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# 2016

## ANNUAL REPORT

**The Center** is a catalyst for positive growth in Covington. We spark this growth by bringing people together, encouraging them to work with each other, and supporting their efforts to shape the future of their community. We are committed to helping people discover and develop their skills, find and use the resources they need, and discover partners who share their concern for the well-being of Covington.

## **Our Program Areas:**



### **Neighborhoods & Community**

2016 Highlight: Thousands of residents have organized and participated in community building projects this year.



### **Creative Placemaking**

2016 Highlight: The Hellmann Creative Center is open! A \$2.2 million, 14,000 s.f. development with studios, community event space, & our offices.



### **Real Estate Development**

2016 Highlight: This year The Center surpassed \$10 million in investment in commercial and residential development across Covington.



### **Health**

2016 Highlight: The Center launched our FreshLo project – a plan to research and develop food oriented projects in the Westside neighborhood.



### **Financial Wellbeing**

2016 Highlight: Received 3-year funding for a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, helping low-income and non-English speakers resolve tax issues



### **Youth Education**

2016 Highlight: 170 youth improved their community and developed skills like problem-solving, decision-making, and teamwork.

## 2016 Annual Report, Director's Remarks

*As we close out our 40th year of service to the community and begin our 41st, we are considering the future and what The Center for Great Neighborhoods will look like going forward.*

*Our founding principles of respect for the dignity and value of each person and the importance of their full participation in the life of the community are based on a belief that every member of the community has gifts and talents, and our community is strongest when all of us are sharing our gifts towards its well-being.*

*Today, as always, The Center is a place that youth, families, neighborhood activists, and others look to for support and encouragement in fulfilling their dreams for themselves and their community. We are thrilled that so many people are excited about the possibilities for the future of Covington and Northern Kentucky and motivated to contribute to making our community a great place to live, work, and enjoy. The Center will continue to be here to provide resources, share ideas, and make connections.*

*At the same time, we recognize that there are many who may not recognize that they have something to contribute or who may not have been asked. They may not look like us, or they might speak differently, or have different opinions, or come from another background or culture; whatever the reason, our community is not benefitting from what they might have to offer.*

*The Center for Great Neighborhoods' mission calls us to engage our most disengaged residents and work to bring them into the life of our community. We know that a truly vibrant and dynamic community is inclusive and harnesses the contributions of everyone.*

*We look to the future with confidence knowing that our friends, partners, and supporters will continue to join with us. **Community starts with all of us!***

Tom DiBello  
Executive Director



# Neighborhoods & Community



*In 2016, The Center expanded our leadership development work to Latonia Lakes.*

**7200+ RESIDENTS**

engaged by 33 different neighborhood and resident-led associations.

**165+ PROJECTS**

completed by resident led groups, making Covington the best it can be

## Great American Cleanup

The Center partnered with Keep Covington Beautiful for a 1 day city-wide cleanup where **830+** volunteers collected over **3** tons of garbage and planted **77** trees at **30** sites around Covington

## SAFETY HIGHLIGHT

From 2014 – 2016, Part 1 crimes – which includes both violent and property crimes – decreased in Covington by 17.6% (from 1799 to 1482 incidents). This is significantly better than the national average. Our community-police partnership is working to keep Covington safe!

# Creative Placemaking



## Creative Business Development

Began working with local creative businesses to strengthen their businesses in various ways including:

- Creative Business Development workshops and mentoring for **15** local businesses
- Housing **8** artists or arts-related businesses at the Hellmann Creative Center
- Providing **4** artists with new homes in which to live and work through our Homes for Makers program

## Creative Facades

Unique program hiring local artists to improve home facades in Covington's Westside based on a color palette, icons, and typography informed by residents

**5** facades completed in 2015, leveraged **\$50,000** to create over **\$200,000** in equity for local homeowners who received the facade treatment

## Creative Community Grants

\$5000 grants to artists to implement creative solutions to community identified topics. In 2016, projects focused on inclusion and health.

**14** projects in 2016 totaling **\$61,000**

## Nano Grants

\$250 grants to individuals to implement creative ideas and projects that improve the community and unite Covington neighbors in a new way. This year we partnered with Skyward to expand the program to three additional Northern Kentucky communities.

**38** projects in 2016, **3826** participants including **903** youth and **122** artists





# Real Estate Development

On September 1st, 2016, The Center completed construction and moved into the **Hellmann Creative Center!** In addition to our offices, the Hellmann Creative Center is home to **8** artist studios and **4000+** sq. ft. of community event and meeting space. The \$2.2 million project is an anchor for additional investment and redevelopment along MLK Boulevard and the Westside.



*Photos by Frank Doring*

## IN 2016, THE CENTER:

**RENOVATED** 4 Units

**SOLD** 3 Houses

**SOLD** our old headquarters at 1650 Russell

**RENTED** 8 Commercial Spaces

**ACQUIRED** 4 Houses

*In 2016, The Center piloted a 3-day Healthy Mind and Body camp for youth. Kids learned about the benefits of good mental health, nutritious eating, and being physically active.*

In 2016, The Center received **FreshLo**, a competitive planning grant from the Kresge Foundation, using food as a platform for neighborhood revitalization. We conducted several activities including a fresh popsicle mobile and a community Re-Soup event to gather community input. The Center also became the co-lead for **LiveWell Covington**, Skyward's NKY Initiative that focuses on nutrition, physical activity, and tobacco cessation.

### **47 PUBLIC SPACES**

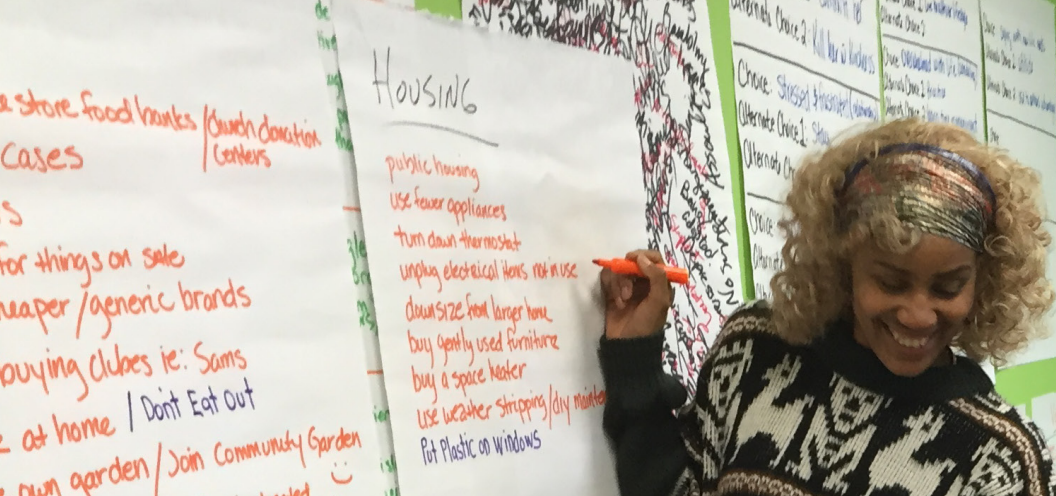
activated to provide opportunities for healthy activities, including park upgrades, family-friendly activities, and places for exercising.

### **64 HOME PRODUCE GARDENS**

distributed to Covington residents to grow fresh food in the comfort of their own backyard. Residents received garden frames, soil, plants, and the opportunity to attend educational workshops.



# **Healthy Lifestyles**



## Financial Wellbeing

**876 FAMILIES**

served with free income tax  
preparation services

**281 INDIVIDUALS**

participated in financial education  
workshops and coaching

**\$1.2 MILLION REFUNDED**

to families through our free income  
tax preparation service

Our **Low Income Tax-payer Clinic (LITC)**  
helps low income residents and non-English  
speakers resolve tax issues. In 2016:

**84 INDIVIDUALS**

served by LITC

**\$204,000+**

obtained in tax relief and refunds  
for taxpayers



# 170 YOUTH

participated in youth  
leadership efforts in  
2015 – 2016

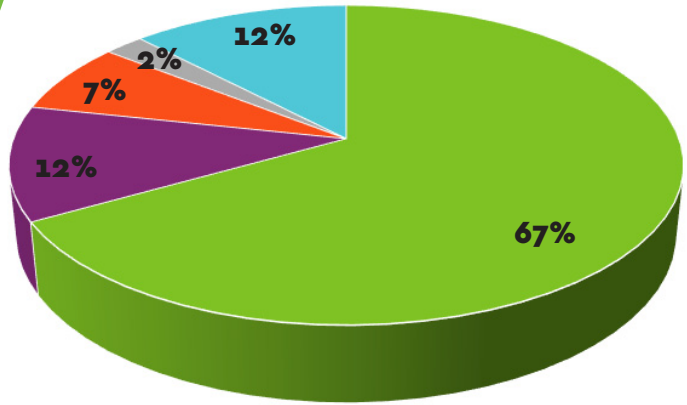
*"BLOCK is important for all schools and the community. It is crucial for students to feel empowered in their neighborhoods and to show pride for their school. It is imperative in today's society to feel respected and accepted by their community and neighbors."*  
Sarah Hunt, FRC Coordinator at Glenn O'Swing Elementary School.

**123 youth** involved in planning and implementing **8 service learning projects.** **96%** of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders who served in The Center's BLOCK (Born Leaders of Covington, Kentucky) program reported a **sense of importance** and a **stronger connection** to their community



## Youth Education

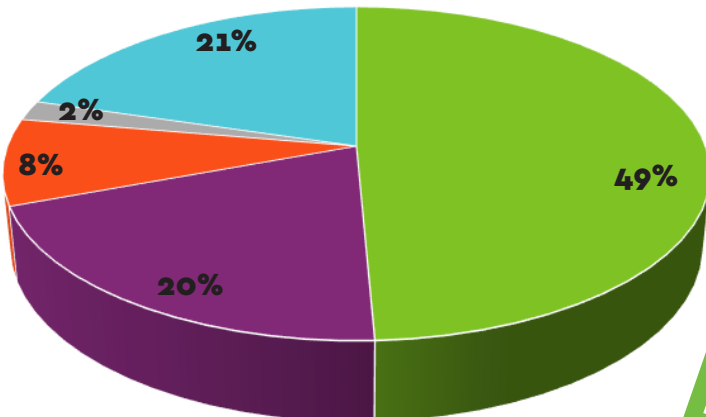
## Functional Expenses



	Program Services: \$939,614.80
	Housing Development: \$162,805.00
	Administrative/General: \$101,156.00
	Fund Development: \$31,442.00
	Custodials: \$171,670.00

## Net Assets: \$2,360,596.00

	Foundations, Trusts, Individuals: \$877,153.00
	Hellmann Creative Center Dev: \$356,003.00
	Government Grants: \$149,262.00
	Other Revenues: \$34,294.00
	Custodial Revenues: \$362,559.00*



## Public Support, Revenue



## The Center Staff

As pictured (left to right)

**Rachel Hastings:** Program Director, Community Development

**Monica Ibarra:** Attorney, LITC

**Angel Johnting Brown:** Business & IT Manager

**Jameela Salaah:** Program Manager, Youth Education

**Dan Petronio:** Associate Director

**Mary Lepper:** Attorney, LITC

**Peg Baldock:** Finance Director

**Tom DiBello:** Executive Director

**Kate Greene:** Program Manager, Community Development

**Carisa Reynolds:** Program Assistant, Youth Education

**Adam Rockel:** Program Manager, Real Estate Development

**Sarah Allan:** Program Director, Creative Placemaking

**Shannon Ratterman:** Program Manager, Community Development

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**The Center for Great Neighborhoods**  
**321 W. MLK Blvd/12th St**  
**Covington, KY 41011**  
[www.greatneighborhoods.org](http://www.greatneighborhoods.org)

