In 2017, our region took some initial steps in acknowledging and addressing the real crisis in housing affordability impacting our neighbors. With the release of the Housing Affordability in Hamilton County report, LISC and the Community Building Institute put specific numbers to the lived reality of so many families in our community and documented a 40,000 unit deficit in affordable and available homes. This report, and the harsh truth it highlights, re-energized stakeholders and pushed housing issues into the forefront of our community’s efforts to address poverty and create a more equitable city.

While we continue to pursue policy change and support programs that address the crisis of housing affordability, we are renewing our commitment to local economic development. As part of our new strategic framework, we will be accelerating our efforts in commercial corridor revitalization, small business financing, financial coaching, and talent development.

And we remain steadfastly committed to our place-based strategy, supporting community based organizations in seven neighborhoods through Place Matters. After ten years of strategic, patient investment by the funders collaborative, we have gleaned many insights on the accomplishments and challenges of this approach and happily shared them in a 10 Year Retrospective. Looking forward to the next ten years, we will expand on our success and leverage our partnerships for even more impact in our community.

As we reflect on our success in Cincinnati, we are incredibly grateful to our many funders and partners who make our work possible. In particular, we extend thanks to Robert Killins for his leadership as chairperson of our Local Advisory Committee during the past 6 years. At the same time, we are excited to welcome Peg Moertl as our new chairperson; we look forward to her guidance and enthusiasm as we continue to forge resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

Kathy Schwab
Executive Director

Supporters

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Mr. Eric P. Avner
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United Way of Greater Cincinnati
Ms. Dwendolyn Chester
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FUNDERS

United Way of Greater Cincinnati
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PNC Bank Foundation
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
SC Ministry Foundation
Duke Energy Foundation
The Thomas J. Emery Memorial Trust
The Carol Ann & Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation
Western & Southern Financial Fund
Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trusts, Fifth Third Trustee
The John A. Schroth Family Charitable Trust, PNC Bank Trustee
U.S. Bank Foundation
First Financial Bank
Kresge Foundation
Fifth Third Bank
Branch Banking & Trust
Woodforest National Bank
2017 By The Numbers

LISC investment in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky

$14,624,431

average monthly net income increase for Bridges to Career Opportunities participants

$1,035

$952,635
in grants awarded

$13,641,796
in development financing

124,014 sq. ft.

343
new/rehabbed housing units

commercial space

Place Matters

$11.4 million leveraged

7 neighborhoods
Avondale
Covington
Newport
Walnut Hills
Price Hill
Madisonville
West End

building capacity in 2 more
Norwood
Bond Hill - Roselawn

16 convenings hosted to build capacity

1,047 residents engaged in programs to improve health

537 residents engaged in trainings & employment programs

3,209 youth & adults engaged in education opportunities

53 partnerships

$1,035
LISC as a Vital Partner

Walnut Hills is one of seven neighborhoods that rely on LISC as a vital partner in their community development efforts. Kevin Wright, former executive director of the Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation, and Jena Bradley, a Walnut Hills resident and president of the WHRF board of directors, shared how LISC works with them to achieve their community’s vision.

Q: What are the unique assets LISC brings as a partner in community development?

A: Kevin Wright: **Lots of other institutions are sitting on the sidelines until LISC comes in.** They’re leaders in that way. They step up and provide a lot of tools in a place, and once they start doing that other folks get up off the bench and come in. Operational funding is key. Once LISC came into Walnut Hills and we used their funding wisely and got some momentum going, others followed.

Their staff assistance is also key. I always leaned on people at LISC for advice. The folks who work at LISC are really great at seeing the big picture. That comes not only from them being connected to a national network and seeing problems and solutions on the national level, but also just seeing other neighborhoods locally.

A: Jena Bradley: LISC and Place Matters (a funding collaborative led by United Way) provides a wealth of capacity-building opportunities and a place to convene with people who are facing similar opportunities and challenges.

Q: In what 2017 achievements did LISC serve as a partner for the WHRF?

A: KW: They played a number of roles in Paramount Square and they provided predevelopment dollars for the Kroger building acquisition. LISC was part of a coalition of partners on that project. **The power of convening – they’re really good at that.** From a non-real estate perspective, the operational support allows us to do work around healthy food outreach, and creative placemaking (like the artist as researcher project).

Q: How do you envision LISC working with the WHRF in the future?

A: JB: **I see LISC being a big partner around policy, for all communities.** LISC’s two greatest powers are, one that they are a community development financial institution that will lend to things that other banking institutions wouldn’t. **They create opportunity.** But also, as a national network, they have knowledge and influence. **LISC really strives to** listen and learn and then reflect their listening and learning to larger audiences.