NOTE TO OUR NEIGHBORS

In the midst of these trying times, we hope you are in good health as together we embark on this journey to work towards healing our community. We know many of you are wrestling not only with the devastating health and economic impacts of COVID-19 but also the emotional trauma brought on by George Floyd’s murder and the resulting uprisings across the country. We have a lot of work to do to address the long history of systemic racism that continues to impact life every day for Black Americans. This newsletter is intended to share some of what we’ve been doing, offer you opportunities to get involved, and inspire you to action. We hope you enjoy, as we continue to build the “Town” together.

-Jeff Epstein
Executive Director

-Joi Carter
Community Engagement Manager
MIDTOWN OVERVIEW

MidTown Cleveland, Inc. is a nonprofit community and economic development organization serving the neighborhood between Cleveland State University and Cleveland Clinic. MidTown strengthens community through planning, placemaking, real estate development, community events, and business attraction, and works to ensure everyone benefits from the economic growth in the neighborhood.

VISION:
MidTown Cleveland is a connected community in the center of it all, an inclusive place for people to innovate, create, prosper and live.

MISSION:
MidTown Cleveland, Inc. leverages its diverse assets to develop a dynamic neighborhood that unites the city's downtown and innovation districts.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Jeff Epstein
Executive Director
jeppstein@midtowncleveland.org
(216) 391-5080 ex. 108

Joyce Huang
VP of Community Engagement
jhuang@midtowncleveland.org
(216) 391-5080 ex. 103

Richard Barga
VP of Economic Development
rbarga@midtowncleveland.org
(216) 391-5080 ex. 104

Joi Carter
Community Engagement & Marketing Manager
jcarter@midtowncleveland.org
(216) 391-5080 ex. 101

Samira Malone
Cleveland Foundation Public Service Planning & Placemaking Specialist
smalone@midtowncleveland.org
(216) 391-5080 ex. 105

Karis Tzeng
AsiaTown Project Manager
ktzeng@midtowncleveland.org
(216) 391-5080 ex. 107
A MESSAGE FROM MIDTOWN CLEVELAND ABOUT COVID-19:

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to all aspects of our community. We’ve heard from many small businesses and nonprofits who are struggling to stay afloat and retain employees, residents dealing with food and housing insecurity, and health care workers on the front lines keeping everyone healthy. We are here to do what we can to help.

Safe reopening resources can be found on our website, which contains basic info on the federal CARES Act, some local programs, and a few ways you can do something to help others during the crisis: www.midtowncleveland.org/Covid-19. As for the MidTown Cleveland, Inc. offices, we are following the Governor and Ohio Department of Health recommendations for reopening. Our office remains closed and all regularly scheduled in-person events have been cancelled with the exception of a few virtual events. We can’t wait until we can see you again in person.

Stephanie Thurman
Administrative Assistant
sthurman@midtowncleveland.org
(216) 391-5080 ex. 100

Xinyuan Cui
AsiaTown Community Organizer
xcui@midtowncleveland.org
(216) 391-5080 ex. 111

Carm Kelly
Executive Assistant/Manager of Office Administration
ckelly@midtowncleveland.org
(216) 391-5080 ex. 100

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO

MidTown Cleveland Inc.
(216) 391-5080

Cleveland Hough Multipurpose Center
(216) 664-4114

Third District Police
(216) 623-5300

Cleveland City Council
Councilman Basheer Jones (Ward 7)
(216) 664-2908
Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland (Ward 5)
(216) 664-2309

Asian Services In Action, Inc.
(216) 881-0330
Our hearts are heavy as we step back and reflect on the events of the past few days—George Floyd’s murder at the hands of the police, uprisings in cities across the country, and curfews restricting people’s ability to move freely throughout our city. There is deep and justified anger boiling over in cities across the country – anger at the destructive pattern of black people dying unjustly at the hands of law enforcement and anger at the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on African-Americans. Anger at the persistence of open and vitriolic racism and hate, and anger at the continuing deepening of structural racism in our society leading to widening racial inequity. And, and, and, the list goes on.

This anger manifests itself in many ways, and regardless of whether it results (regretfully and unfortunately) in property damage and looting and regardless of whether people came from outside our community to propagate violence, we cannot lose sight of the underlying and overriding point of it all – we need to start taking concrete steps to dismantle racism, and the urgency to do so is high.

MidTown Cleveland has been taking some of these steps with the goal of bringing about a racially equitable MidTown neighborhood. Earlier this year our board unanimously adopted an equity policy which acknowledges the diverse and complex history of our neighborhood and outlines the values our organization will hold dear as we seek to bring equity to the forefront of our work. We have asked our neighbors and partners to hold us accountable to these values. We have been taking steps to share power with residents to shape the future of MidTown through a variety of deep and meaningful community empowerment and engagement opportunities. And we are working to support equitable real estate development and planning practices to ensure projects benefit the community. We invite you to join us in this challenging but important work as we cannot do it alone and have a long way to go – MidTown is just a vehicle and the power lies in the people who engage with us to create change. Do you have ideas or suggestions for us? Are you willing to participate in a planning meeting, a committee, or a community workshop? Feel free to reach out to us to find out how you can be involved.

We were heartened by the multiracial support for the marches in Cleveland and other cities, and hope those voices will continue to stand together and stand tall to support change and fight racism. In the meantime, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Desmond Franklin, Breonna Taylor, and the countless others whose lives were taken from them prematurely, and our spirit is with those who wish to channel their pain and anger towards building a stronger and more just society.
CIVICS IN THE TOWN

Local organizations and national campaigns that seek to end injustice in our criminal justice system:

- The Bail Project Cleveland: bailproject.org
- Campaign Zero: joincampaignzero.org
- Black Lives Matter Cleveland: blacklivesmatter.com

Stay up to date on City of Cleveland Council Committee Meetings virtually: www.youtube.com/user/ClevelandCityCouncil

- Public Safety
- Development, Planning & Sustainability
- Municipal Services & Properties

Committee Meetings can also be viewed on TV-20:
http://www.tv20cleveland.com/watch-now/

WAYS YOU CAN HELP DURING THE PANDEMIC

- Support local restaurants by ordering delivery or carry out- a full list of open restaurants in MidTown and AsiaTown are found here: www.midtowncleveland.org/open-in-midtown/
- If you have a good idea to help people, apply to the COVID-19 fund: http://neighborupcle.org/covid19grants/
- Give blood through the Red Cross to support the urgent shortages: www.redcrossblood.org
- If you need a temp job, contact Dave’s Market & Eatery: www.davesmarkets.com/employment.shtml
- Sign up to lend a hand with Cleveland Pandemic Response: www.cleveland.recovers.org/
- Resources for food distribution, unemployment, retail assistance, etc: https://midtowncleveland.org/covid-19/
- Do you have other suggestions for this list? Email Joi Carter: jcarter@midtowncleveland.org

HAVE YOU FILLED OUT THE 2020 CENSUS?

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location. Census results influence transportation planning, grants for buses, subways, and other public transit systems, Head Start programs, grants for teachers and special education, aid programs, and housing assistance for older adults. The fewer the people, the less dollars.

Fill out your Census form now!
Online: https://my2020census.gov.org
By Phone: 844-330-2020
MOMENTUM IN MIDTOWN

As development increases in the MidTown neighborhood, our goal is to facilitate a conversation about equitable development between the community and the developer. We are committing to more transparent communication about the projects that are in development. In addition, we will share any opportunities to provide feedback to the developer as early as possible.

WARNER & SWASEY

The long vacant and blighted Warner & Swasey complex at Carnegie and East 55th Street moved closer to redevelopment in May when the Ohio Housing Finance Agency made an award of Low Income Housing Tax Credits to developer Pennoz and partner MidTown to rehabilitate the building into a mixed-use, mixed-income housing development. The project will now proceed to applications for several additional tax credit programs with the goal of groundbreaking in Spring 2021.

THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION

Located on the grounds of the historic Dunham Tavern Museum, the future site of the Cleveland Foundation HQ will be an anchoring development at the corner of Euclid Avenue and E. 66th Street.

INNOVATION COMMUNITY

Located on E. 66th Street across from the new Cleveland Foundation building, planning is underway for a series of innovation-focused buildings, which will include a community space to foster intentional connectivity and collisions between many different audiences for the purpose of catalyzing economic growth and creating economic opportunity for all. The project is led by anchor institutions, nonprofits and MidTown, and the team has not yet identified a developer. Stay tuned for ways to participate in the planning and development of this project.

THE 70

A vacant industrial building on E. 70th Street between Euclid and Carnegie will be demolished to make way for a 64-unit multifamily apartment building with market-based rents priced lower than adjacent downtown and University Circle projects. The project, developed by Sabor Group, is slated to break ground in 2020.

CHESTER 75

Chester75, a new 57-unit, market-rate apartment development in the Hough neighborhood are proposed for the northwest corner of Chester Avenue and East 75th Street. The developer of the project is the Famicos Foundation, a nonprofit community development corporation. The project was approved conceptually at City Planning’s Euclid Avenue Design Review but will return to the committee for final approval.
Opportunities for feedback

Euclid Avenue Design Review Committee: Convenes virtually the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 8:30-10:00 AM. http://planning.city.cleveland.oh.us

City Planning Commission: Convenes virtually the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. http://planning.city.cleveland.oh.us

Project by Project Feedback: MidTown will share updates on community meetings on our social media. Facebook: MidTownClevelandInc

From League Park to the Fatima Family Center, Chateau Hough to the many historic churches along E.66th, institutions and businesses in this corridor have served the community for years. In the next few years, The Cleveland Foundation, the Hough branch of the Cleveland Public Library and other community organizations will move to the street. Streets are often designed solely for cars, but we have an opportunity to change the design so that community members and the public can connect with one another. The design process aims to create a model 21st century street and the design will finish this summer in July. Construction will begin in 2022. Please join our upcoming virtual public meeting on Friday, July 10 from 5:30-7:00 PM. Details are found on page 10.

In December 2019, we released a request for proposals for the MidTown Neighborhood Vision Plan 2025, a master plan to help determine the future of MidTown in land use, economic development, community building, public space and more. After a rigorous review, we selected the firm Interface Studio to lead us in this process. While we were more than excited to kick off the process, we experienced some brief delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we have been working hard to move forward with the project. Stay tuned virtual public engagement opportunities and other safe forms of engagement are forthcoming.
Feed AsiaTown is a community effort to serve prepared meals to the community during physical distancing and to show love to AsiaTown residents and businesses through food. AsiaTown residents and workers will be eligible for free meals in AsiaTown every Thursday, beginning Thursday, June 11 until September. Each week, the AsiaTown team at MidTown Cleveland, Inc. will bulk order meals from AsiaTown small businesses to be able to provide them for free to the community. Meal distributions will take place every Thursday, from 12pm to 1pm, or until meals run out. The location will rotate each week, with updates posted to www.asiatowncleveland.org/feed-asiatown. Meals will be available to anyone in need.

This program is made possible with the support of the Cleveland Foundation, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland, and many other funding partners through the Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund.

So far, partnering restaurants have included Wonton Gourmet, Pho Lee’s Vietnamese Restaurant, and Map of Thailand, and Szechuan Café. 13 more weeks with partner restaurants are planned, with the goal to support all of the Asian-owned AsiaTown restaurants. If you are an AsiaTown restaurant owner and would like to schedule a date, please reach out to Karis Tzeng at ktzeng@midtowncleveland.org.

Upcoming locations are:

Thursday, June 18:
Map of Thailand, 3710 Payne Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114

Thursday, June 25:
Szechuan Café, 2999 Payne Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114

This program was piloted with the support of MedWorks, which has provided gift certificates and meals to the community through its COVID-19 Response Fund. Emperor’s Palace was the first restaurant to pilot this idea with MidTown, and they made 100 meals to be delivered to seniors and families around the neighborhood. Bo Loong Restaurant, Good Harvest Food Market, and Koko Bakery have also partnered with MedWorks, who provided gift cards to these restaurants for families who need extra support during this time.
EXPLORE THE NEIGHBORHOOD

NEW UTILITY BOX WRAPS IN MIDTOWN

Stay tuned for more utility box wraps along Euclid and 55th. These boxes will feature designs from local African-American artists. Their designs represent Cleveland pride, as it highlights historical Cleveland figures and overall Black culture.

ABOVE: Derin Fletcher (left) Isaiah Williams(right)
BOTTOM: Antwoine Washington (left) Jared Mitchell (right)

LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES?

There are many job opportunities in MidTown. Be sure to check out our website and apply today!

midtowncleveland.org/job-board

#MIDTOWNMEMBERCLE HIGHLIGHT:
DRESS FOR SUCCESS CLEVELAND

We’re excited to spotlight Dress For Success Cleveland – The mission of Dress for Success is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

For more information, check out their website: https://cleveland.dressforsuccess.org/
AROUND THE TOWN

LEO'S CASINO RADIO

Leo’s Casino Radio was launched for program build out in January 2020 and will stream music from the 60's, 70's and 80's along with historic fact content. The station will be hosted by Chuck Denson (former WJMO/WABQ host), Gregg Anthony (former WLYT, WGCL host, and channel 19 news reporter.)

Tune in: https://www.leoscasinoradio.com/

VIRTUAL CAFFEINE BEATS

We are offering spring concerts called “Caffeine Beats using a simple, pop-up format inspired by NPR’s Tiny Desk Concerts. Caffeine Beats will focus on attracting a younger audience (18-40) to draw them into understanding the lost history of Leo’s Casino and into the work of creating viable culture and arts scene in MidTown. These mini-concerts will feature local musical talent through live performances and build an audience through social media platforms. Join us June 25th and July 30th @ 5:30pm for our Virtual Concert on Instagram and Facebook Live.

NEW ASIATOWN WEBSITE

Explore AsiaTown’s history, assets, and visitor destinations with the brand new AsiaTown website! The new site features an interactive map and vibrant imagery of this dynamic and diverse neighborhood, as well as up-to-date listings on restaurants in the area offering takeout and delivery. https://www.asiatowncleveland.org/

For more information, Follow our Instagram accounts:
@asiatowncleveland @midtown_mixtapecle

VIRTUAL GATHERINGS

THE CHILDREN’S MUSEUM: SUPER HERO SCIENCE CAMP

Learn about everyday super heroes who helped discover how our world works! Each day, you will conduct scientific investigations in chemistry, biology, physics, and more as you learn about super hero scientists such as Newton, Einstein, and more. Virtual Camp: $100. https://cmcleveland.org/visitcmo/cmcdiscoverycamp/

KITCHEN TABLE CONVERSATIONS P. 2-5:30-7:00PM

Join us! There’s a meeting to discuss the redesign of E. 66th Street and we want your feedback! This street already connects the MidTown and Hough neighborhoods and with the upcoming streetscape and new/old neighbors, we want to see this be a model equitable and accessible and complete street! We especially want youth, resident, elder, community voices.

midtowncleveland.org/events

STAY TUNED!

Descending on MidTown in September, 2020, POW! WOW! is now recognized as one of the most premiere and well-curated mural festivals in the world and will be bringing local and international mural artists to beautify the neighborhood.
Follow Us!

For more information be sure to follow us on social, check out our website and subscribe to our E-Newsletter!

@midtowncleinc  eMidTownClevelandInc  @midtowncleinc

Search... www.middowntowncleland.org
We'd love to hear from you!

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

What should we mention in the next issue?:

Stay Informed:

☐ Volunteer Opportunities  ☐ E-Newsletter
☐ Events

Return to MidTown Cleveland address

MidTown Cleveland
5000 Euclid Avenue, Suite 100
Cleveland Ohio, 44103