



PEASLEE

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

EDUCATING • ENRICHING • ENGAGING • EMPOWERING

2015 Annual Report





OUR MISSION

Peaslee Neighborhood Center is a peaceful place in Over-the-Rhine where residents create and engage in participatory education to foster creative expression, self-determination, and social change.

OUR VISION

Thoughtful citizens committed to a just and equitable society.



Peaslee friends,

Your interest, support and encouragement of Peaslee's mission to educate, enrich, connect and empower people means the world to us. Each day in this community space children are cared for, young people's voices are developed, caregivers are supported, musicianship is nurtured, community connections are made and action for positive social change is made possible.

We continue to do this work in the only way possible, through partnership. Thank you for being our partner and helping us sustain and strengthen a community place that is critical to a racially and economically diverse Cincinnati.

Jennifer Summers, Director



Artwork created by Agents of Change youth



2015 Board of Directors

Olden Warren, Chair,
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Chris Heckman, Losantiville Ltd.
Laura Hils, University of Cincinnati
Pam Roebel, HGC Construction
Tammy Schwartz, Miami University
Chris Wilkey, Northern Kentucky University



Sr. Mary Grafe and Carrie Johnson, compassionate workers for justice, will be missed.





Piano Program

In 2015 Peaslee's Piano Program continued to grow, welcoming Nathanael Minor, who joined Atarah Jablonsky, Sr. Terry Thorman, SC, David and Roxanne Engle as instructors. We started our loaner keyboard program to expand accessibility for students in need. In the spring Peaslee welcomed 2014 Cincinnati World Piano Competition finalists who performed for our families, inspiring students and instructors alike. We also developed a Certificate Program to chart students' progress using recognized markers of skill development.

Thanks for your support!

- The Keyboard Club
- Matinee Musicale



HIGHLIGHTS

- 50 students took half-hour lessons in Spring and Fall
- Spring recital was hosted by St. Francis Seraph Church and the fall recital was held in Peaslee's newly renovated lobby with more than 90 people in attendance.



Writing Programs

The **Justice Seekers Writing Circle** is a quarterly writing series that offers a space to take in poetry, follow one's muse and to affirm the voices of sister writers.

Over-the-Rhine Writing Collaborative, a new partnership with Northern Kentucky University's Department of English was launched in March with a five-part event series, including two public writing workshops and three public showcase events. This project focused on the power of community writing and expression. Two follow-up workshops were held in the summer.

Girls' Writing Circles continued in 2015 through a partnership with Rothenberg Preparatory Academy for 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. Each meeting, the girls develop their voices, read poetry, write creatively, then share their work. This process is grounded in respect and appreciation for each other's unique gifts.



*"Listen to us
and what we have to say
and we might be kids,
but we know what we know."*

-Mackenzie Sherrer,
Rothenberg student, age 12

Thanks for your support!

- Northern Kentucky University Department of English
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- The Father Brunner Peace and Justice Fund
- The Congregation of the Humility of Mary Ministry Fund

HIGHLIGHTS

- Approximately 100 youth and adults engaged through Peaslee's Writing Programs in 2015.
- Girls' Writing Circles held three showcases at their school and at Peaslee where selections of the girls' writing was exhibited and read aloud.



Community Education



Service Learning and Community Engagement

Service learning partnerships in 2015 include Miami University's Urban Teaching Cohort which prepares future teachers of urban classrooms by supplementing their coursework with meaningful community-based relationships: the University of Cincinnati course Women and Activism, which explores the role of women in activism within Cincinnati's urban core and a Miami & Northern Kentucky University course Writing and Designing for Social Change that documents oral histories of community residents.



"We are all worthy of the love of ourselves, and the love of others, and we need to learn to demand that from our surroundings. Learn to say that to other people with conviction and know where your boundaries are. You're so important."

-Lois Shegog, Community Activist

HIGHLIGHTS

- Facilitated educational opportunities for 1,255 people
- Facilitated the collection of 16 new interviews to highlight stories and lived experiences in OTR and beyond.
- Co-produced two films, "Peaslee, Not Just Another Building" and "Community as Curriculum: Collaboration Works," documenting invaluable community-based work.



Agents of Change

This summer program was developed for youth ages 11-15 with a focus on self-expression, social change and teaching our kids to harness the power of their voices.

Programming included art, music, spoken word, creative writing, and community engagement. Youth in the program, in partnership with Children's Creative Corner youth, engaged in an effort to save local basketball courts and greenspace threatened by high-end residential development. They circulated a [petition](#) and testified at City Hall to advocate for their courts.

In 2015, this [ongoing issue](#) of neighborhood concern inspired a number of public events and displays of artistic expression driven by youth leadership, both from within our program and in collaboration with other youth programs. This important work continues in 2016 as we support our youth to use their voices to create positive change

HIGHLIGHTS

- Produced a stop-motion animation video shared with hundreds of people. Check it out at www.peasleecenter.org/agents-of-change/
- Baba Charles Miller connects with the summer camp students through African drumming.



Thanks for your support of our community education programs!

- Miami University's Urban Teaching Cohort • University of Cincinnati • Northern Kentucky University
- The Father Brunner Peace and Justice Fund • Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- The Congregation of the Humility of Mary Ministry Fund • Seasongood Good Government Foundation
- The John E. Fetzer Institute • The Carter Memorial Fund at First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati • Artswave



Partnerships

The Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center moved to Peaslee in May, brought new community members into the Center and initiated a quarterly job fair co-sponsored by Peaslee, CIWC and Children Inc., another tenant partner.

The Caregiver Project, a partnership with the Center for Community Change, continued to invite people with caregiving experience into community change efforts to properly recognize and support their work. The Care Package, a six-part event series unpacked how caregivers can be valued by our social systems and engaged approximately 100 people.

Preschool Mallet Music Program, a partnership with Children Inc. and COR Music, provided 20 children ages 3-5 years old in the early learning center at Peaslee with high quality music instruction throughout the year.



Peaslee Events

With a record attendance and fundraising results, Peaslee Presents: An Evening with Our Stars was an incredible success. Our fifth annual dinner and silent auction, held at the Bell Event Centre, celebrated those in our community who dedicate themselves to educating, enriching, engaging and empowering learners of all ages.

Significant honors of community work were awarded to Board Member Olden Warren; Agents of Change and Children's Creative Corner for their inspiring work on the Keep Our Courts Campaign; and OTR resident and housing activist Bonnie Neumeier was celebrated with the introduction of the Bonnie Neumeier Movement Builder Award.



Peaslee Renovations

Thanks to the Miami University Design Build residency student program, the Peaslee lobby was fully renovated in 2105, including new flooring, lighting, an open floor plan, reception kiosk, exhibit space, interior and exterior signage. The Early Learning Center also acquired new classroom windows, playground upgrades, a preschool classroom expansion and new equipment for classrooms.



Jan - Dec 15

Income

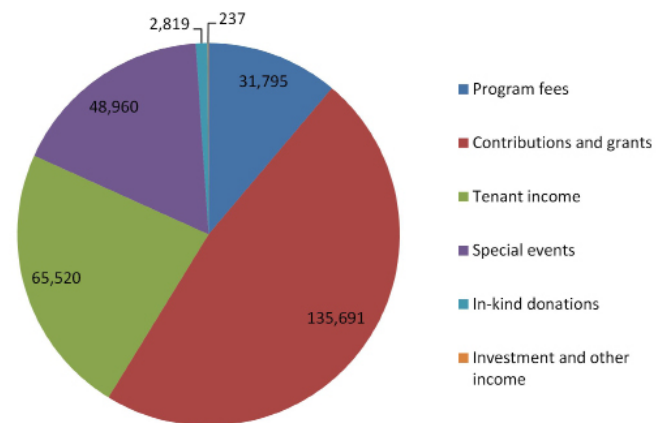
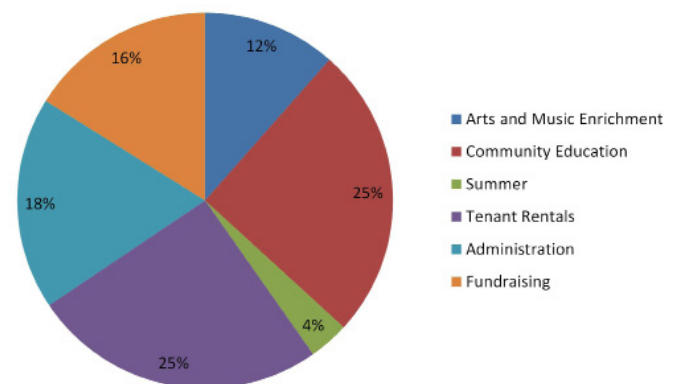
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|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Program fees | 31,795 |
| Contributions and grants | 135,691 |
| Tenant income | 65,520 |
| Special events | 48,960 |
| In-kind donations | 2,819 |
| Investment and other income | 237 |
| Total Income | 285,022 |

Expense

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Direct program | 21,593 |
| Personnel | 159,389 |
| Professional fees | 8,536 |
| Occupancy | 42,015 |
| Maintenance | 9,708 |
| Office | 5,395 |
| Outside services | 2,263 |
| Training and development | 2,387 |
| Special events | 11,531 |
| Other | 1,614 |
| Depreciation | 24,658 |
| Total Expense | 289,089 |

Net income

(4,067)

**FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES****Peaslee Thanks These Organizations For Their Support:**

ArtsWave
 Aspen Insurance
 Austing Family Fund - Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
 Catholic Campaign For Human Development
 Center for Community Change
 Church Women United
 Cincinnati Bell
 Cincinnati Children's Hospital
 Cincinnati City Center Development Fund
 Congregation Of The Humility Of Mary Ministry Fund
 Dominican Sisters Of Hope
 Elder High School
 Emanuel Bachmann Foundation
 Episcopal Society Of Christ Church
 Fetzer Institute
 First Financial Bank
 First Lutheran Church
 First Unitarian Church
 Franciscans Of The Province Of St. John The Baptist
 GE Foundation
 General Electric
 GE Evendale Plant Employees Community Service Fund
 Gray & Pape, Inc.
 Greater Cincinnati Foundaiton
 HGC Construction

John Hueber Homes
 Kircher Suetholz & Associates
 Kneflin-Dillhoff-Hils & Kruse
 Kroger Community Rewards Program
 Matinee Musicale Endowment Fund
 Mercy Health
 Miami University Center For Community Engagement in Over-the-Rhine
 Miami University Urban Teaching Cohort
 Seasongood Good Government Foundation
 Northern Kentucky University Department of English
 OTR Marianists
 Perfection
 SC Ministry Foundation
 Scherr Charitable Foundation
 Schwab Charitable Fund
 Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
 Sisters Of St. Francis
 Society of the Precious Blood Cincinnati Province
 St. Bernard Church Mission Commission
 St. Joseph Church, Wapakoneta
 The Keyboard Club
 The Model Group
 TruPartner Credit Union
 University of Cincinnati

Peaslee Thanks These Individuals

Marla Banks
Mildred Barhorst
Annie F. Bennett
Ashley Berkshire
Judith Blackburn
John and Megan Blake
Kenneth and Barbara Boesherz
Connie Brossart
Gregory and Antoinette Busch
William Busch
Carolyn and David Campbell
Rene Cheatham
John and Barbara Coyle
Lillian and Benjamin Dean
Charles and Meredith Downton
Angie Drexler
Ann and James Eddy
Robert Egbert
Blair and George Evans
Linda Fabe
George and Nancy Frondorf
Marjorie Fryxell
Kerry and Couper Gardiner
Donald Gruber
Lucia Hammons
Harry and Kathleen Hendy
Jessie Henson
Jenn Arens and Shannon Hughes
Stephanie Huston
Jeanne Ulrich and Wallace Rehm
Joe Feldhaus and Marcheta Gillam
Marian Kaiser
Margaret Kane
Peter Kobak
Philip and Nancy Kroeger
Julia Kyser
Karl Laube
Whittney Loquillano
Lornita Swain and Eric O'Neil
Jean Majors
Michael Maltinsky
Lois Marker
Meghan McNamara
Anne Mercier
Stuart and Amy Meyers
Dorothy and George Miller
Molly Miller
Tracy Moore
Thomas Mosler
Mark and Christina Neumeier
Samuel and Mary Neumeier
Gordon and Theresa Newland
Evan Nolan
Harold Quinn
Patrick Reynolds and Allison Reynolds-Berry
Charles Rinehart
Gary and Linda Robbins
Pam Roebel
John and Sylvia Roth
Kelly Rouleau
Joe Sarvo
Kathryn Schellinger
Robert and Polly Scherger
Samantha Schmidt
Marguerite Schoenung
Jon and Jacqueline Seymour
Catherine Shackson
Don Sherman

Amber Simpson
Marjorie Sorensen
Louise Stallworth
Martha and Jerone Stephens
Steve Sunderland
Joanne Thiemann
Joan Thomas
Ashley Thompson
Terry Thorman
Eunice and John Timoney-Ravenna
Joan Tirman
Sue Ann Vallo
Jane Vogt
Michael Ward
Joseph Wessling
Chas Wiederhold
Tyrone Williams
Emily Zabest

EDUCATING

Benny and Myrna Anderson
Andy Hutzal and Amy Harpenau
Bryna Bass
Lois Benjamin
Mary Anne Berry
Mary Anne Bressler
Jan Brown Checco
Patricia Bruns
Karis and Jon Cady
Dorothy Christenson
Rheba Clark
Melissa Currence
Mary Diane Custer
Nicola Da Roza
Stephen DeMar
Thomas and Martha Depenbrock
Robert Donovan
Dan and Mary Kay Drexler
Tom and Janis Dutton
Deane and Phyllis Elliott
Teresa and Mike Elsass
Julie Fay
Frederick and Maureen Keeley
Gerald Froehlich and Laura Goodell
Mary Grafe
George and Gail Gundrum
Ed and Nancy Gutman
Philip and Mary Hagner
Donald Heimbrock
Koben Hinman
Amy Howton
Ruth Hurley-Franchi
Fanni Johnson
Jill Jungels
Karen Dickman Kane
Andrew and Janis Kartal
Kimberly and James Wachenheim
Robert Knueven
Andrea and John Kornbluh
Jeanne Kortekamp
David Logan
Christopher Manning
Donna and Neal Mayerson
Teresa McGowan
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Michael Marcotte and Mary Clare Rietz
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Monica McGloin and Janet Linz

Daniel and Beth O'Connor
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Pope and Constance Coleman
George and Joan Rebeck
Ann Retford
Mary Rivers
Mike Rodarte
Mary Ann and Robert Roncker
Chuck and Julie Schubert
Judy Schulze
Robert Siegmann
Alice and Ken Skirtz
Catherine and Mike Stehlin
Stephanie Sweeney
Louise Tatgenhorst
Judy Tensing
Barbara and Richard Traud
William Watts
Thurman Wenzl
Evelyn Widner
Elizabeth Wiggs
Rob Wilson
William Woods
Myra Yates
Pat Youngblood

ENRICHING

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Susan Brownknight
Linda Davis
Brian and Michelle Dershaw
Don and Jane Gardner
David Gruber
Laura Hils
Jonathon Blickenstaff and Angela Denov
George Kingston
Sarah Lavelle
Barbara Maloney
Stephen Peterson and Chris Bolling
Margaret Quinn
Joseph and Kathleen Schwab
Tammy Schwartz
Steve Elliott and Jan Weber
Karen Summers
Thomas and Diana Klinedinst
Christopher Wilkey and Donelle Dreese

ENGAGING

Peg Bouska
Brennan Grayson and Jennifer Summers
Richard and Christina Eisenberg
Ron and Linda Gehrlich
Steven Hils
Robert and Mary Maxwell
Michael Flood and Bonnie Neumeier
Andy and Meghan Neumeier
Cassie and Parker Niemann
Barbara and Eugene Otting
Joe and Katie Pflum
Laura Tabor
Julia Weaver
Mark and Sue Wehrman

EMPOWERING

Gary and JoAnn Hagopian
Olden Warren
Peter Block
Jim and Peggy Flood
Chris Heckman

Peaslee Thanks These Foundations, Organizations and Businesses For Their Support:



www.peasleecenter.org