greater Cincinnati
- The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- V. Haile Jr./ U.S. Bank Foundation
- First Financial Bank
- SC Ministry Foundation
- PNC Foundation
- The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile Jr./ U.S. Bank Foundation
- First Financial Bank
THANK YOU

for supporting our work and engaging with us in our continued projects together

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