

## 2020 UPDATE



Peaslee is working to anchor and sustain our community through this difficult time by meeting challenges, maintaining connections, and growing with our community. While our in-person education, music, and creative expression programming is temporarily paused, we have reimagined our programs and continue to engage our participants in new ways. As a community education center, we have embraced this opportunity to learn and grow. By researching best practices and building our capacity for remote learning, we are empowering learners of all ages to stay connected, express what matters to them, and advocate for positive social change. This essential work is made possible through your connection to Peaslee, and we are grateful as ever for your support.

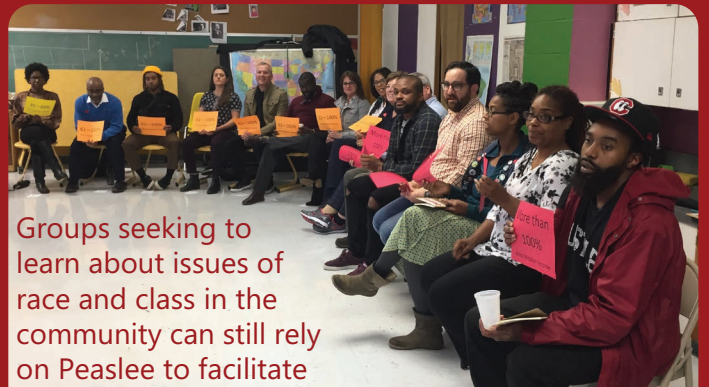
### COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECT



Together with the Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center and the Freestore Foodbank, Peaslee staff and volunteers are working to help our neighbors experiencing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Since March, we have been packaging groceries for individuals and families to supplement meals being distributed to children at local schools. In April, our commitment to observing safety protocol while handling and distributing food was highlighted in a news story by WCPO.



### SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION



Groups seeking to learn about issues of race and class in the community can still rely on Peaslee to facilitate

Affordable Housing Simulations, Community Journeys, and service learning reflections virtually.

### EDUCATION-BASED COMMUNITY ORGANIZING



"The Equitable Development Rubric is an evaluation tool and policy framework made to ensure that public development incentives and subsidies -- which belong to the taxpayers -- are granted only to projects that help advance equity, especially across class and race, in our city."

-CAN Platform: Equitable Development Rubric Initiative

Peaslee's Equitable Development Rubric is one of four initiatives in the Communities Act Now (CAN) action platform. CAN provides a necessary foundation and road map to improve development

in Cincinnati by addressing the well-documented equity problems that have been identified by multiple studies in our city.



### THE MOVEMENT

Peaslee is closer to being able to distribute professionally produced copies of The Movement, the educational cooperative card game that was designed by our Agents of Change. We are excited to share this more polished version of the game as one of our Social Justice Education offerings.





## DEVICE LENDING

In the time of social distancing, we are more dependent than ever on the Internet to stay connected. Recognizing that technology needs might present a barrier to some of our participants, Peaslee has established a device lending library so everyone can continue to engage in our virtual programs. Laptops are available to be checked out by participants who need them, and earbuds have been distributed to program participants so they can tune in without disrupting others in their homes.

## WRITING

Fear is Over

We can overcome a fear that's scary to us  
by whistling.

Whistling helps us by distracting us from our  
fear.

Also by taking deep breaths.  
It helps by relaxing your body.

--Lei'Aden Simmons-Ghee, 5th grade

My hair,  
My hair is the cutest thing about my  
people.

Long, short, curly, kinky or straight, I  
love my hair.

They say my hair is long.

I don't care about who don't like it.

My hair is my hair.

I love my hair.

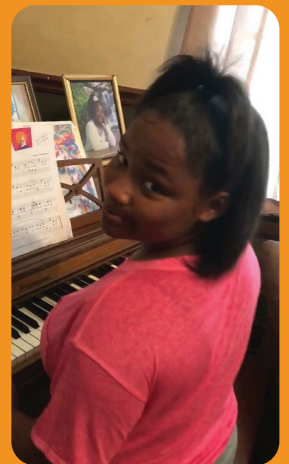
I think everybody's hair looks good.

--Aaliyah Dean, 4th grade

Young writers were sent journals in the mail so they could continue writing with inspiration from our poems and prompts. Some of their writing was published on social media to celebrate National Poetry Month.

## PIANO

Piano students are practicing at home with the help of online resources and virtual check-ins with their dedicated instructors. This summer they had the opportunity to earn prizes by participating in a practice challenge! Students also submitted videos of themselves performing for a virtual recital on social media.



## AGENTS OF CHANGE

In the spring, Agents of Change youth met remotely to celebrate birthdays, program graduations, and the end of their semester together. During the summer they connected online for weekly book groups and discussing topics including "cancel culture" and art as activism.



## COMMUNITY MENTORING



## STAY CONNECTED

You can visit [www.peasleecenter.org](http://www.peasleecenter.org), follow @peasleecenter on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), and [subscribe to our email newsletters](#) for information about our upcoming virtual event, Making a Way, and other opportunities to engage with and [donate](#) to Peaslee.

Local residents serving as Community Mentors continue co-teaching in Peaslee's junior seminar for Miami University's Urban Cohort program. This semester their lessons on structural injustice and social change will be delivered virtually, with the help of laptops from Peaslee's device lending library.