

CLEVELAND
Foundation

SUMMER 2023

Gift of Giving

NEWS FOR DONORS AND FRIENDS OF THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION

HQ SPECIAL EDITION

Opening Doors

WELCOME TO THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION'S NEW MIDTOWN HOME

INSIDE | Celebrating Ronn Richard's Legacy
Welcoming New CEO Lillian Kuri
Thanking Our HQ Donors

Dear Donors and Friends of the Cleveland Foundation, Welcome!

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome — both to this special edition of Gift of Giving and to our incredible new MidTown headquarters, which we’re celebrating in the following pages. We are so proud of our new home and the vision for community-driven renewal it represents. If you haven’t had the opportunity to come see it for yourself, I hope to see you soon!

In addition to welcoming you to our space, I also want to thank you for the warm reception I’ve received since joining the foundation as senior vice president of philanthropy last fall. It’s been such a privilege and pleasure getting to know so many of you over the course of this last year, and I’m so excited for what’s to come as we embark on this new chapter in the foundation’s history together.

This year marks so many extraordinary transitions for the Cleveland Foundation — moving into this beautiful building, opening our doors in new ways to the community we love and serve, and celebrating new leadership. We can feel the momentum building behind this wave of reinvention, and we’re so excited to hone this powerful energy into creating an unparalleled donor experience that translates into making an even bigger impact in Greater Cleveland.

Thank you for joining us on this shared journey. As always, we thank you for your partnership, generosity and commitment to our community. We stand ready to help you make your greatest charitable impact.

Warm regards,



Leta Obertacz
Senior Vice President, Philanthropy



“This year marks so many extraordinary transitions for the Cleveland Foundation — moving into this beautiful building, opening our doors in new ways to the community we love and serve, and celebrating new leadership.”

Momentum in MidTown

The Cleveland Foundation’s move to MidTown marks the first time in nearly a century that we have a front door to our community. And opening the doors to our new home is just one part of the neighborhood’s momentum — a broader, community-driven vision for an innovative mixed-use district that connects our city geographically and contributes to the rising tide of investment that’s transforming Cleveland’s near-east side.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT

Already, an estimated \$700 million is projected to flow into Hough over the next decade through dozens of development projects led by various groups, including:

- **Dave’s Supermarket**
- **MAGNET’s new Manufacturing Innovation, Technology & Job Center**
- **University Hospitals Rainbow Center for Women & Children**
- **Cleveland Public Library’s Hough Branch**
- **The Allen Estates**
- **League Park and the Baseball Heritage Museum**

Two projects driving this exciting transformation are happening steps away from our new home. Our neighbors at the Dunham Tavern Museum are remaking their historic campus with a welcoming community green space and public park as part of their five-year master plan. We’ve also broken ground on the MidTown Collaboration Center, a three-story 95,000-square-foot multi-tenant building that will bring together partners across sectors, companies and disciplines as a new model for economic development that centers around community.

MIDTOWN COLLABORATION CENTER

When complete, the building will house around 200 direct full-time jobs. The building tenants share a commitment to working with vs. for the community. Organizations, services and programs in the building will be accessible to neighborhood residents and are designed to foster community wellbeing and wealth creation, including:

- **Case Western Reserve University’s** new Center for Population and Urban Health
- **Cleveland Institute of Art’s** state-of-the art virtual reality, augmented reality, game design, XR film studio and interactive media lab
- **JumpStart’s headquarters**, providing capital, services and connections to help entrepreneurs grow, researchers commercialize, and corporations innovate
- **Hyland Software’s** free “Hy-Tech Camps” for 7th-12th grade students to learn coding
- **University Hospitals’** Diabetes and Obesity Center, focused on community-based health
- **Assembly for the Arts**, the only organization of its kind in Northeast Ohio working across geographies and organizations to strengthen and advocate for the entire creative sector, from nonprofit organizations to small creative businesses and individual artists
- **ECDI**, a national leader in SBA microloans serving underbanked people and communities
- **Black Frog Brewery**, Cleveland’s only Black-owned brewery, founded by brewmaster Chris Harris
- **Pearl’s Kitchen** by chef Tiwanna Scott-Williams, the only Black woman to have a food stall in Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse



Partners and tenants celebrate the groundbreaking of the MidTown Collaboration Center.

Welcome Home

Home is where the heart is — and ours has always been in Greater Cleveland. From Cleveland Foundation founder Frederick Goff’s original vision of a community trust for the benefit of all residents, our purpose has always been rooted in place. Our mission is to partner with our entire community, from nonprofit organizations to individuals and families, to enhance the quality of life for everyone who calls Greater Cleveland home. When it came time to explore options for a new home for the Cleveland Foundation, we knew it had to be welcoming and accessible to the people and organizations we serve.

Our new home at the crossroads of Cleveland’s MidTown and Hough neighborhoods connects us with the amazing work that is already underway in the area, including the long-standing vision of the historic Dunham Tavern Museum to make its campus welcoming and inviting to neighborhood residents; the creation of a collaborative district that is focused on an economy that will work for everyone; as well as the reimagining of E. 66th Street that has been designed by residents and youth alike to connect the city north to south from Superior Avenue to Euclid Avenue. Together, we are creating a future that honors the history, social fabric and generations of residents in the MidTown and Hough neighborhoods while supporting growth that benefits the entire community.

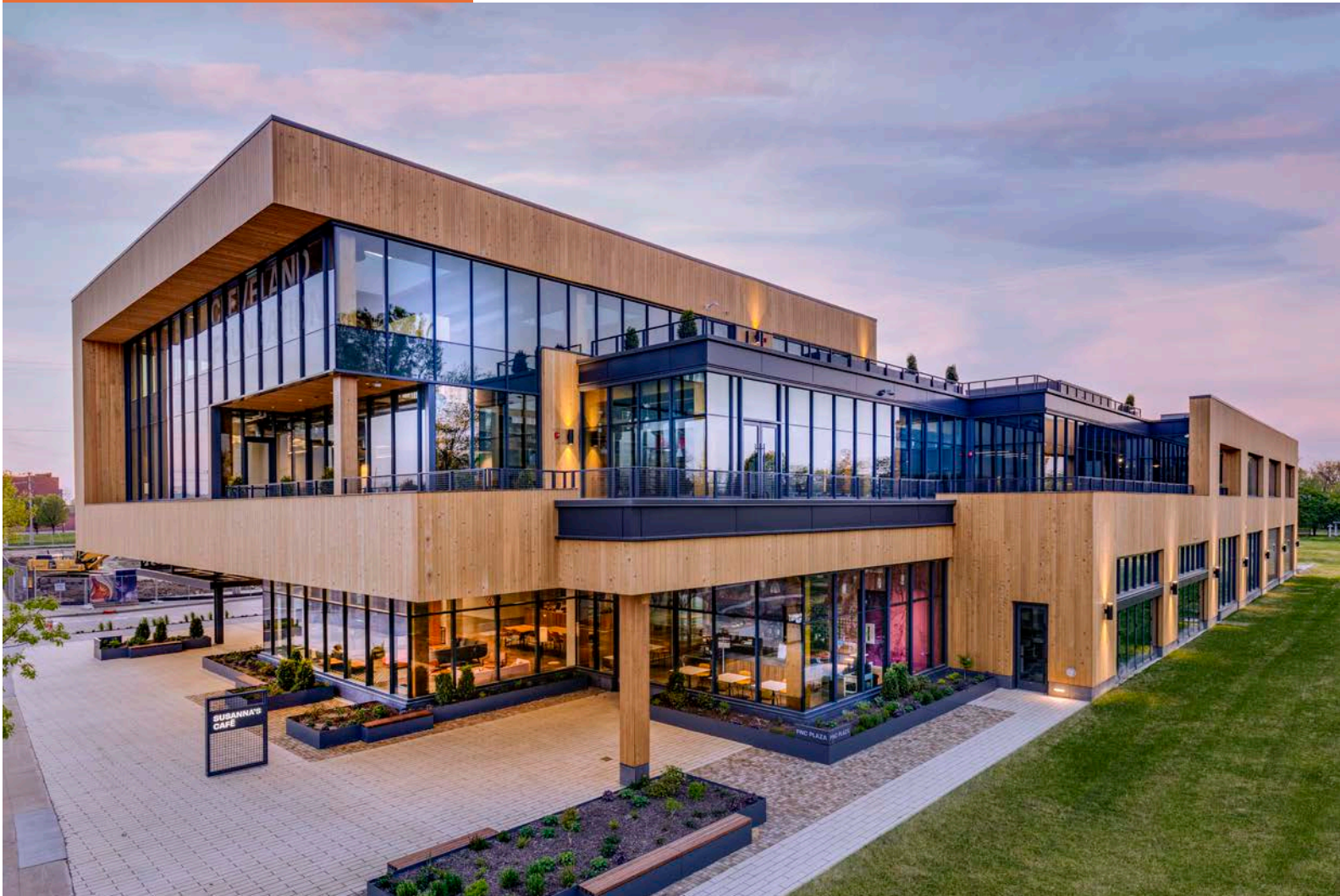
“We are thrilled to open our doors to the community we love and serve,” said Lillian Kuri, Cleveland Foundation president & CEO, who succeeded retiring CEO Ronn Richard in August. “Whether you’re a resident, a CEO of a corporation, a grantee or a donor, you’re going to find something in here that welcomes you and makes you feel like you’re a part of the Cleveland Foundation.”

Designed by the New York firm S9 Architecture with Cleveland firm VOCON, our new building embodies transparency, open access and environmental sustainability. The building’s programmatic design was led by Pascale Sablan, who is now associate principal with Adjaye Associates of New York. Early on, Sablan met with community residents to understand their hopes for the future of the neighborhood, which informed the building’s design.

In addition to traditional offices and work stations, the building is full of accessible, welcoming spaces for our staff, donors, grantees and community members to come together. From conference rooms to collaboration hubs and more, these spaces were made possible through the generous support of our donors:

- African American Philanthropy Committee Conference Room
- Bank of America Café and Lounge
- Fred & Laura Ruth Bidwell Exhibition Space
- Sally and Bob Gries Center for Philanthropy
- Huntington Conference Room
- KeyBank Studio for Arts & Community
- Charlotte Rosenthal Kramer Lobby
- Steven A. Minter Conference Center
- PNC Plaza
- Beth & Clay Rankin Executive Suite
- Barbara Haas Rawson Community Stair
- Ronald B. Richard Board Room
- Rev. Dr. Stephen Rowan Community Gathering Space
- Sherwin-Williams Conference Room
- Tom & Sandy Sullivan Family Conference Room
- Susanna’s Café

In addition, Neighborhood Connections has co-located its offices in our new home — with a street-level presence on E. 66th Street — as it continues the critical work of building a more just, equitable and inclusive community.



“Like all homes, our new headquarters is more than just a building. This move is bigger than just relocating to a new physical space — it’s the start of a new chapter as we continue our work to make Greater Cleveland the best home for everyone who lives here.”

Constance Hill-Johnson
Cleveland Foundation
Board of Directors Chairperson



LEED-CERTIFIED Sustainable Design

The materials and design of our headquarters bring the outdoors in and connect the environments within and beyond the building’s walls. Universal design features ensure people of all physical abilities are able to move through the building easily. Adjacent free parking as well as the building’s location along major public transit lines will allow more people to conveniently travel to and from the building.

Our new home was designed with the natural environment top-of-mind. It earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification for green building design. A 250-kilowatt solar canopy over the surface parking lot offers electric vehicle charging stations. Over a 30-year period, this solar canopy is estimated to have the same carbon reduction benefit as 75,055 trees.

SUSANNA’S CAFÉ A Meal with a Mission

Visitors to the Cleveland Foundation headquarters can grab a bite to eat at Susanna’s Café by HELP Harvest, operated by HELP. While the café provides healthy, savory food for staff, visitors and community alike, it is so much more. The café is part of HELP Harvest, launched in 2022. This seed-to-table concept incorporates three initiatives that expand and enhance HELP’s vocational services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on their path toward community employment. Produce is grown at the HELP Harvest Greenhouse, which is then harvested to make healthy meals and snacks at the HELP Harvest Kitchen and then prepared, packaged, labeled and sold at two HELP Harvest cafés: Susanna’s Café by HELP Harvest and The Bistro by HELP Harvest at the Cove Community Center in Lakewood. Both HELP Harvest cafés offer a stepping stone for individuals who are ready to graduate into community employment. HELP’s mission is to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through residential, day support, vocational and summer education programs to choose services and opportunities as respected and valued members of the community.

www.helpfoundationinc.org

A Legacy of Leadership

After 20 years at the helm of the world’s first community foundation, Cleveland Foundation President & CEO **Ronn Richard** retired in August 2023, concluding his tenure as the second-longest serving head of the foundation.

“It has been the honor of a lifetime to lead the Cleveland Foundation for the past two decades,” said Richard. “I leave knowing that our organization has worked with local partners to achieve transformational change, and I am confident the foundation’s future is bright thanks to a wonderful board, a talented new CEO, a marvelous staff, a record endowment and tremendous working relationships with local leaders in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. I’m also grateful to the foundation’s donors, who have allowed us to do so much for the community as a result of their generosity.”

Under Richard’s leadership, the foundation doubled its endowment, from \$1.5 billion in 2002 to more than \$3 billion today, and increased its grantmaking to record levels, including more than \$100 million to the Greater Cleveland community each of the past six years. He spearheaded the foundation’s move to MidTown and the curation of future development around the new headquarters. He also played a vital leadership role in some of the foundation’s — and region’s — most impactful initiatives, including:

- **Public Education Reform:**
Cleveland’s Portfolio School Strategy, including the creation of the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine
Cleveland’s Plan for Transforming Schools, a bold reform strategy to ensure every child in Cleveland attends a high-quality school
Say Yes to Education Cleveland, a groundbreaking initiative to help make a college degree affordable and attainable for Cleveland Metropolitan School District graduates
- **The Greater University Circle Initiative**, a collaborative redevelopment initiative by multiple anchor institutions that included the launch of Evergreen Cooperatives
- **LEEDCo’s Project Icebreaker**, North America’s first freshwater offshore wind project
- **Cleveland Innovation Project**, a cross-sector strategy to strengthen technology-based economic growth and prosperity for all Greater Cleveland residents
- **Creative Fusion and Cleveland Foundation Arts Mastery Initiative**, which lifts the importance of the arts through both international artist-in-residence programming and by providing the highest quality arts programs for youth across Cleveland
- Overseeing the creation of **NewBridge Center for Arts & Technology**
- **The Coro and Cleveland Foundation Public Service fellowships**, which help launch the careers of young professionals



“Together, we have accomplished so much over the past 20 years.”

READ MORE about Ronn Richard’s legacy of leadership at the Cleveland Foundation.



“Ronn has been an incredible leader and mentor to me. He’s allowed us to take risks as a team, and I’m forever grateful for that.”

Lillian Kuri
President & CEO

A New Chapter

On May 1, 2023, the Cleveland Foundation proudly announced that its Board of Directors unanimously elected **Lillian Kuri** as the organization’s 10th president & CEO, and Kuri officially took office Aug. 1, 2023.

“Lillian brings a proven track record and a sense of creativity to the way she looks at the work of the foundation and its role in the community,” said Constance Hill-Johnson, chairperson of the Cleveland Foundation Board of Directors. “She knows the city like the back of her hand and has an amazing ability to foster and build relationships — to really put people at ease. Furthermore, her heart is always in the right place, and we are confident in her ability to lead the foundation in service to the residents of Greater Cleveland.”

Kuri is the first woman in the 109-year-history of the foundation to hold the president & CEO position full time.

“I am humbled and grateful to have been selected by the Cleveland Foundation Board of Directors,” said Kuri. “I firmly believe that this is an exceptional moment for Greater Cleveland. We have a new generation of local leadership that includes civic, government and nonprofit leaders who are bringing fresh perspectives to their jobs and a track record of working together — even before taking on their new roles. I am excited to be joining their ranks.”

The daughter of Lebanese immigrants and a Northeast Ohio native, Kuri joined the foundation in 2005 as a project consultant for the revitalization of Greater University Circle. She officially joined the foundation staff in 2007 as a program director and in 2016 was promoted to vice president for strategic grantmaking, arts & urban design. In 2020, she was elevated to senior vice president for strategy for her work planning and designing the foundation’s new home in MidTown, and in 2021, she was promoted to the newly created position of executive vice president and chief operating officer.

“This moment is much larger than the Cleveland Foundation, and we must rise to the occasion by finding new ways to collaborate and convene,” Kuri said. “It is critical that we leverage the move to MidTown to create an environment at the foundation in which every member of our community sees a piece of themselves reflected in the organization and the work we do.”



“We’re poised as a region for an extraordinary amount of change and growth, and I’m excited to be a part of it.”

HEAR MORE from Lillian Kuri about her vision for Greater Cleveland.



“Lillian knows and loves Cleveland — her passion for and commitment to our community are unparalleled. I am so excited to see what the foundation will accomplish under her leadership. It’s going to be nothing short of amazing.”

Ronn Richard
President & CEO, 2003-2023

Extending a Branch

African American Philanthropy Committee influences past, present and future givers

Left to right: **Steve Sanders**, AAPC member; **Ron Johnson**, AAPC co-chair; **Michele Ghee**, former CEO of EBONY & JET; **Constance Hill-Johnson**, Cleveland Foundation Board Chairperson; **Kevin McDaniel**, AAPC member; **Justin Horton**, AAPC member; **Terri Eason**, Cleveland Foundation Senior Director of Philanthropy Equity Initiatives; **Robyn Minter Smyers**, AAPC member; **Belva Denmark Tibbs**, AAPC member; **Jazmin Long**, AAPC member; and **Kevin Clayton**, senior vice president, head of social impact and equity for the Cleveland Cavaliers.



In 1993, former Cleveland Foundation President & CEO Steven A. Minter founded the African American Outreach Advisory Committee to magnify and unite the collective impact of Black donors connected to the Cleveland Foundation. “His major goal was to create this group of like-minded individuals who would be focused on coming up with strategies about how to give back to the Black community,” said **Terri Eason**, the foundation’s senior director of philanthropy equity initiatives.

What started as a “lunch bunch” of donors became a formal group that was supported by the Cleveland Foundation unilaterally. Today, the group provides leadership on critical issues regarding the current and future state of giving in the Black community.

In 2001, the name changed to the **African American Philanthropy Committee (AAPC)**. Eason shares that “[they] put together a strategic plan that focused specifically on engaging, informing and educating individual donors so that they can understand how philanthropy can help with building community, wealth preservation, and the like.”

GROWING COMMUNITY

Community is an integral part of the AAPC. Members often become life-long friends, colleagues and collaborators, expanding their ranks to other like-minded Clevelanders.

“We also wanted to make sure that we knew one another because we are a community of folks here in Northeast Ohio,” said AAPC co-chair **Ronald V. Johnson Jr., Esq.**, KeyBank chief ethics officer. “And so, we wanted to make sure that we provided the right environment to promote Black philanthropy.”

One of the many people that Eason invited to join in the early 2000s was the owner and managing director of Visiting Angels Living Assistance Services, **Constance Hill-Johnson**, chairperson of the Cleveland Foundation Board of Directors and the first African American woman to hold the post. Joining the AAPC in 2009 was her initial involvement with the foundation. She said knowing it was an initiative started by Steve Minter was a motivating factor to join.

“I jumped in feet first with the African American Philanthropy Committee,” Hill-Johnson said. “It just sat well in my spirit that this is where I wanted to give my extra time outside of my business.”

“Whether [the title of philanthropist is] self-proclaimed or given, if you give to others and put them in a better position than they were before by having had an interaction with you, that’s philanthropy.”

Ellen Burts-Cooper, Ph.D.

The group is intentional about making sure they are measuring progress, said Eason, from efforts to build community to always asking what more they can do. As a result, their impact now extends beyond Cleveland — the AAPC and its biennial African American Philanthropy Summit are now national models for engagement, and people from around the country attend the summit.

LEADING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GIVERS

“Whether [the title of philanthropist is] self-proclaimed or given, if you give to others and put them in a better position than they were before by having had an interaction with you, that’s philanthropy,” said AAPC co-chair **Ellen Burts-Cooper, Ph.D.**, chief improvement officer of Improve Consulting & Training Group.

The AAPC is also striving to build onramps for other Black philanthropists. In 2022, the summit theme was “Philanthropic Equity: Making an Impact.”

“We’re in a social reckoning, and the discussions centered on ‘How do we think about philanthropy from more of an equitable perspective?’ ‘How do we get more equity and diversity in making

decisions about grants, investing resources, and being more thoughtful and strategic in supporting organizations that are providing services to the community?’” Johnson said.

For Burts-Cooper, “The greatest joy has been watching the faces of the people who benefit from our work. It’s also been watching the faces of people who are educated on different vehicles and different avenues to give to others.”

For those interested in giving, “the important thing is to do that self-reflection and to think about what moves us,” Johnson said. “It can start with one volunteer act or a small financial donation. It’s really about building a relationship with the cause and an organization. Once you start nurturing and building those relationships, it’s amazing what we can do.”

LEGACY CONTINUED

When Steve Minter first entered the field of philanthropy, he was one of few African Americans. During The Soul of Philanthropy Cleveland (TSOPCLE) exhibit at the Western Reserve Historical Society in 2019, an immense amount of change was recognized regarding decision making and equity in the field.

Hill-Johnson remembers the event fondly. After being recognized for his contributions, she recalls Steve pausing in front of the

audience to take in the moment. African American people are usually viewed as recipients of philanthropy, she said. Yet, this was a celebration of African Americans as givers, as philanthropists. TSOPCLE’s permanent exhibit ‘Celebrate Those Who Give Black’ continues to showcase just that.

“It was as if he was reflecting on his many, many years of work and service and where he wanted to get to,” Hill-Johnson said. “We achieved what he wanted to see. And then shortly after that, he passed away.”

THE FUTURE

“I am so excited and hopeful about our move to MidTown. I have to be one of the biggest cheerleaders for what our board decided several years ago,” Hill-Johnson said. Within the new Cleveland Foundation headquarters, the AAPC Conference Room of the Steven A. Minter Conference Center will be free for nonprofits who want to use the space. Thus, additional groups might connect, collaborate and launch initiatives that extend far into the future.



WATCH MORE

Amplifying Art with Community Collaborations

Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell are art boosters and relationship builders.



Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell are best known for their contributions to Cleveland’s art scene. Often supporting Cleveland-based artists and Northeast Ohio institutions, their support continues with a recent donation to create an exhibition space within the Cleveland Foundation headquarters.

THE BEGINNING

The Bidwells have always been “art boosters.” Proud of what they have achieved together, the couple has found inspiration in helping artists and creatives pursue careers. They love having a collection, but they say the greatest reward is the relationships they build with the artists themselves.

“That’s the important part,” says Laura. “It’s not the things that we own. It’s the relationships that are really critical.”

Fred and Laura started collecting photography and photo-based art after marrying in 1991. “[Photography] is the most interesting medium because it’s been in a constant state of revolution ever since it was invented. And it continues to change society and reflect society in really interesting ways,” says Fred.

A trained painter, Laura used photographic imagery when she worked in advertising. Fred’s interest in photography was sparked in grade school when he picked up his first camera, a Kodak Brownie, and later trained as a fine art photographer before going into advertising. When Malone Advertising in Akron hired Fred, he was assigned a cubicle next to his new colleague and fellow art director, Laura. Not long after, an office romance turned into a lifelong partnership.

They always agree on the art they buy — and if they don’t, they won’t buy it. With this comes a little give and take; Laura is a bit of a romantic, and Fred is more conceptual, so the duo said they must ease into certain art purchases. Like many couples, their taste has become more similar over time, but they keep surprising each other.

TRANSFORMER STATION AND FRONT INTERNATIONAL

Fred became the president of Malone Advertising in 1991 and sold the agency in 2005 to J. Walter Thompson, part of the world’s largest agency conglomerate. He continued to work with the agency until he retired in 2012.

After Fred’s retirement and years of collecting, Fred and Laura decided to share their collection with others. They formed the Fred and Laura Bidwell Foundation, and the search for a building commenced.

“Creativity belongs to all of us. It’s not mysterious. It’s really how we operate through our daily lives.”

Fred Bidwell

They found Transformer Station in the heart of Ohio City and fell in love with the space. For the past decade, they have curated shows in the space from their private collection and to present the work of local and international artists. The Bidwells gifted the space to the Cleveland Museum of Art in early 2023, with the only stipulation being that the museum do something “more daring” in the space.

They expected the gallery to be a success, but they were surprised by how much community development it spurred. Fred thought if a modest project could inspire a neighborhood transformation, what could a festival do for a city? Using a European model, FRONT seeks to enliven Cleveland by putting art everywhere and attracting people from outside of the city to see what an interesting and dynamic place Cleveland is. In 2018, the first festival, FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art, commenced.

“The real world lives in places like Cleveland. [We like] giving artists a chance to express themselves in a place that’s more authentic, without the pressure of commercial art fairs,” shares Fred. “This is all driven by ideas, not by money. And I think that FRONT is a fantastic way for Cleveland to showcase its talents and share it with the rest of the world.”

Fred Bidwell served twice as board president of the Akron Art Museum and as board chair for the Assembly for the Arts. Currently, he also sits on the boards of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress and the Cleveland Museum of Art, as well as the Visiting Committee of the Allen Memorial Art Museum. He was appointed to the Cleveland Foundation board in 2020.

THE GALLERY

In the Fred & Laura Ruth Bidwell Exhibition Space at the Cleveland Foundation, exhibitions are created, curated and informed by community members.

“The foundation is committing that space to anyone with something to express,” says Fred. “That felt really great to us. We’re excited to see what will appear on those walls.”

In planning for the first exhibition, a group of artists and community members came together to think critically about the space. They decided on an active space that people would engage with as they moved

throughout the first floor of the building. The process has been transparent, and community members decided what to put on the walls. The people highlighted and involved in creating the first exhibition were writers, gallerists, painters, photographers, historians and teachers.

As Fred says, “Creativity belongs to all of us. It’s not mysterious. It’s really how we operate through our daily lives. And so I’m not in favor of glorifying an artist and mystifying the artistic process.”

WHAT’S NEXT?

Fred and Laura continue to have new projects and build partnerships. Laura continues asking, “What do you want to be when you grow up? What’s next?”

For the Cleveland Foundation, what’s next is getting settled in the new building in MidTown. The gallery space will be a platform for their new neighbors to share, inspire and prompt creative problem-solving.



WATCH MORE

Reflecting on an Impactful Journey ‘Centering’ Philanthropy

Bob and Sally Gries have collaborated to help enhance the quality of life in our region through decades of service and philanthropy.

Bob and Sally Gries were both introduced to the importance of philanthropy from early ages.

Bob, a fifth-generation descendant of the first Jewish settler in Cleveland in 1837, learned about the art of giving from his religion as well as his father and his family, who have positively impacted the Greater Cleveland community through civic service and charitable giving for generations. One or two members of each generation created major changes for Cleveland, which he talks about in his book, “Five Generations.”

Bob began his nonprofit service when he was in his 20s and had three of Cleveland’s outstanding philanthropists as his mentors: Hughie O’Neill, James A. “Dolph” Norton and Bill Treuhaft.

Sally credits her mother as her first mentor. “When I look at my past, I feel that my strongest mentor for philanthropy was my mother. She really taught me to volunteer at a very early age and to give my little pennies to different charities. And she was very inspirational because she dedicated her life to charity in many, many ways,” Sally said.

That family history of philanthropy and service shaped Bob and Sally’s approach to career and community. They have worked individually and collectively to volunteer and support various organizations, serving on nearly 70 nonprofit boards: Bob with 40 and Sally with more than 25.

A DEEP CONNECTION TO THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION

Bob and Sally have a special connection with the Cleveland Foundation as the only married couple to have served two full 10-year terms on the board — Bob from 1972-82 and Sally from 2012-22. During Sally’s board tenure, including her last three years serving as board chair, she played a vital role in the planning decisions for the foundation’s new headquarters in MidTown.

“We were really looking for a place that could be for everyone,” she said.

Sally hopes the opening of the new headquarters will provide greater access for grantees and donors to further enhance the foundation’s efforts of working with everyone to collaborate and meet the needs of the community more effectively. She also hopes that the foundation’s greater MidTown revitalization project will provide jobs and value creation for neighborhood residents and become a model for other neighborhoods regionally and nationally. “The Cleveland Foundation is at the cutting edge of innovative philanthropy nationally,” Sally said.

SALLY AND BOB GRIES CENTER FOR PHILANTHROPY

As a financial advisor, Sally has seen firsthand that gifting and grantmaking can be complicated for many donors. And over the years, she and Bob have also sought guidance, often from the Cleveland Foundation, to help them make philanthropic decisions.

They hope their recent gift to the foundation to establish the Sally and Bob Gries Center for Philanthropy will encourage others to have important family discussions about philanthropy in a designated space for charitable planning and gifting and receive the guidance they need to make impactful philanthropic investments.

“Philanthropy has been and always will be very important to Cleveland. Without philanthropy, many of the community needs would be left undone. When I think about philanthropy for the long term, I think it’s very important that we educate our community — our corporate community, our individuals — and that we collaborate to help enhance the quality of life in our region,” Sally said.

Former Cleveland Foundation President & CEO Ronn Richard agrees and credits philanthropists like Sally and Bob for playing a very important role in Cleveland’s future.

“We’ll always need philanthropists with vision and passion like Bob and Sally Gries who are willing to give back and mentor the next generation,” Richard said. “It’s very fitting that their names are on our new philanthropy center.”

The Sally and Bob Gries Center for Philanthropy, located on the first floor of the foundation’s new headquarters, is designed as a donor meeting and event space to host small-group meetings and planning. The entryway with a living room design and a second room with a half round “kiva” space will allow the foundation to convene family meetings and affinity groups such as Foundations for Philanthropy and the Corporate Network.

“As longtime philanthropists in the city, we have valued the Cleveland Foundation’s resources and services to donors over the years. They’ve helped us in our gifting and our grantmaking, and they have helped others. And to bring it all together into one center is so important for donors and for the city long term,” Sally said.

CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE

Sally and Bob have never been afraid to take the necessary risks to enact the changes they long to see.

In the early 70s she became a board member of the Women’s Law Fund, a nonprofit that advocated for equal rights in the workplace



“I’m very excited when I think about the future of the Cleveland Foundation. We are at the forefront of our field. We are innovative, we are creative, and we have a wonderful board and staff that focuses truly on those current and long-term needs for all our citizens in our area. I really feel that we are maximizing our impact, and we will continue to raise the bar and increase the impact over time.”

Sally Gries

and provided support for prosecuting precedent-setting gender discrimination cases. During her time on the board, Women’s Law Fund won a crucial U.S. Supreme Court case allowing pregnant women nationwide the right to teach in public schools. The catalytic funding for this high risk, highly successful project came from the Ford Foundation and the Cleveland Foundation.

In 1978, Sally’s desire to effect change in the investment industry led her to start the first female-owned registered investment advisory firm in Ohio: Gries Financial Partners.

Bob was also a pioneer for change, by catalyzing the nascent venture capital industry in Cleveland in the early 1970s as the founder of a Small Business Investing Company (SBIC). He also played a vital role in the Civil Rights Movement when he served as Carl Stokes’ election campaign treasurer. In 1967, Stokes became the first African American mayor of a major U.S. city. Bob believes his greatest contribution to effecting change at the Cleveland Foundation was to persuade board members, many of whom were several decades his senior, to agree to two five-year terms so that others would have the opportunity to serve. Following his Cleveland Foundation board service, he continued to collaborate with his dear friend, Steve Minter, for another 15 years and chaired several programs to help the foundation and grantees.

RISKS, EQUALITY AND IMPACT

The couple has supported a wide range of organizations throughout the years, and taking risks and advancing social progress is reflected in their grantmaking.

“We want to invest in those areas that we think we can have significant impact,” Sally said. “...it’s very important that foundations play a role that is a little bit like being a venture capitalist, being willing to take risks to catalyze very important philanthropy.”

Through their family foundation and funds at the Cleveland Foundation, Sally and Bob have supported positive developments in education, arts and culture, and healthcare. Some of the projects and nonprofits closest to their hearts are the Hawken School Gries Center for Service & Experiential Learning and Vocational Guidance Services, a nonprofit dedicated to serving disabled people by offering key tools like job training and skill development.

“Through our philanthropy, we wish our legacy to be one of helping other people — most of whom will never know who we are,” Sally said.



WATCH MORE

Honoring a Dedicated and Inspired Philanthropist

Charlotte Rosenthal Kramer left a lasting legacy through her passion for philanthropy, which her son Mark and her grandchildren, Toby, Elizabeth and Benjamin, have proudly carried on.

“My mother, Charlotte Kramer, was a remarkable woman,” Mark said. “She was deeply committed to philanthropy, but in a very modest way. Over the years through our family foundations, she gave away millions of dollars to hundreds of organizations, primarily in Cleveland and Israel, but you won’t see her name on any plaque. It was only after she passed away that I felt it was appropriate to name the lobby of the Cleveland Foundation in her memory.”

Charlotte Zelda Rosenthal Kramer Schwartz, of Shaker Heights, Ohio, was born in Cleveland on Oct. 28, 1919, to Samuel and Sadie Rosenthal, and passed away on Jan. 18, 2021. Samuel Rosenthal had founded the Cleveland Overall Company in 1915, later renamed Work Wear Corporation, which her brother Leighton Rosenthal and her first husband Milton Kramer (1915–1980) grew into a publicly traded multinational enterprise until it was sold in 1985. Charlotte was remarried to Leonard Schwartz in 1982 until his passing in 2019.

“My mother inherited a deep commitment to Judaism from her father, including a dedication to Tikkun Olam, the Jewish responsibility to help repair the world, which is what motivated her philanthropy,” Mark said. “She carried on her father’s passion for supporting Jewish education and the State of Israel, but her philanthropy also extended to many of Cleveland’s arts, healthcare, social service, civic and educational organizations.”

“She had a remarkable energy and optimism,” Mark continued, “and whenever she saw an opportunity to do something helpful, she jumped at the chance to contribute.”

Through her foundations, she endowed the Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic and the Samuel Rosenthal Center for Judaic Studies, both at Case Western Reserve University. Inspired by Eugene Lang’s I Have a Dream Program, she committed to pay college tuition for an entire class of 71 sixth-grade students from East Madison Elementary School, the primary school she had once attended. A majority of the class went on to graduate high school, and many went on to college, becoming lawyers,

“It is entirely because of my mother’s influence that my own career has been devoted to research, teaching and working with foundations and corporations around the world — including working with the Cleveland Foundation — to increase the effectiveness of philanthropic giving, combat racial inequities, and accelerate social progress.”

Mark Kramer



artists or entering other successful careers. Among the students was London Fletcher, who became a professional football player, won a Super Bowl playing for the St. Louis Rams, and ended up creating his own charitable foundation.

Charlotte was a generous donor to major institutions such as the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, but much of her philanthropy was more modest and direct. She paid for Thanksgiving food baskets for dozens of families every year for more than 50 years. She planted trees along Shaker Boulevard to conceal the rapid transit tracks and beautify the street. And she worked for years to help revitalize downtown Cleveland.

“It is entirely because of my mother’s influence that my own career has been devoted to research, teaching and working with foundations and corporations around the world — including working with the Cleveland Foundation — to increase the effectiveness of philanthropic giving, combat racial inequities, and accelerate social progress.”

Charlotte’s influence also extends to her grandchildren, by encouraging their involvement in philanthropy and the Kramer Foundation.

Toby reflected, “One of the ways I hope to honor my grandmother’s legacy is to continue to build on her orientation toward giving by seeking opportunities for philanthropic dollars to make their way through the maze of nonprofits and arrive directly in the lives and hands of people facing oppression and hardship.”

Elizabeth added, “In addition to being a wonderful grandmother, she always sincerely considered each cause that came her way. She was dedicated to learning and self-growth until the end of her life, and she used her strength of spirit and mind to make the world a kinder, safer and more just place.”

And Ben observed, “My grandmother taught me that philanthropy is not only important to the world but in how it affects each of us. She incorporated philanthropy into her identity in such a meaningful way that was beyond any single cause or institution — she taught me, by her example, that being charitable and promoting the welfare of others is a worthy goal in and of itself — that was something she lived by.”

LINKING CHARLOTTE’S MEMORY TO THE CLEVELAND COMMUNITY

The family believed it was fitting to honor Charlotte’s memory by supporting the Cleveland Foundation and its new home.

“Most of the people who knew and loved my mother are no longer alive, but the Cleveland Foundation is an institution that I really admire,” said Mark. “They have a terrific staff and board who are extremely thoughtful, strategic and effective in their work.”

Mark explained that naming the Charlotte Rosenthal Kramer Lobby seemed highly appropriate. “First, because of my mother’s deep commitment to strengthening the City of Cleveland and its people. Second, the foundation made a bold choice to relocate its headquarters to one of the communities that it serves, demonstrating humility and a commitment to direct engagement that my mother would have appreciated. And finally, because the lobby is designed to be a space for people to gather and engage as a bridge between the foundation and the community it serves. That seemed very much in keeping with my mother’s values and approach to philanthropy. She always liked to engage directly with the people and organizations she supported.”



WATCH MORE

Planting the Seeds of Progress

The lasting impacts of Steven A. Minter, a trailblazer and luminary in the field of philanthropy

When we plant seeds, we do not know if they will grow or the impact they might have on others. We have faith that we are doing the right thing and building an environment that encourages growth and space for a deep breath. Then we hope the tree becomes essential to the community and continues to inspire people.

A SEED PLANTED

Steven A. Minter knew while at Baldwin-Wallace College that he wanted to teach. When he graduated in 1960, Minter initially thought that would mean a career in education, but after dozens of teaching interviews where he did not get the job because he was a Black man, he found his calling as a social worker.

Minter started his career as a caseworker in Cleveland’s east side Hough neighborhood in 1960, working for the Cuyahoga County Welfare Department. There, he learned firsthand that the enduring impacts of poverty, racism, education and criminal justice aren’t just policy issues.

“They are people’s issues, and he never forgot that. He really brought a social worker’s heart into philanthropy,” shared his daughter, **Robyn Minter Smyers**, executive committee member and partner at Thompson Hine LLP.

COMMUNITY GROWTH

Minter’s social worker heart solidified when he received a master’s degree from Western Reserve University’s School of Applied Social Sciences in 1963 and went on to become the youngest and first African American Cuyahoga County Welfare Department Director in 1969.

Eventually, Minter’s public service career drew him outside of Northeast Ohio when the governor of Massachusetts appointed him commissioner of that state’s public welfare department in 1971. But he later returned to Ohio and joined the Cleveland Foundation staff as a program officer in 1975.

“When I was invited to come to the foundation, in some ways, it was like I had received a call,” he explained in Kaleidoscope magazine’s summer 2003 issue. “Here was this institution that had as its mission improving the quality of life for residents and making a difference in the areas I cared about.”

Minter remained a part of the staff for 28 years except when he was on leave to be the inaugural Under Secretary of Education during the Carter administration in 1980.

“It’s very meaningful to me and my sisters, and his extended family, that there will continue to be a Steve Minter presence at the new Cleveland Foundation. The foundation was his life’s purpose. It really was his heart. The foundation family was his family.”

Robyn Minter Smyers

After holding the titles of program officer for social services, associate director, and program officer for civic affairs, in 1984, he became the eighth president and CEO of the Cleveland Foundation and the first African American president of any U.S. community foundation.

During his 19-year tenure as CEO, Minter grew the Cleveland Foundation endowment by more than \$1 billion and increased grantmaking by 450%. He actively worked to impact what he considered “enduring issues” — public education, jobs, housing and health care. He was considered a servant leader who believed that growth is accomplished through empathy and listening.

Minter Smyers remembers this fondly, “He talked to everyone. Everybody came up to him — they wanted to share their experiences and their ideas. He was very humble about it, though. He really understood that he was a representative of the People’s Foundation. And he needed to be receptive to that at all times.”

The input that he received motivated him to transform the staff and board to better reflect the communities the Cleveland Foundation was serving, which led to creating advisory committees to continue to grow collective giving efforts. In 1993, he founded a committee that came to be known as the African American Philanthropy Committee (AAPC), with the purpose of magnifying and uniting the collective impact of Black donors. The AAPC has become a national model for donor engagement, convening a biennial philanthropy summit and promoting awareness and education about the benefits of wealth and community preservation through philanthropy. In 2010, the AAPC established a legacy fund to help support a variety of organizations within Greater Cleveland’s Black community.

“You have to get things done by working with people who have similar interests and make connections and build alliances and establish relationships and join with others to work on a set of problems,” Minter shared with the Cleveland Foundation staff in 2013. “That’s what I really enjoyed doing and why I felt so privileged to be at the Cleveland Foundation because where else can you think of a better place to be able to make connections between the public arena, philanthropy, the business sector, and do so in a political way without being partisan.”

ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY

When Minter retired on June 30, 2003, the Cleveland Foundation celebrated by creating the Steven A. Minter Conference Center, the only named space that moved with staff to the new building in MidTown. The conference rooms will be available free of charge to nonprofits.

“It’s very meaningful to me and my sisters, and his extended family, that there will continue to be a Steve Minter presence at the new Cleveland Foundation,” Minter Smyers said. “The foundation was his life’s purpose. It really was his heart. The foundation family was his family. And more importantly, the function of the space; it’s going to be a place of convening, of gathering, of problem solving, of idea creation, and he would be very proud to continue to be associated with it.

“Shortly before he died, the Cleveland Foundation announced its move of its headquarters. He was very proud of that new vision. He felt that he plowed the fields and planted the seeds, but that other people had taken it to the next level.”



WATCH MORE

Convening for the Greater Good

Bob and Judy Rawson invest in future of Greater Cleveland, name new Community Stair in honor of mother and past Cleveland Foundation president Barbara Haas Rawson



Bob and Judy Rawson are no strangers to philanthropy and public service. Their long history of supporting the Cleveland Foundation, as well as organizations and initiatives throughout Greater Cleveland, spans decades and has greatly impacted the residents of our region. Most recently, the Rawsons were inspired by the new foundation headquarters, naming the community staircase in honor of Bob's mother, Barbara Haas Rawson, the first woman to serve as Cleveland Foundation CEO.

"This (project) represents the manifestation of what my mother believed in by way of philanthropy," Bob said. "She believed that philanthropy should be available to all who needed it, all community groups, and she led by example in making that happen."

Barbara and her husband Robert H. Rawson were prominently involved in civic and philanthropic affairs throughout Cleveland. She helped establish the Greater Cleveland Associated Foundation in 1961, whose mission was to address urban problems through philanthropy. The Greater Cleveland Associated Foundation later merged with the Cleveland Foundation, and Barbara served as its assistant director. She was named interim CEO in 1973 and served in that capacity until 1974.

She was also the first woman appointed to the Ohio Ethics Commission and was a well-known volunteer who was active in Cleveland's League of Women Voters, Citizens League and the PTA in Shaker Heights. Barbara was recognized with the Distinguished Citizen Award from the National Civic League and shared the Citizen of the Year award from the Citizens League of Greater Cleveland with her husband Robert.

Bob and Judy both credit Bob's parents with instilling a passion for giving back in their lives. When they were first married, they lived with Barbara and Robert for several months and witnessed firsthand how committed they were to their community. Even dinner-time conversations often involved discussions that focused on ways to solve problems facing Greater Cleveland.

Bob and Judy took the lessons they learned from Barbara and Robert to heart, making service to their community a pillar in their lives. Bob, an experienced attorney and former partner-in-charge of the Cleveland Jones Day office, previously served as chair of the Board of Trustees at Cleveland State University. Additionally, he served 20 years on the board at Princeton University, 13 of those years as chair of the executive committee, and

"This (project) represents the manifestation of what my mother believed in by way of philanthropy. She believed that philanthropy should be available to all who needed it, all community groups, and she led by example in making that happen."

Bob Rawson

serves on the board of the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education. He is the former chair of the National Civic League and has held board positions at several Cleveland nonprofits and foundations.

Judy, also an experienced lawyer, served on the Shaker Heights City Council for eight years before serving as the city's mayor for two terms. Following that, she was one of the core leaders of the successful charter amendment campaign to reform Cuyahoga County government. Together, they created the Judy and Robert H. Rawson, Jr. Learning Commons, a collaborative learning space for Cleveland State University's College of Law.

Now, via the Barbara Haas Rawson Community Stair, they are helping the Cleveland Foundation create a space for collaboration, innovation and connection. With the new headquarters, they believe the Cleveland Foundation will be even more accessible and help to unify MidTown as a neighborhood. They hope the new staircase will be a place for conversations like the ones they watched Barbara and Robert have about making a difference in their community.

Judy described Barbara as a "very informal collaborator and brainstormer," so the open spaces of the stairs represent Barbara's style of communication. "Rather than going off to closed rooms when meetings are held, there will be a lot of informal conversations on these stair landings from which spontaneous ideas will emerge," Judy said.

Some of those conversations, Bob and Judy hope, will include the next generation of donors and change-makers in Greater Cleveland. They believe the new headquarters will help bring the community together and result in programming that makes Cleveland stronger.

"Now it is time to work on finer threads of the community and neighborhoods, and that's what each individual resident can do in a very meaningful way, no matter how small, because we need all of those individual little threads to make up the rich, vibrant fabric," Judy said.

The Rawsons are excited to see that collaborative spirit come to life in the new space as conversations spark ideas that transform into action.

"What will matter is the programming that results as a consequence of the new building," Bob added. "And I have complete confidence in the Cleveland Foundation and its staff to be creative, and maybe a little bit idiosyncratic, maybe inventive, maybe risk-taking, to create new kinds of programs which we can't imagine as we sit here today that will emerge from the creativity of the building itself and the way that it's structured."

The Rawsons believe that the new headquarters will encourage people to convene and have important conversations that will shape future investment in the community. And it is their hope that much of the convening and great ideas will happen on the Barbara Haas Rawson Community Stair.



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Building Strong Connections with Faith, Family and Community

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Rowan leaves a legacy as the only member of the Cleveland Foundation staff to later join its board of directors.

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Rowan has always put God and others before himself, and he applies this practice to every aspect of his life. He believes that listening, connecting with and learning from others has provided him with pivotal, life-changing experiences that have made him the person he is today.

In his youth, The Rev. Dr. Rowan found a role model in his father, a dedicated community-oriented pastor who instilled the importance of making a difference in the lives of others and the power of doing so through faith. To this day, his family continues to be one of the key pillars in his life, one that he credits as a defining factor in his success.

“I’ve just been surrounded by a loving family, my brothers and sisters and this church family as well,” he said. “That means so much to me. A lot of people have poured into me over the years. It’s made a huge difference in my life.”

His wife Cynthia, too, has been steadfastly supportive of his career.

“She’s just been right by my side. We’re just partners. We’re partners for life. And I just feel so blessed to have her as my spouse,” he said.

A LEGACY OF PHILANTHROPIC AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
The Rev. Dr. Rowan has held a variety of positions in complementary yet vastly different career paths, including as a public administrator for Cuyahoga County, a partner with the law firm Ulmer & Berne LLP, and assistant director of the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging. He also spent more than eight years at the Cleveland Foundation and now serves as senior pastor of Bethany Baptist Church.

In his days working for the county, The Rev. Dr. Rowan had the opportunity to learn about the region, its challenges and its people. And it was during that time that he remembers working with the Cleveland Foundation staff and board to bring projects to life, like a daycare project.

It was in this time with the county that he thought working at the foundation would be a good fit for him in the future. When the opportunity came up in 1996, The Rev. Dr. Rowan took his first position. He would serve in a variety of roles from 1996 to 2004, including as assistant director of development and as program officer for economic development and faith-based initiatives.

“I think it (the new headquarters) enhances the fabric of everything. People have easy access to a place that represents them and that they feel they represent as well. It’s that intersection of hearts and minds in a place and a space where you can discuss all types of issues.”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Rowan



But his time with the Cleveland Foundation didn’t stop there. Several years after leaving the staff to fill his father’s position as head of the church, The Rev. Dr. Rowan joined the Cleveland Foundation’s board of directors in 2009, making him the first former staff member to do so. He made history again when he served as the first African American board chair from 2016-19.

As a member of the foundation’s board, he strived to form impactful connections with fellow board members, taking time to see the work they were doing in their own communities and to listen to their individual visions and passions, while also inviting them to witness his personal work and the communities he served. These essential moments fostered a deeper understanding between him and other board members, many of whom came from very different walks of life. He also made a great impression on former Cleveland Foundation President & CEO Ronn Richard, who credits The Rev. Dr. Rowan with many things, including teaching him about Cleveland and influencing the decision to move the headquarters to MidTown.

“One of his many great achievements was he played a huge role in helping me convince the board that we should move to MidTown,” said Richard. “I just don’t think the decision would have come down the way it did without his leadership.”

Richard added that he doesn’t think anyone in Cleveland cares more about the citizens of Cleveland, especially those in poverty, than The Rev. Dr. Rowan. He also applauds his work with the violence-interrupting Peacemakers Alliance for really making a difference in other people’s lives. The Rev. Dr. Rowan looks forward to seeing the ways the foundation’s new home will engage the community in an accessible, welcoming space. He thinks the new headquarters will let donors see their dollars at work and better understand the impact the space is having on people as they gather and talk about the community with one another.

As such, The Reverend Dr. Stephen Rowan Community Gathering Space in the Neighborhood Connections offices at the foundation headquarters will be a place for these important grassroots conversations and signature Neighbor Up Network Nights.

A PERSONAL MISSION INFORMED BY COMPASSION, COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

The Rev. Dr. Rowan believes if we are open to listening to people, hearing different perspectives, and letting others know we have their best interests at heart, it can make all the difference in the world.

“People just need to know somebody cares about them. Compassion, communication, collaboration; all these things are critical and important,” he said. “The foundation is engaged at all levels with those types of things. I’m just proud and happy that I’ve been able to do the things that God has allowed me to do.”

The Rev. Dr. Rowan and his wife, Cynthia, have their own fund, The AC & SC Rowan Fund, at the foundation with the goal of supporting small, faith-based organizations and youth.

“We’re just trying to get people access, trying to give people hope and just trying to make a difference,” he said.



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Celebrating Philanthropic Values Across Generations

RPM International Inc. founding Sullivan family gives back to Greater Cleveland community

Growing up, **Frank Sullivan** spent much of his time helping others.

From an early age, Frank's parents Tom and Sandy took him and his siblings to soup kitchens, social service organizations and other agencies to see the good work being done, get comfortable in difficult circumstances, and get hands-on experience working with those in need.

"My parents really impressed upon us the notion that the more you have, the greater obligation you have to give back," he said. "You take care of family and friends and the community in which you're involved."

ACHIEVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Sandy grew up in Dallas and was raised mostly by her mother due to her father's early death. Tom grew up in an Irish family and served in the Navy. Together, they raised six kids and pursued their goal of building a successful company, Republic Powdered Metals (RPM), which was started by Frank's grandfather, Frank C. Sullivan, in 1947. It was Frank C. whose license plate proudly carried the figure 168, the multiple of 24 and 7, representing the work ethic of the man at the wheel.



After returning from the Navy, Tom started working at RPM. When he took over in 1971, it had become an \$11 million business that manufactured and sold specialty coatings. And as the family business grew, so did Tom and Sandy's commitment to the community.

The Sullivans supported many organizations throughout Greater Cleveland with their time, talent and treasure. They helped organize a group for families of children with Down Syndrome and were involved in Malachi House with Frank's aunt, co-founder Catherine "Kaki" O'Neill. They were active volunteers and supporters of The Friendly Inn Settlement, Urban Community School, Metro Catholic School, West Side

"My parents really impressed upon us the notion that the more you have, the greater obligation you have to give back. You take care of family and friends and the community in which you're involved."

Frank Sullivan



Catholic Center and Saint Ignatius, among many others. Frank's experiences with philanthropy expanded into grantmaking when his parents established the Sullivan Family Foundation with the Catholic Diocese.

By 2002, RPM had grown to \$2 billion in annual sales, and Tom was recognized by Fortune as one of the best CEOs in America, the same year that Frank succeeded him as CEO. Today, RPM is a \$7.2 billion, multinational company with 16,800 employees and subsidiaries that are world leaders in specialty coatings, sealants, building materials and related services.

RECOGNIZING TOM AND SANDY'S IMPACT AND LEGACY

Following more than seven decades of business success, including the highly publicized acquisition of Rust-Oleum in 1994, Frank and his wife, Barb, identified an opportunity to honor his parents who had shown their kids and grandkids not only how to run a successful company, but the importance of giving back to their communities. To celebrate a lifetime of philanthropy, they made a gift very close to home to name a space in his parents' honor at the new Cleveland Foundation headquarters.

"We're now at the stage of our lives where we think about how we can make a greater impact in the community," Frank said. "And you need to find partners, whether it's a faith-based partner or the Cleveland Foundation, because those partners can amplify your impact and provide some structure around great ideas that you couldn't do on your own. I hope others will pick up on that when they're sitting in the Tom & Sandy Sullivan Conference Room at the new Cleveland Foundation headquarters."

Frank believes the location of the foundation's new headquarters makes a statement about working directly with the community and envisions the project as a catalyst for connection between downtown and University Circle.

The headquarters gift is just part of the family's long-standing involvement with the Cleveland Foundation. Tom and Sandy were long-time friends and supporters of the foundation and received the Frederick Harris Goff Philanthropic Service Award in 2007. Frank served 10 years on the Cleveland Foundation Board of Directors, where he was among a team of philanthropic and business leaders that helped the Cleveland Metropolitan School District establish the Cleveland School of Science and Medicine. Frank's wife, Barb, and five

siblings support Sullivan Scholars, a program founded in honor of Tom's retirement that provides merit scholarships for K-8 students to attend parochial and other private high schools. The Sullivans worked with the Cleveland Foundation to structure the scholars program to include a partnership with Urban Community School and Miami University.

"There are so many ways that the Cleveland Foundation can be a partner in philanthropy to people that have these big ideas and the resources to fund those big ideas, but not the sophistication or success, to really administer it or make it happen," Frank said.

He hopes that the work his family does in the community may inspire others.

"There isn't any act of kindness that's too small to not make a difference," Frank said.



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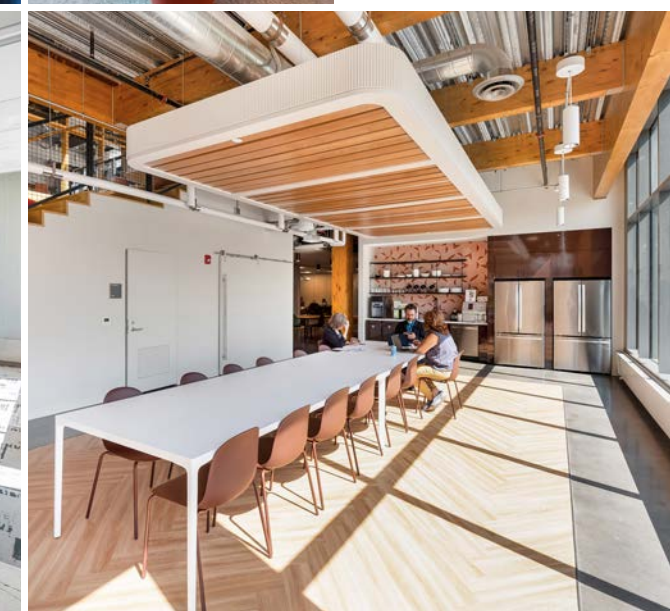
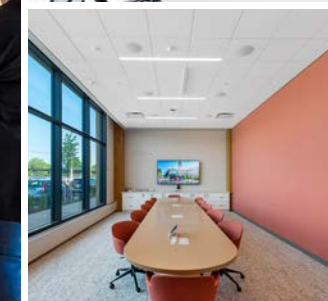
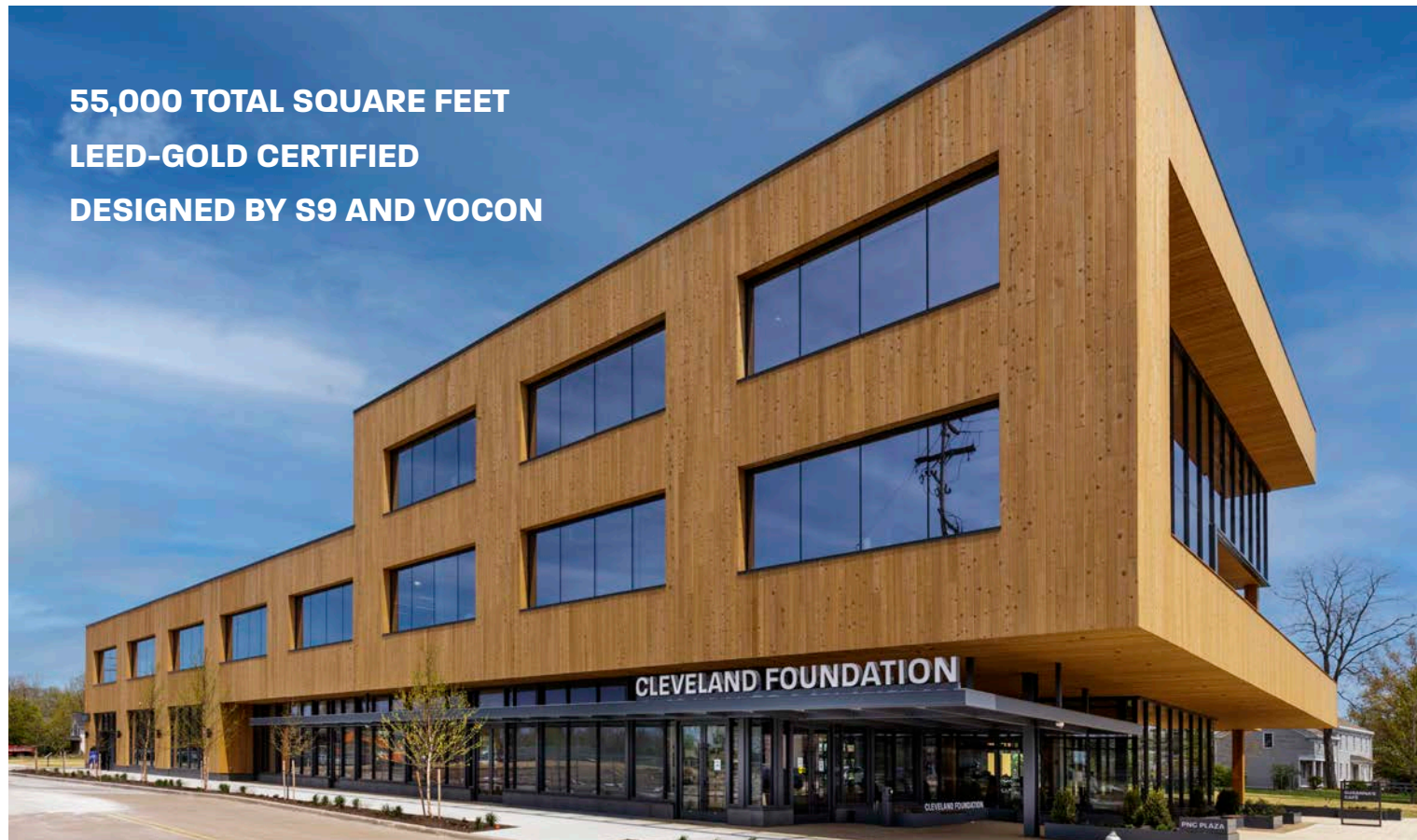
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