



# Peaslee Neighborhood Center

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT





## MESSAGE FROM PEASLEE

Dear Friends,

For 37 years, Peaslee educators and students have been learning and growing together. In 2021, we were excited to offer both virtual and in-person community education programs. Peaslee promotes a vision of a healthy and just community where all people's voices and lives are valued. This is not done alone. Peaslee is grateful to be home to other non-profit partners engaged in education, advocacy, and movement building.

Each year Peaslee's annual report highlights our previous year's accomplishments. However, after the last two years of pandemic uncertainties, it's important at this moment to look at what's possible in partnership with you.

Thanks to the love, commitment, and solidarity of your many hands and hearts, Peaslee is strong. We are excited to expand our summer programs in 2022 to serve more students ages 6-16, providing critical educational opportunities for families.

We are also extending our education and coalition building for justice to foster strong grassroots democracy in our neighborhoods for equitable development. This work is made possible through your connection to education and justice, and we are grateful for [any gift you can make at this time](#) to be a part of Peaslee's growth.



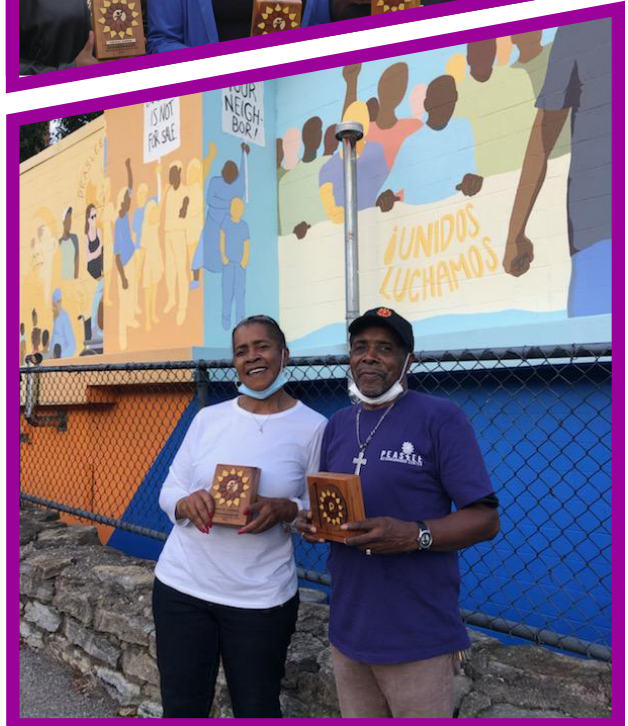
In solidarity,  
Peaslee Staff and Board

## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY CAREGIVERS

At our annual fundraiser, Making A Way with Peaslee, we had the honor of presenting our Community Changemaker Award to the Collaborate and Care Crew of [Rothenberg Preparatory Academy](#). This group of inspiring women banded together in the midst of a global pandemic to ensure their students' needs were met during remote learning. They went above and beyond for their students, providing them with school supplies, clothing, meals and more. It was a privilege to partner with them.

We also took this moment to lift up two amazing caretakers in Peaslee's building community: Marilyn Anderson, an early childhood educator at Peaslee for over 20 years, and Peaslee's Master of Custodial Arts Larry Fogle, who has cared for the center for over 10 years. Marilyn and Larry were honored with Changemaker Awards for their dedication to caring for children and community space. Peaslee appreciates all the love, energy and wisdom they bring to countless families and our community.

*"This is a center to help kids grow. So when you see 'em in the hall, say 'Hey!' If you don't say hey, they gonna say hey to you!"*  
—Marilynn Anderson



## SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION



Despite COVID limitations on our work with school groups, we continued to deliver powerful community content to roughly 390 people through adaptive means. We designed safe ways to offer community journey walking tours and affordable housing simulations to close partners, and our in-depth coursework with Community Mentors and [Miami University](#) remains strong.

We have made great strides in developing The Movement card game, created by our Agents of Change. With new prototypes, connections, and game design insights, we are underway with late-stage testing and tweaks. The excitement and potential of this teaching tool continues to grow as we near a final product.

*“The entire theme is brilliant and the way the gameplay teaches and reinforces it is amazing. We read the intro out loud and everyone around the table said, ‘Yes, I’m in. Let’s go!’”*

—local game experts, on The Movement



## EDUCATION-BASED ORGANIZING

Our Equitable Development Rubric spurred increased attention and action city-wide as Peaslee delivered presentations to two City Council committees, with support from public testimonials at City Hall by a wide array of Cincinnatians across neighborhoods. Our work on transparency in public development incentives forged new coalition connections and factored heavily into November’s city election results, setting the stage for new possibilities. Our staff also played a significant role in elevating the case for a fully funded [Affordable Housing Trust Fund](#).

Meanwhile, our support for equitable development at the ground level continued through collaboration with community councils. We published our [Rubric Guidebook for Community Councils](#) followed by a training series that engaged representatives from 10 community councils.





## PEASLEE KIDS SUMMER CAMP



In 2021, an outdoor classroom in Peaslee's front yard was home base for our Peaslee Kids summer camp, a safe and supportive space for learning, positive youth development, and fun for kids ages 6-9 from Over-the-Rhine and surrounding neighborhoods.

Peaslee Kids participated weekly in swimming and gardening, and enjoyed local field trips as well as visits from guest artists. Teachers also read books with students and led discussions about different aspects of social justice.

At the end of the program, campers presented their writing and other learnings at a public showcase for their families.

## RISERS

In the interest of COVID safety, Peaslee's summer camp groups were smaller in 2021, so we shifted the ages served by each group and created a new program, Risers, for ages 10-12.

Through journaling, art appreciation, and group discussion, the inaugural class of Risers worked on developing a deeper sense of self, building confidence, and practicing empathy. Campers enjoyed adventuring through Over-the-Rhine to show each other their favorite places. They visited two local art galleries celebrating the work of Black artists, and interacted with lots of cool animals at Camp Joy!

*Thanks to our neighbor [Gallery at Gumbo](#) for welcoming our Risers to appreciate local artists' work.*



## WRITING CIRCLES

The Girls Writing Circles returned to school buildings to continue providing a safe space for young ladies to express themselves and appreciate their individual gifts. This year, our youth writing partnership grew to include two summer programs, at [Rothenberg Preparatory Academy](#) and [Pleasant Ridge Montessori](#). In weekly circles, Peaslee educators and 3rd to 6th grade girls focused on affirming their sense of self, supporting their creativity, and fostering their unique voice.

*"I believe in my own life...  
I believe in my own heart."*

—Athena, 4th grade





## AGENTS OF CHANGE

We were excited to welcome our Agents of Change youth back to Peaslee's building for in-person programming beginning in the summer of 2021. All of our students felt that we talked about important things during camp. Most participants cited climate change as a topic they were interested in and would like to learn more about.

Our summer program centered around the importance of telling your own story. Our creative summer project, Agents: The Podcast, developed from this theme. Head over to [soundcloud.com/agentsthepodcast](https://soundcloud.com/agentsthepodcast) to hear our Agents' creative, witty, and impactful stories.

*Thanks to our neighbor [Lightborne](#) for providing space and equipment to help our Agents record their podcasts.*



### Podcast Titles

- ◇ *How Important is Attractiveness in our Reality?*
- ◇ *Little Green Men and You: Are Aliens Real?*
- ◇ *How do Friends and Peers Influence Youth?*
- ◇ *Unawaited and Guaranteed*
- ◇ *Video Game Drama*
- ◇ *Who I Am*

## PIANO

Our piano program served 17 students throughout 2021. In the spring and summer, our music instructors provided individual piano instruction virtually with students as they practiced and progressed at home with online flashcards, laptops, music stands, keyboards and music books from Peaslee's lending libraries. In the fall our students returned to in person instruction at Peaslee with Sr. Terry Thorman. In a bittersweet transition, Rebecca Smithorn, Peaslee's Piano Coordinator left Peaslee to pursue her orchestral career. We wish her the very best!



## COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECT

Peaslee continued working in partnership with the [Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center](#) and the [Freestore Foodbank](#) to distribute shelf-stable groceries in our neighborhood. When community members asked for more fresh fruits and vegetables, Peaslee began hosting monthly Produce Pop-Ups in our parking lot and provided nearly 350 households with fresh produce!





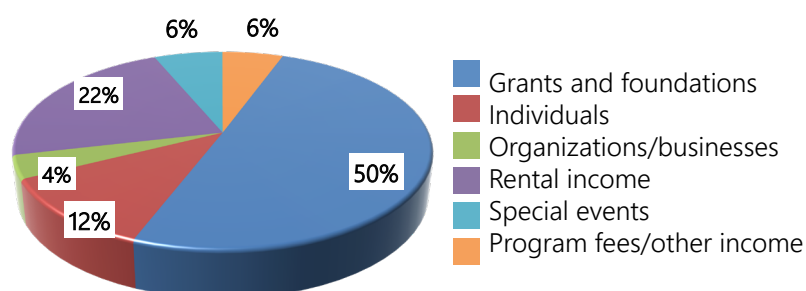
## PEASLEE THANKS THESE BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

3CDC  
 Benny's Pizza  
 Cappy's Wine and Spirits  
 Charles and Isabell Hall Foundation  
 Cincinnati Bell  
 Cincinnati Development Fund  
 Cindy's Friendly Tavern  
 Clifton-Clef Music Club  
 Elder High School  
 Emanuel Bachmann Foundation  
 Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio  
 First Financial  
 First Unitarian Church

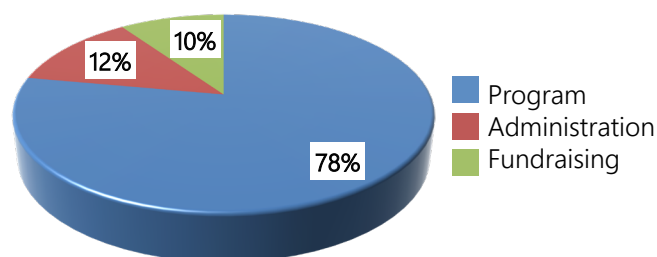
Franciscans of the Province of St. John the Baptist  
 General Mills Foundation  
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Peace Circle  
 Ira Block Foundation  
 Iron Workers Local 44  
 John Hueber Homes  
 Kneflin-Dillhoff-Hils & Kruse Agency  
 Marge and Charles Schott Foundation  
 Mary Martha Magee Foundation  
 Matinée Musicale Endowment Fund  
 Miami University  
 Mt. Healthy Christian Church

Narrow Path Brewing Company  
 Over-the-Rhine Community Council  
 Over-the-Rhine Marianists  
 Parking Lot Management of Cincinnati  
 Petersburg Parishes  
 Robert and Marian Kennedy Charitable Trust  
 Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati  
 Sisters of St. Francis  
 Sisters of the Precious Blood  
 Smith & Hannon Bookstore

### 2021 INCOME



### 2021 EXPENSES



### Income

Grants and foundations	248,950
Individuals	58,140
Organizations/businesses	18,672
Rental income	110,302
Special events	31,176
Program fees/other income	<u>27,578</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>494,818</b>

### Expense

Direct program	25,273
Personnel	277,972
Professional fees	12,141
Occupancy	58,926
Office	5,253
Outside services	3,108
Training and development	4,046
Special events	257
Other	3,275
Depreciation	<u>14,892</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>405,143</b>

## PEASLEE THANKS THESE INDIVIDUALS

Yubi Aldulijan  
 Crystal Alston  
 Alice Altstaetter  
 Ross Anthony  
 Ronald Applegate  
 Jenn Arens & Shannon Hughes  
 Karen Arnett  
 Kathy Auer

Roger & Mary Auer  
 Diane Aufderhaar  
 Ren & Eliza Austing  
 Bekky Baker  
 Shawn Baker  
 Shirley & Nick Baldwin  
 Marla Banks  
 Cassandra Barham  
 Kristen Barker

Caitlin Behle  
 Ann Behrmann  
 Robert Bell & Ann Armstrong  
 Rebekah Berry  
 Judith Blackburn  
 John & Megan Blake  
 Brandi Blessett & Tia Gaynor  
 Luna Bloom  
 Ruth Bockenstette

Kenneth & Barbara Boesherz  
 Amanda Bonham  
 Peg Bouska  
 Scott & Jill Braun  
 Mary Anne Bressler  
 Kavotus Britten  
 Jan Brown Checco  
 Stephen Brown  
 Susan Brownknight



## PEASLEE THANKS THESE INDIVIDUALS

Ed & Carole Burdell  
 Mary Burke Rivers  
 Gregory & Antoinette Busch  
 Melissa Cannon  
 Angela Charron  
 Dot Christenson  
 Naima Clarke  
 Edward Cloughessy  
 Kevin Cole  
 John & Barbara Coyle  
 Kathleen Crissman  
 Nicola da Roza & Josh  
 Cunningham  
 Daniel Dabbelt  
 Cecilia Davis  
 Jerry Davis  
 Paul & Linda Davis  
 Nancy Dawley  
 Lillian Dean  
 Mary Delaney  
 Angie Denov & Jon  
 Blickenstaff  
 Brian & Michelle Dershaw  
 Joel Diaz  
 Bob Donovan  
 Jenni Doseck  
 Dan & Mary Kay Drexler  
 Lizzy Duquette  
 Janis Dutton  
 Nathan Eads  
 Mary Joyce Edwards  
 Robert Egbert  
 Deane & Phyllis Elliott  
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 Al Gerhardstein & Mimi  
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 Henrietta Goolsby  
 Bob Gottmer  
 Liz Gottmer  
 Gail Gundrum

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 Audrey Gutman  
 Ed & Nancy Gutman  
 Erin Gutman  
 Philip & Mary Hagner  
 James Hague  
 Donna Harris  
 Jeff Harris  
 Kate Harrow  
 Phil Hartke  
 Patricia Haug  
 Chris Heckman & Kristen  
 Myers  
 Joyce Heckman  
 Steven & Judy Herbold  
 Harry & Kathleen Hendy  
 Patricia Hill Collins  
 Laura Hils & Peter Hale  
 Koben Hinman  
 Jenna Hippensteel  
 Bill & Mary Hopple  
 Patty Hord  
 Amy Howton  
 Joann Hubert  
 David Hughes  
 Ruthie Hurley-Franchi  
 Andy Hutzel & Amy  
 Harpenau  
 Dani Isaacsohn  
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 Andrew & Janis Kartal  
 Frederick & Maureen Keeley  
 Ham Saem Kil  
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 Marci Koch  
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 Stuart & Amy Meyers  
 Joyce Miller

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 De'Vante Montgomery  
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 Wadeeah Nashid  
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 Michael Ward  
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 Amy & James Wright  
 Mary Wyatt & David Wetzel  
 Brenda Zechmeister







Peaslee Neighborhood Center  
215 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St.  
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Phone: (513) 621-5514  
Email: [administration@peasleecenter.org](mailto:administration@peasleecenter.org)  
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[www.peasleecenter.org](http://www.peasleecenter.org)

Peaslee deeply appreciates these foundations and organizations for their sustaining partnership:



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FOUNDATION

Promoting the Mission of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

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**Seasongood**

Good Government Foundation

The  
**Keyboard**  
CLUB



Dominican Sisters of Hope

  
CONGREGATION OF THE  
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