

UNIVERSITY
CIRCLE INC

YOUR CIRCLE OF IMPACT

2025

Dearest Stakeholders,

There is often a struggle between the paralysis of too much planning and the chaos of not enough. Organizations become untethered without a proper vision, but they become stagnant if they don't take some strategic risks.

A few years ago we embarked on a new strategic centered around three pillars, Connecting the People, Stewarding the Place, and Sharing the Story. Those pillars continue to shape our work and our team today. Today we sit at the precipice. We have called on experts, collected data, listened to friends and neighbors, and built the plans that will guide us ... now we have to jump in and take some risks.

But what does that mean for each of our pillars? We piloted small scale programs that brought neighbors, residents, and employees together to build community and connection. In real time, we adjusted those programs to be responsive to the PEOPLE we serve.

We began with a simple concept, that University Circle must function as a connected civic commons, where institutional excellence becomes everyday experience. That idea guided us and resulted in a Public Realm Masterplan that informs our immediate and long-term goals related to how people access and move through this PLACE.

We knew that our brand wasn't broadly understood and wasn't always celebrated. We conducted a

deep analysis of our audiences so that we can respond to their changing needs and values. We are now prepared to launch a new brand and strategy for telling the STORY of this extraordinary place.

Now we march forward, down this very well constructed path. Our work will build a cohesive place rather than a collection of institutions. If we get this right, our institutions pursue their individual missions while we focus on the vitality and long-term success of University Circle. By improving public spaces, promoting the district, strengthening partnerships, and increasing access, we are moving the district forward in ways no single entity could achieve alone.

The result is lasting, generational impact, and we can only get there with your support.

Warmly,

Kate



MISSION

Answering the call for connection and community in Cleveland's Circle of arts, culture, wellness, and learning.



VISION

University Circle is an extraordinary place where locals belong and the world is welcomed.



VALUES

Character, Community and Collaboration



OUR WORK WILL

Instill a sense of belonging for the **people**. Enhance the vibrancy of a global **place**. Illuminate the **stories** of all.

"If you believe as we do that people, places, and stories matter, then our ultimate success will be found here."

—KATE BORDERS, President

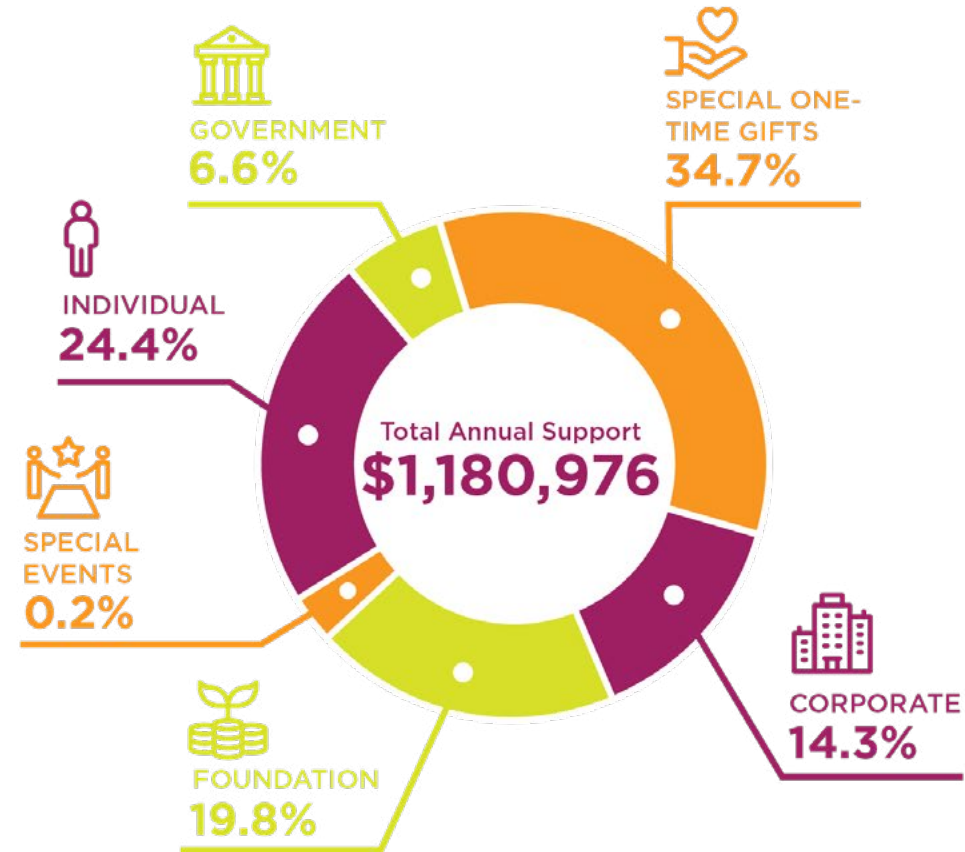
WE ARE SUPPORTED BY:

NUMBER OF DONORS

269 

NUMBER OF GIFTS

392 



YOUR SUPPORT IMPACTS:



This represents gifts received between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025. It does not include any capital campaign gifts.

CONNECTING THE PEOPLE

Your support enables us to build meaningful connections with the University Circle community, **instilling a sense of belonging for all people.**

University Circle Inc. Community Room

Because of your support, **the University Circle Inc. Community Room continues to grow** as a welcoming space where neighbors, community organizations, and partners come together to connect, learn, and build relationships. This year, our Community Engagement connections increased by an impressive 113% through programs and partnerships such as: Yoga with Stephanie, Small Bites with Chef Tiffani, and Xpressions Public Writing Workshops in partnership with The Sparrow's Fortune.

University Circle Inc. Internship Program

Through the University Circle Inc. Internship Program, **8 students from underserved communities gained hands-on work experience**, explored career paths, and built professional skills while working alongside University Circle's world-renowned arts, education, healthcare, and cultural institutions.



Juneteenth Celebration in the Circle

Thanks to your generosity, the **Cozad-Bates House Interpretive Center became a place of learning, reflection, and celebration during Juneteenth.** In partnership with Restore Cleveland Hope, UCI welcomed the community to explore Cleveland's abolitionist history and gather for food, games, and fellowship, fostering connections and celebrating the stories that shape our community.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the Circle

With your support, **more people were able to experience Martin Luther King Jr. Day** celebrations throughout University Circle. UCI's free shuttle service connected more than 400 riders to events across participating institutions, removing transportation barriers and creating opportunities for connection and celebration.

Another Successful Event Season

Thanks to your generosity, we activated our public spaces and welcomed **over 50,000 attendees** across our signature events:

- **WOW! Wade Oval Wednesdays:** Energized Wade Oval with 39,700 attendees (a nearly 10% increase from last year!), including a season-high crowd of 13,000.
- **Parade the Circle:** Filled University Circle with 8,340 attendees.
- **YAY! Fall Fest:** Activated the Oval for fall with 1,920 attendees.
- **Illuminate the Circle:** Brightened the winter months, drawing 9,800 visits throughout the holiday season.

Building Connections Through Shared Cultural Experiences

UCI Engagement partnered with the Cleveland Museum of Art to bring together neighbors from Glenville, Hough, Woodhill, and Cleveland Heights for an evening of connection through arts and culture. Residents gathered at the UCI Community Room over three evenings to share a meal and conversation before traveling together on the UCI bus to experience the Renaissance to Runway exhibition.

More than a museum visit, the gatherings created space for neighbors from different communities to build relationships, share perspectives, and experience one of University Circle's world-class cultural institutions together. By removing transportation barriers and intentionally creating opportunities for connection, the program fostered a stronger sense of belonging, encouraged relationships across neighborhoods, and reinforced University Circle as a place where everyone is welcome to gather, learn, and experience the arts together.



STEWARDING THE PLACE

Your generosity plays a pivotal role in our capacity to energize and care for University Circle, **enhancing the vibrancy of a global place.**

University Circle Police Department

Your support directly enhances University Circle Police Department's capacity to **practice compassionate policing** and **care for our physical environment**:

- UCPD **visibility and connection** with 1,435 directed foot patrols and 6,486 directed vehicle patrols.
- Officers provided **dedicated stewardship of our shared spaces** in the Circle, completing 779 building checks and 549 institutional visits.
- A newly upgraded dispatch center improved our capacity to **respond to the community with empathy and speed**, resulting in the seizure of 22 firearms, keeping the Circle safe.

Keeping University Circle Beautiful

Your gifts fund the crucial, daily work of **making the Circle a beautiful place to explore**:

- In partnership with CWRU and MRN, we **filled 75 planters** along Euclid Avenue with flowers and shrubbery, adding an annual pop of color and excitement to the commercial heart of the district.
- We worked to steward the beauty of the Circle, **collecting 40,950 pounds of litter and removing 240 tags of graffiti** to ensure our sidewalks and green spaces remains clean, safe, and welcoming.

Transportation Updates

Your generosity allows us to maintain the physical beauty and safety of the Circle resulting in **significant infrastructure upgrades** across the district:

- 2,500 Linear Feet of Resurfaced Roads: We smoothed the way for residents and visitors by advocating for the **repaving of 2,500 Linear Feet** throughout the Circle making our roadmaps safer for travelers.
- 3 Pedestrian Safety Installations: We implemented physical traffic calming measures (centerline hardening) at two major intersections, **prioritizing the safety of the thousands of pedestrians** who explore the Circle on foot.

Public Realm Master Plan

The University Circle Inc. Board unanimously endorsed and approved **Connecting the Circle**, a plan for the future of University Circle's public spaces. Over the next 15 years, implementation of the plan will transform

University Circle into a more connected, welcoming, and accessible district where discovery and community are part of everyday life and public spaces reflect the same level of excellence as the world-class institutions they connect.

The plan is organized around five signature moves:

- Create a **walkable cultural corridor** along Euclid Avenue, Mayfield Road, Ford Drive, and East Boulevard that better connects University Circle's cultural, educational, and recreational destinations.
- Enhance East 105th Street with **safer crossings, improved lighting, landscaping, and more active public spaces** to create a welcoming gateway into University Circle.
- Improve the Harrison Dillard Trail to strengthen the north-south connection between Lake Erie and University Circle while **expanding access** to Wade Oval, jobs, museums, and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Reimagine Rockefeller Park South through **roadway improvements and park enhancements** that create a more welcoming entrance and strengthen connections to neighboring communities.
- Redesign Wade Oval into a vibrant, year-round gathering space with **new amenities** and flexible areas that encourage recreation, community events, and everyday use.



TELLING THE STORY

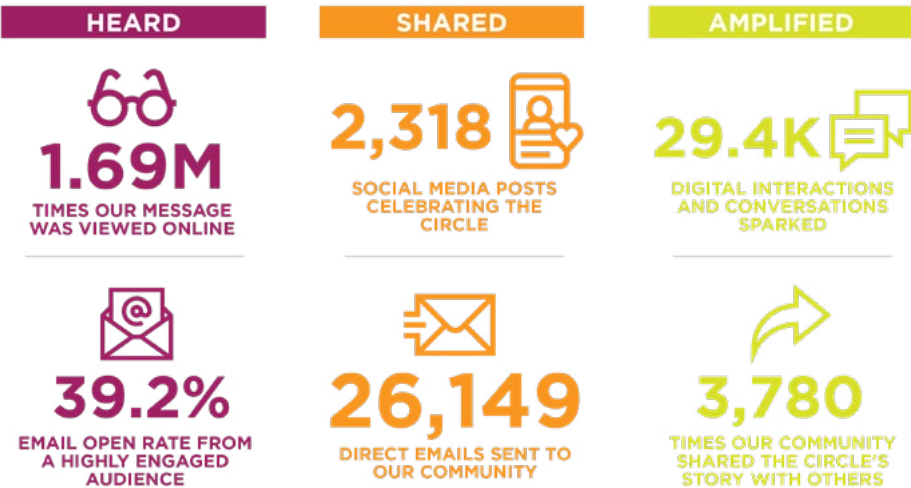
Your gifts empower us to celebrate the Circle’s unique spirit and impact, **illuminating the stories of all.**

Artist in Residence Program

We engaged 10 community stakeholders to review **40 applicants for our Artist in Residence program**, proudly selecting **Dorijan Coleman** to highlight the Circle and Greater Cleveland’s unique spirit through his art.

Broad Storytelling

Your support helps us ensure that **stories of the Circle are heard, shared, and amplified.** This year, that impact looked like this:



The Sparrow’s Fortune

University Circle Inc. partnered with The Sparrow’s Fortune to facilitate a series of creative writing workshops focused on promoting personal wellness, self-expression, and community connection. These sessions created a welcoming environment where participants explored topics including writing structure and form, family dynamics, self-love, generational gifts and challenges, and personal storytelling. The workshops encouraged individuals to reflect on their lived experiences, connect with others through shared narratives, and develop creative tools for emotional processing and self-discovery.

Some Participants’ feedback:

“To write through things that might be difficult for you. Write through it! Write outside of the box.”

“I practiced writing without judgement of my words.”

“I love that I learned about a new writing form.”



LOOKING AHEAD



To move the Public Realm Master Plan, Connecting the Circle, from vision to action, University Circle Inc. will convene a coalition of partners to support a comprehensive **Road Network Study**. UCI will lead the consultant selection process and manage the project, laying the groundwork for transformative improvements to the district's transportation network and creating a model that has the potential to influence how road improvements are planned throughout the City of Cleveland.



In the coming months, University Circle will **unveil a new brand** that reflects the district's unique identity and shared future. Built on extensive audience research, community input, and stakeholder feedback, the refreshed brand will provide a unified voice and visual identity that tells the story of University Circle in a more compelling and cohesive way than ever before.



The **Harrison Dillard Trail** represents an opportunity to celebrate the life and achievements of one of Cleveland's greatest Olympic champions while strengthening connections across our community. Improvements will be made to the multi-use trail, including enhanced signage, placemaking, and infrastructure, to create a more welcoming corridor linking University Circle with neighborhoods to the north toward Lake Erie and to the south toward the Shaker Lakes.



The University Circle Inc. Community Room will continue to serve as a welcoming gathering place for the community. **Programming will evolve** each season based on participant feedback, ensuring that classes, workshops, and events remain relevant, engaging, and responsive to the interests of neighborhood residents and visitors alike.



In 2026, **WOW! Wade Oval Wednesdays** celebrated 20 years of bringing music, community, and joy to University Circle. What began as a lunchtime concert series has grown into one of Cleveland's most beloved summer traditions. This milestone season featured special performances and celebrations honoring two decades of unforgettable Wednesday evenings in Wade Oval.



UCI will expand its programming beyond large signature events by introducing more **pop-up experiences** throughout the year. These smaller activations will add energy and vibrancy to public spaces, creating unexpected moments of connection, creativity, and wonder for residents, employees, students, and visitors.



Wade Oval will become an even more inviting destination through **additional seating and expanded play opportunities**. New gathering spaces will encourage people to enjoy lunch outdoors, meet with friends, relax on the lawn, or spend time with children exploring creative, nature-inspired play experiences that enhance the park's everyday appeal.



As University Circle Inc. celebrates its **70th anniversary**, we will honor seven decades of stewardship, collaboration, and community impact while looking confidently toward the future. Guided by our commitment to continuous improvement and innovation, UCI will continue evolving to meet the changing needs of the district and ensure University Circle remains an extraordinary place to live, work, learn, and visit.

CELEBRATING
YOU
THANK YOU
TO OUR 2025
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\$100,000+

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Up to \$124

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*Deceased

This list represents gifts received between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025. It does not include any capital campaign gifts. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Up to \$124 (continued)

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GIVING CIRCLES

CIRCLE LEGACY SOCIETY

Circle Legacy Society donors are ensuring that the impact of UCI programming carries on for future generations and that this extraordinary district can continue to be enjoyed by all.

Dorothy Humel Hovorka
Henri Pell Junod, Jr.
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Joe and Ellen* Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Allen D. Wright

GRACE'S COMMUNITY

Grace's Community recognizes donors for their ongoing monthly support.

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1957 CLUB

The 1957 Club recognizes a donor's loyalty to the impact and vision of University Circle Inc. These current donors have been making gifts for at least five consecutive years.
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