

Nearly \$117 million granted by Cleveland Foundation and its donors in 2021 Foundation board of directors approves more than \$27.7 million in Q4 grantmaking

CLEVELAND (Dec. 15, 2021) - The Cleveland Foundation Board of Directors today announced nearly \$28 million in grants approved in the final quarter of 2021. Supporting residents in Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga counties, the foundation has invested more than \$116.9 million in the community year-to-date.

"This year, we again witnessed the creativity, compassion and commitment of Greater Cleveland residents in action as our community continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and its far-reaching effects," said Ronn Richard, Cleveland Foundation president & CEO. "Each year, I am incredibly proud of the foundation's donors, board and staff as well as our valued nonprofit partners working across every sector to move our community forward — no matter how challenging the circumstances. There is nothing we can't do when we come together as a community."

Highlights of grants approved in the fourth quarter by the foundation's board of directors include:

Arts & Culture

Cleveland Institute of Music (\$200,000) - Two-year funding for the continuation of the Musical Pathways Fellowship

Cleveland Museum of Art (\$133,140) - Continuation of curatorial Arts Mastery programming for teens

Cleveland Museum of Natural History (\$400,000) - Next phase of the museum's capital campaign that will help make science education more accessible

Lake Erie Ink (\$20,000) - Supporting student creative writing through curriculum and outreach upgrades

Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland (\$50,000) - Continuing free admission to the

museum to remove barriers and provide individuals and families access to the arts

Twelve Literary Arts (\$50,000) - Continuation of literary arts and poetry Arts Mastery programming for high-school students and young adults

Economic & Workforce Development

Manufacturing Works (\$250,000) - Expanding the capacity of the organization's Leadership Institute for prospective manufacturing business owners and leaders

Education

Economic Growth Foundation (\$250,000) - Continuing to construct a model IT pipeline within the Cleveland Metropolitan School District by ensuring there is quality IT curriculum in every school through TEALS and building out career awareness/exploration opportunities in IT through RITE

Esperanza, Inc. (\$200,000) - Improving multi-generational educational opportunities for Hispanic youth and adult learners through educational programming, culturally competent mentoring, and postsecondary supports

Great Lakes Science Center (\$125,000) - Supporting hands-on STEM programming for Cleveland Metropolitan School District students in grades 6-8

Leadership

Business Volunteers Unlimited (\$114,000) - Expanding capacity to provide needs assessments, consulting on board development, strategic planning, succession planning, executive transition management, and leadership training for nonprofit executives

Business Volunteers Unlimited (\$170,000) - Supporting the Skill CONNECT and Volunteer CONNECT programs, which are both Encore ini-

tatives

East End Neighborhood House Association (\$200,000) - Two-year support for the continued growth of the Foster Grandparent program, run in conjunction with Encore Cleveland

Greater Cleveland Volunteers (\$250,000) - Continued management of all outreach and communications activities for the Encore Cleveland network

Neighborhood Revitalization & Engagement

Hebrew Free Loan Association of Northeast Ohio (\$198,000) - Increasing operational capacity with a focus on middle income, newcomer/immigrant populations, and COVID emergency response

In Our Backyards, Inc. (\$110,000) - Supporting small businesses and local economic development efforts as they relate to COVID-19 recovery and support, while also enhancing opportunities for non-voting civic engagement (focused on newcomers, immigrants and refugees), and capacity building for BIPOC leaders to launch successful crowdfunding campaigns

Negro League Baseball Legends Hall of Fame (\$110,000) - Two-year support for Baseball Heritage Museum capacity development and an outreach campaign to the Hough and MidTown neighborhoods

Smart Development Inc. (\$100,000) - Expanding organizational capacity and providing responsive support for the resettlement of Afghan refugees

Youth, Health & Human Services

American Red Cross, Northeast Ohio Chapter (\$50,000) - Supporting American Red Cross disaster relief efforts

Asian Services in Action, Inc. (\$50,000) - Continued support of pro bono legal services and

application fees for Afghan refugees and their families in Greater Cleveland

Cleveland Family Center for Missing Children and Adults (\$50,000) - Missing persons training for law enforcement

Cleveland Kids' Book Bank (\$50,000) - Improving and expanding the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank community outreach efforts while increasing the number of new diverse books

Family Promise of Greater Cleveland (\$75,000) - Providing trauma-informed care to families in shelter

Front Steps Housing and Services (\$104,000) - Expanding community-based behavioral health services

Malachi House, Inc. (\$15,000) - Operational support for residential care serving Cleveland's terminally ill, low-income and homeless populations

The Refugee Response (\$50,000) - Administration and implementation of immediate supportive services for Afghan refugees settling in Greater Cleveland

Starting Point (\$200,000) - Expanding and enhancing access to quality early care and education

For more information on the Cleveland Foundation, please visit ClevelandFoundation.org.



Statement by U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona on President Biden's Nomination of LaWanda Toney

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona issued the following statement today on President Biden's intent to nominate LaWanda Toney for assistant secretary for communications and outreach at the U.S. Department of Education:

"I am heartened that the President has nominated LaWanda Toney as assistant secretary for communications and outreach at the U.S. Department of Education. LaWanda brings years of strategic messaging experience to this role, as well as a deep dedication to excellence and equity in education. LaWanda's strong connections to our parent communities also will help to ensure that the Department's communications and engagement continue to be informed by the lived experi-

ences of parents and families across the country, who—particularly amid the pandemic—have raised their voices and demonstrated incredible advocacy for the education that their children need and deserve in order to thrive. I look forward to LaWanda's swift confirmation and to welcoming her to the team at the Department."

About LaWanda Toney

LaWanda Toney is the director of strategic communications at the National Parent Teacher Association (National PTA), whose mission is to empower families and communities to advocate for all children, and she has been a part of the association for over 12 years. She manages the National PTA's communications team in the areas of

web, social media, editorial, creative development, and media relations. Her work has received several awards from the Association of Media and Publishing and the Power of "A" Awards with the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). LaWanda is also the co-host of National PTA's podcast, Notes from the Backpack.

Prior to working at National PTA, LaWanda managed marketing programs, planned special events and created communications campaigns for major retailers, nonprofits, publishing, and advertising companies. LaWanda holds a bachelor of arts degree in broadcast journalism from Howard University and a master of arts in strategic communication with an emphasis in public relations

from Trinity University. She also is a member of ASAE and ColorComm, an organization for women of color in all areas of communications.



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