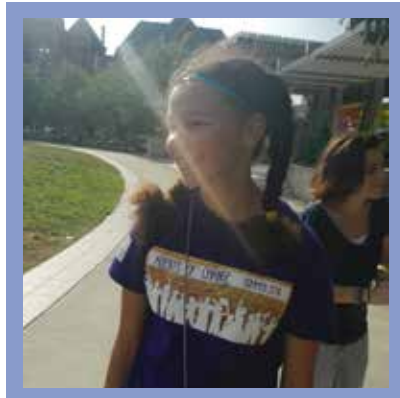
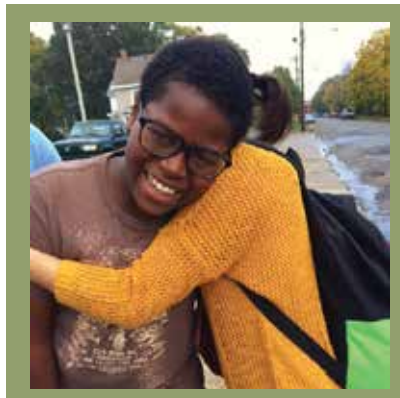


# PEASLEE

## NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



**ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE COMMUNITY**

**2016**

## 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.



Jennifer Summers

Peaslee Friends and Allies,

As Peaslee celebrates another year of work in our community as a center for education, enrichment, advocacy, and social change, we are grateful for the gift of our space and story. A community based asset like our center is a valuable resource that we work to protect, invest in and grow.

Our space allows children to grow, musicians to bloom, and writers to find voice. It provides families a safe space, women a place to connect, and youth the opportunity to lead. It encourages learners to teach, residents to stand up, and activists to engage. And it urges everyone to participate in positive social change. This work is both challenging and life giving; we are only able to build this type of community with the support of people like you. We appreciate your consideration of a gift to continue our work in building a just community for all citizens.

With gratitude,  
Jennifer Summers, Director



### 2016 -2018 Strategic Plan Goals

- 1) Deepen a neighborhood culture of community agency for social justice.
- 2) Expand Peaslee's ability to collectively impact Cincinnati's urban core.
- 3) Position Peaslee as a regional model for community empowerment centering on those with limited access to social, political and economic power.
- 4) Invest in Peaslee's building as an inspirational community based asset.



**PEASLEE**  
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

## OUR VISION

Thoughtful citizens committed to a just and equitable society.



*Peaslee community history mural — designed by Agents of Change youth*

## 2016 Board of Trustees

**Bonnie Neumeier**, Co-Chair  
Over-the-Rhine Resident, Peaslee Co-Founder  
**Chris Wilkey**, Co-Chair  
Educator, Northern Kentucky University  
**Rene Cheatham**, Treasurer  
General Electric  
**Chris Heckman**, Secretary  
Losantiville Ltd.  
**June Alexander**, Over-the-Rhine Resident,  
Community Educator  
**Bob Donovan**, Over-the-Rhine Resident  
Cincinnati Health Network  
**Pam Roebel**, PR/Marketing Consultant  
**Nicola da Roza**, Over-the-Rhine Resident  
Fund Evaluation Group  
**Laura Hils**, Alcohol, Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau,  
U.S. Department of Treasury  
**Elizabeth Burnside**, Over-the-Rhine Resident,  
Rothenberg Educator  
**Tammy Schwartz**, Miami University  
**Amy Howton**, Design Impact



## Piano Program

In 2016, our Piano Program supported 50 students ages 5-65, with 7 first time piano students. Eight students received Level One certificates and two students received Level Two certificates. We also expanded our offerings by adding a summer program which retained 80% of students from the spring while assisting with retention of musical skills into the fall semester.

Students participated in recitals and performances throughout the year that were attended by more than 225 people. Additionally this year Peaslee Piano t-shirts were provided for all students, designed by Nathanael Minor and made possible by the Sr. Elise Fund.

*"Whatever you say and whatever you do, it will be heard here at Peaslee."*

-Ana Garay, Peaslee Piano Student



## Writing Programs

Through a variety of writing programs, we celebrated the self-determination of community as realized through a collection of voices too often shut out of traditional platforms of written word publication.

One of Peaslee's writing circles, **Justice Seekers Writing for Our Lives** continued its quarterly gatherings, offering a pause to take in poetry, to follow one's muse and to affirm the voices of sister writers.

Our **Girls' Writing Circles** for 4th, 5th & 6th graders continued in 2016 through a partnership with Rothenberg Preparatory Academy. Each meeting, the girls find and develop their voices, read poetry, write creatively and share their work, verbally affirming one another. At the end of the fall semester, The Girls' Writing Circle held a holiday showcase of their work at Rothenberg where they displayed and read their writing aloud.

This year, the **Over-the-Rhine Community Writing Collaborative**—an initiative connecting Northern Kentucky University, Peaslee and other community-based writing programs—began work to create and publish an original book of collected community writings. This first book project is part of an exploratory process aimed at the potential creation of our own independent community press.



*"When I am silenced,  
it feels like I am in a room  
alone by myself.  
It is my voice that makes me  
feel empowered."*

-Collective poem written by  
5th and 6th grade girls in  
a writing circle at Rothenberg





# Community Education Programs

In 2016, our Community Education Program engaged 2,238 individuals—more than double our participants in 2015.

## Service Learning & Visiting Groups

Over 900 individuals came to us in groups visiting Over-the-Rhine to learn about social justice issues in the community. Twenty percent (20%) of these visitors were involved in deep, ongoing partnerships directly connecting them to the stories, wisdom, and insight of local residents. Participants explored topics including gentrification, racism, community teaching, women as activists, democracy, and power and privilege.



*"The number one resource you can get your hands on is a person and the wisdom another person can share... If you don't have anything else to give, your story, some words of wisdom or encouragement in itself is something to give and inspire someone else in this community."*

-Shana Darden,  
Over-the-Rhine Resident and Educator



## Neighborhood Residents & General Public

Other Community Education work more directly engaged neighborhood residents, other urban core families, and general community stakeholders. In 2016 approximately 1,330 people engaged with this education, dialogue and advocacy work.

Our **Agents of Change** program, involving local youth ages 11 – 15, continued to delve into the intersection of self-expression and social change. Their major group projects included the design of a motivational

*"We believe that we are bright young minds, full of ideas and opinions. There is value in our ability to see things differently than adults."*

-Agents of Change Manifesto

window banner graphic, the makeover of a functional soap box for public speaking, an original mural paying tribute to Peaslee history, and a written manifesto of shared beliefs.



Ongoing coalition work included organizing, educating, advocating and developing leadership with the **Keep Our Courts: Do Development Differently Coalition**, which works to protect and invest in public spaces with priority placed on community voice and benefit. In 2016, this coalition was successful in getting the City of Cincinnati to table a plan to replace a recreational space and community garden with luxury homes. The Cincinnati Recreation Commission then announced a plan for a community input process concerning all the spaces they steward in Over-the-Rhine, including this contested space at Main & Schiller.

Our public education events on community development opened our doors for citizens to dialogue and learn about the quality of life and economic disparities in our communities. Small group sessions with Over-the-Rhine residents and stakeholders led to deeper discussions of equitable development tools and their application in Cincinnati. We began work in coalition with other partners

**3** to influence city-wide development policy around affordability and access.





# Partnerships and Community Events

## Caregiver Circle Project

In 2016, the Caregiver Circle Project, a partnership with the Center for Community Change, impacted over 500 participants as we connected with community allies like SEIU, a union for care workers, Cincinnati Interfaith Workers' Center, The Contact Center and other local organizations and individuals. Our organizer, Pat Youngblood, continued to invite people with caregiving experience into community change efforts to support and recognize their work. This year, six (6) circles were held at churches, schools and residences in Over-the-Rhine and an on-going Women's Support Group helped women in community share their skills and connections. A Caregiver Summit also tied together local and national events, skills and connections of caregivers.



## Black Lives Matter Cincinnati

Throughout 2016 Peaslee partnered with Black Lives Matter Cincinnati (BLMC) on education, community outreach and actions to stand up and speak out against racist and exclusionary practices in our community. BLMC hosted an amazing basketball tournament in support of our neighborhood youth and families and the Keep Our Courts: Do Development Differently Coalition that was attended by over 100 people in support of public recreational space. Peaslee also joined the Countdown to Conviction Coalition to educate and organize for justice and accountability in the case of Sam DuBose.



## Community Events

In addition to the specific program work already highlighted, Peaslee co-hosted community events throughout the year that engaged approximately 950 people. Our space is growing as a hub for education, organizing and social change.



**Music and Cultural: 225 people**



**Education and Civic Engagement: 390 people**



**Job Fairs: 150 people**

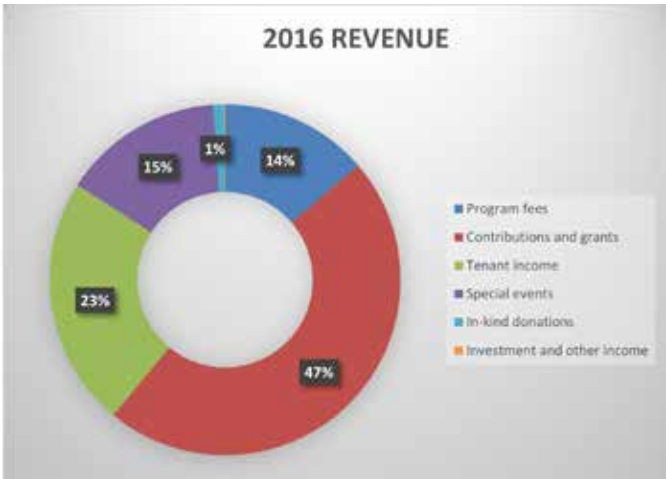


**Peaslee Presents: 185 people**

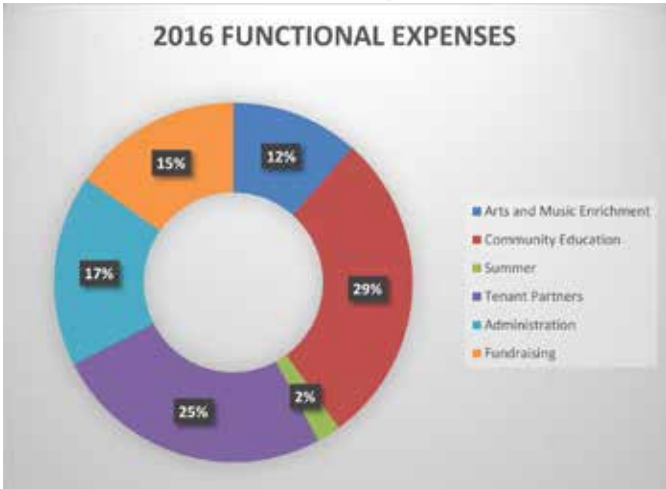
Peaslee Thanks These Organizations For Their Support:

- ArtsWave  
Austing Family Fund - Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Benny's Pizza  
Catholic Campaign For Human Development  
Center for Community Change  
Church Women United  
Cincinnati City Center Development Corporation  
Congregation Of The Humility Of Mary Ministry Fund  
Crossroads/GO Cincinnati  
CSC Special Events  
Dominican Sisters Of Hope  
Elder High School  
Emanuel Bachmann Foundation  
Episcopal Society Of Christ Church  
First Financial Bank  
First Lutheran Church  
First Unitarian Church  
Franciscans Of The Province Of St. John The Baptist  
GE Foundation  
GE Evendale Plant Employees Community Service Fund  
glaserworks  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Peace Circle  
Gray & Pape, Inc.  
Greater Cincinnati Foundaiton: Summertime Kids  
Guardian Angels Church  
HGC Construction  
Immaculate Conception Church
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish  
Kircher Suetholz & Associates  
Kneflin-Dillhoff-Hils & Kruse  
Kroger Community Rewards Program  
Magnified Giving  
Matinee Musicale Endowment Fund  
Mercy Health  
Mercy Health West Park Senior Living  
Miami University Center For Community Engagement in Over-the-Rhine  
Miami University Urban Teaching Cohort  
Model Property Development, LLC  
Murray & Agnes Seasongood Good Government Foundation  
OTR Marianists  
Peace Village Posters for Peace  
Perfection  
Printer Emergency Services  
Power Inspires Progress  
SC Ministry Foundation  
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati  
Sr. Elise Fund  
St. John Catholic Church  
St. Joseph Church, Wapakoneta  
The Father Brunner Peace and Justice Fund  
The Keyboard Club  
Turner Construction  
University of Cincinnati

Income



Functional Expenses



2016 Income & Expenses

|                             | Jan - Dec 16 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Income                      |              |
| Program fees                | 40,274       |
| Contributions and grants    | 138,847      |
| Tenant income               | 67,873       |
| Special events              | 43,588       |
| In-kind donations           | 2,913        |
| Investment and other income | 289          |
| Total Income                | 293,784      |
| Expense                     |              |
| Direct program              | 27,635       |
| Personnel                   | 165,998      |
| Professional fees           | 8,453        |
| Occupancy                   | 39,213       |
| Maintenance                 | 10,749       |
| Office                      | 5,101        |
| Outside services            | 1,738        |
| Training and development    | 2,406        |
| Special events              | 10,326       |
| Other                       | 382          |
| Depreciation                | 25,044       |
| Total Expense               | 297,045      |
| Net income                  | (3,261)      |

## Peaslee Thanks These Individuals

### FRIENDS OF PEASLEE

Anonymous  
Shaina Adler  
Mildred Barhorst  
Annie Bennett  
Mary Anne Berry  
Daniel Betts  
Judith Blackburn  
Carol Breuner  
Gregory and Antoinette Busch  
Adrienne Cooper  
Lillian and Benjamin Dean  
Christopher Deangelis  
Stephen DeMar  
Jonathon Blickenstaff and Angela Denov  
Dan and Mary Kay Drexler  
Jeanne East  
Robert Egbert  
Herbert Eichen  
Tracy Elliot  
Teresa and Mike Elsass  
Mary Jo Espelage  
Susan Faller  
George and Nancy Frondorf  
Amy Glosh  
James and Louise Gomer Bangel  
Scott Griffith  
Gary and JoAnn Hagopian  
Peter Hames  
Katy Heins and Patrick Clifford  
Harry and Kathleen Hendy  
Jessie Henson  
Shannon Hughes and Jennifer Arens  
Kathleen Hunt and Wayne Burton  
Stephanie Huston  
Fred and Maureen Keeley  
Julia Kyser  
Anissa Lewis  
Jo Ann Martini  
Joyce Miller  
Angela Pancella  
Stephen Peterson and Chris Bolling  
Ann Retford  
Allison and Patrick Reynolds-Berry  
Patricia Richter  
John and Sylvia Roth  
Terri Ruff and Arthur Borne  
Patricia Ann Sabourin  
Scott Sander  
Kathryn Schellinger  
Robert and Polly Scherger  
Marguerite Schoenung  
Jon and Jacqueline Seymour  
Amber Simpson

Delia Sizler  
Louise Stallworth  
Martha and Jerone Stephens  
Terry and Kathleen Sullivan  
Sr. Terry Thorman  
Joan and Dennis Tirman  
Bruce W. Wasem  
Sue Wehrman  
Evelyn Widner  
Tyrone Williams  
Matthew and Susan Zdinak

### EDUCATING

Benny and Myrna Anderson  
Tabatha Anderson and Marvin Butts  
Roger and Mary Auer  
Marla Banks  
Lois Benjamin  
Greg Bethards  
John and Nancy Blignaut  
Ken Bordwell  
Mary Anne Bressler  
William Busch  
Dorothy Christenson  
Sarah Jane Craig  
Linda Davis  
Nancy Dawley  
Brian and Michelle Dershaw  
Deane and Phyllis Elliott  
Steve Elliott and Jan Weber  
Judy and Denis Flood  
Gerald Froehlich and Laura Goodell  
Mim Gaetano  
Mimi Gingold and Al Gerhardstein  
Lois Gish and Tim Kraus  
David Gruber and Esperanza Tovar  
Andy Hutzler and Amy Harpenau  
Deanna Heil  
Laura Hils and Peter Hale  
Koben Hinman  
Dale Hodges  
Amy Howton  
Ruth Hurley-Franchi  
George Kingston  
Tom and Diana Klinedinst  
Robert Knueven  
Andrea and John Kornbluh  
Sarah Lavelle  
David Logan  
Donna and Neal Mayerson  
Doc and Beth O'Connor  
Barbara and Eugene Otting  
Diana Porter and Leonard Webb

Sanyog Rathod  
Mark and Sally Richter  
Mary Ann and Robert Roncker  
Bill and Mary Rouleau  
Joseph and Kathleen Schwab  
Amy Silver and Josh Spring  
Stephanie Sweeney  
Barbara and Richard Traud  
Olden Warren  
Joseph Wessling  
Chris Wilkey and Donelle Dreesse

### ENRICHING

Mary Diane Custer  
Elizabeth Duquette  
Don and Jane Gardner  
George and Gail Gundrum  
Barbara Maloney  
Fred and Robin Neumeier  
Margaret Quinn  
Tammy Schwartz  
Alice and Ken Skirtz  
William Watts

### ENGAGING

Eleanor Behrmann  
Karis and Jon Cady  
Philip and Sheila Cohen  
Nicola da Roza  
Thomas and Martha Depenbrock  
Richard and Christina Eisenberg  
Ron and Linda Gehrlich  
Steven Hils  
Andy and Meghan Neumeier  
Cassie and Parker Niemann  
Kate and Joe Pflum  
George and Joan Rebeck  
Jennifer Summers and Brennan  
Grayson  
Julie Wilke

### EMPOWERING

Peter Block  
Carolyn Brookbank  
Bruce and Laurie Fairlie Weil  
Jim and Peggy Flood  
Nancy Gruber  
Bill and Suzanne Joiner  
Robert and Mary Maxwell  
Steven McDonald  
Michael Flood and Bonnie Neumeier  
Julia Weaver

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

