

FULL CIRCLE

FALL/WINTER 2022



UCI'S COMMUNITY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

When you work in schools, every fall brings new students, new ideas, and new challenges, and the teachers and staff in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District are experts at being flexible and adapting to meet the needs of the moment. UCI's Community Education department has been learning this valuable trait as well in recent years. Our focus has always been on experiential learning – nurturing curiosity and lifelong learning through all that our member institutions have to offer. But flexibility for us has meant that we need to change with the times, like our colleagues in the school district have taught us.

But what should that change look like? For the last several years, it has meant a focus on the residents of Cleveland's East Side neighborhoods closest to University Circle – Hough, Glenville, Fairfax, Buckeye-Shaker, and St. Clair Superior – as well as the city of East Cleveland. Our research and conversations with our neighbors taught us that we could do more to engage not just the schools but the families that live in those neighborhoods, with a special focus on their needs and interests as communities of color.

So, we began by thinking about our assets. *WOW! Wade Oval Wednesdays* brings folks from across Northeastern Ohio, but it has a special place in the hearts of neighborhood residents who have made it their own. In that spirit, UCI's events and education teams created *YAY! Saturdays*, a family event that features performances in addition to wellness and education activities that families can enjoy together. Our summer programming also includes *Circle Explorers*, a six-week summer camp that is free to middle school students in Cleveland and East Cleveland.

This summer programming complements our existing work in area schools. Our *Early Learning Initiative* serves approximately 500 pre-kindergartners in CMSD schools

with monthly museum visits and classroom programming; classrooms in neighborhood schools qualify for free field visits and transportation to University Circle museums through *LEAD – Linking Education and Discovery*, and our *Circle Scholars* afterschool program serves 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in three CMSD schools.

Our next steps come from realizing that there are places where we are not needed; with input from our members and the community, we've had to make some important and difficult decisions in order to make this work our focus. After 25 years of service, we will say goodbye to two of our programs: our *Future Connections* internship program, and *University Circle Interactive Cleveland*, our distance learning program for older learners. Both programs began as innovations, but similar programs are commonplace now among our members and the wider community. Finally, our *Early Learning Program* will continue to serve 500 prekindergartners annually in Cuyahoga County, but the Lorain County Schools will be served by a local organization in a similar program created under the guidance of UCI's early childhood educators.

These changes will allow UCI to focus on the needs of pre-kindergarten through 8th grade students and their families – helping them make the most of all the educational resources that University Circle has to offer. It will also enable us to do more to support our members by creating opportunities to engage the community around University Circle, and to develop their education teams through professional education and development.

As we continue to develop new strategies to engage the community and the schools we serve, we do so with the overriding mission of deepening our neighbors' connections to University Circle. Thank you for your support in preserving our institutions as places of lifelong learning for the future.

GET TO KNOW JOHN MORRISON, UCI'S NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF PHILANTHROPY

What did you do prior to joining UCI?

I've been in fundraising for most of my career, getting my start with a youth golf program after graduating college. My most recent position was as the Director of Development for the GRAMMY® Museum in Los Angeles where our mission was to preserve music in all its forms and make music education accessible to anyone. I've worked for several great organizations over the years but perhaps one of the most fun was working with the Air Safety Institute at the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, where knowing how to fly a plane was strongly encouraged. So, I became a private pilot while raising money to keep pilots – and passengers – safe in the air.

What is your proudest moment/accomplishment as a philanthropy professional?

My proudest accomplishment happened during my time at the Seattle Symphony. Working with the Artistic Director, we secured a major gift to help underwrite a commission from John Luther Adams titled *Become Ocean*. Commissioning the piece was a big risk for the Symphony that paid off significantly. It premiered at Benaroya Hall in Seattle on June 20, 2013, and later won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Music and the 2015 Grammy Award for Best Classical Contemporary Composition. In 2019, the writers of *The Guardian* ranked it the 10th greatest work of art music since 2000. It put the Seattle Symphony on the world stage unlike it had ever been before and even inspired Taylor Swift to donate \$50,000 to the Symphony's education programs. I feel lucky to have been on the front end of securing the money needed for a project that had such a terrific impact.

What do you hope to accomplish in the short term and farther out as the new VP of Philanthropy?

In the short-term, we'll work to build up our presence as a philanthropic institution, so don't be surprised to see me or members of our team out and about more connecting with our member institutions and community. Over the long-term, I hope to build a strong culture of philanthropy both internally and externally and look for ways to collaborate extensively with our stakeholders to make University Circle one of the best places to live, work and play in the country.



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What do you like to do outside of work?

I've been golfing since I was a kid and while I don't play near as much now as I used to, it's still something I enjoy very much. I enjoy history, so exploring Cleveland has become one of my favorite pasttimes since I've been here, there are so many great neighborhoods and so many great stories here. I'm a sports fan and an arts fan, so I'm always up for taking in a game, checking out a new museum, or listening to live music.

JOYCE AND JAY NESBIT LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

An appreciation for University Circle and for “the umbrella organization” that guides it led two annual supporters of University Circle Inc. to bestow upon it one of the most generous endowed planned gifts UCI has received since the nonprofit community development corporation was founded in 1957.

The Joyce and Jay Nesbit Endowed Fund at University Circle Inc., named after the donors, will support mission-related programs, including community education and outreach, public events, services, and safety.

“Education is important to both of us,” explained Joyce, a retired teacher of business and vocational education. Jay, a semi-retired mental health pharmacy manager for Genoa Healthcare and lifelong learner, said University Circle’s cultural and educational institutions, its walkability, cleanliness, and safety all played a part in leading them to establish a charitable remainder trust that would help preserve the district for generations to come.

That appreciation also led them to become residents, first in nearby Little Italy and now even closer, at One University Circle. It also takes them closer to Joyce’s older son, a highly respected officer with the University Circle Police Department.

Jay and Joyce have worked very hard on spreading awareness of philanthropy within University Circle. In



addition to UCI, they have established endowed funds at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Orchestra and Cleveland Foundation. “We hope our giving will inspire others to support University Circle Inc. Our gift benefits not only the district but it also makes Cleveland a better place to live and visit.”

For information on how you can create a planned gift at UCI, please contact John Morrison, Vice President of Philanthropy, at john.morrison@universitycircle.org.



University Circle is a wonderful place to live, work, and play! Your generous support helps UCI:

- **Advocate** for the University Circle neighborhood, providing a safe, vibrant place to live life and a place for Clevelanders to cherish.
- **Connect** neighborhood residents, cultural consumers, healing seekers, and learners with opportunities and programming that welcomes them to University Circle and its institutions.
- **Collaborate** with culture, healing, and learning organizations to build a neighborhood collective that is more impactful than the individual parts.

Help keep University Circle a vibrant welcoming neighborhood by returning your gift in the enclosed envelope or scanning the QR code below to make a secure donation online.

Thank you!

Emily McConnell
Director of Individual Giving
emily.mcconnell@universitycircle.org





ONE SPECTACULAR SUMMER

Another successful Summer in the Circle has wrapped up. UCI partnered with The Cleveland Museum of Art for *Summer Arts Fest: Dance with Giants*, an interactive arts festival on Wade Oval. This unique festival experience featured larger-than-life art sculptures and roaming costumed performers.

WOW! Wade Oval Wednesdays brought familiar faces and new performers to the Kulas Stage during this 10-week concert series. Guests and performers showed up ready to make WOW! a special event; the food, the music, and the company were amazing.

This was the second year for *YAY! Saturdays*, and kids and parents both enjoyed being able to interact with our local partners, such as the Cleveland Botanical Garden and Case Western Reserve University's Sears think[box], among others. Kids learned about science and technology, watched live performers, and received free books and learning kits to take home. Make Believe Family Fun Center hosted a Foam Party for the last YAY! that was a bubbly good time.

UCPD UPDATES

Renovations Begin at the Station

It was an exciting summer for the University Circle Police Department (UCPD) as a \$450,000 renovation commenced to update and modernize the station. Led by architect Kevin Robinette and general contractor Sterling Professional Group, the renovation includes new locker rooms, new restrooms and a kitchenette, a new armory, a detective suite with office and evidence storage rooms, expansion into a previously unused adjacent space, and new internal circulation upon completion. Additional improvements will include a repaved parking lot and a new roof. Renovations are expected to be complete in the spring of 2023.

Beep Baseball Debuts on Wade Oval

On Saturday, September 3, members of the UCPD faced off against the Cleveland Scrappers in the first ever beep baseball game on Wade Oval. Beep baseball is an adaptive sport designed for those who are blind or visually impaired. All participants wear a blindfold and attempt to hit a 16-inch baseball with a sound module inside. The game was organized by UCPD Sergeant Adam Gilmore as a fundraiser to send the Cleveland Scrappers to other tournaments across the country. It was a huge success, raising more than \$5,000!





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Holiday CircleFest is back this winter for its 28th year on Sunday, December 4 from Noon to 7:00 p.m.! Guests can skate on The Rink at Wade Oval, grab food from local food trucks, watch ice carvers, shop at the Holiday Market, hop on a horse-drawn carriage, and more. There will also be opportunities to take pictures with Santa and listen to live music throughout the event. Many local museums and institutions will be open and offering events during the day. Visit universitycircle.org/holiday for more information.

The Rink at Wade Oval also returns this year, opening on Friday, December 2 and closing on Sunday, February 26. Guests can bring their own skates or rent a pair and enjoy skating on the fresh ice. A concession stand will feature seasonal treats, including hot cocoa, coffee, and a variety of snacks. There will also be seasonal programming at The Rink, including the popular Pink the Rink at Valentine's Day. The Rink is proudly sponsored by PNC Bank. For more information and to reserve your tickets, visit universitycircle.org/rink.

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between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

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If you have questions or comments regarding this newsletter, please contact John Morrison, Vice President of Philanthropy, john.morrison@universitycircle.org

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

BUILD THE PHO AND THE SWEET SPOT IN UPTOWN

Two new eateries opened in Uptown this Summer, Build the Pho and The Sweet Spot. These two delicious places are owned by the same local entrepreneur who's behind University Circle staples such as Kenko and Hell's Fried Chicken. The food is delicious and a great place to go for lunch with friends or colleagues.

For their grand opening event, both restaurants donated a portion of their proceeds to the University Circle Police Department. Students from the Cleveland Institute of Music performed a fanfare for the special occasion as well.



To learn more, visit buildthephocle.com or thesweetspotcase.com

UCPD Staff Lt. David Leff, Cleveland Institute of Music President & CEO Paul Hogle, Sergeant Adam Gilmore, Officer Art Chenevey, Sheng Long Yu, Chief Jim Repicky, Eric Cheung, and Sheila Obrycki celebrate the grand opening of Build the Pho and The Sweet Spot in Uptown.