Dear Friends,

We have a confession. We actually selected the theme for our 2019 Annual Report in 2018, while we were preparing that annual report. One of our staff suggested, “we have so many projects going on in Fairfax, we should make the theme an invitation to join us.”

There was indeed a lot of planning and groundwork being done, but we didn’t think we were quite at a point to say “Come Build with Us” just yet.

We are ready to say it, now.

Playwright Park is finished. We have acquired the parcels of land for the first apartment building in Innovation Square. We have worked with the City to develop the New Economy Neighborhood. We got things in place to build new roads. And everyone…our residents, our partners, the City, Cuyahoga County Land Bank…everyone worked with us to move the projects forward.

2019 was a year of growth and accomplishment for FRDC and for the Fairfax neighborhood. We were selected for the empowerCLE+ affordable Internet program. The digital publication FreshWater Cleveland featured Fairfax in their multi-story “On the Ground” series.

And the best is yet to come.

Even in the face of the current pandemic, we continue to make things happen.

We invite you to join us. We are open for business.

Come Build With Us!

Denise VanLeer
Executive Director

J. Stefan Holmes
President, Board of Directors
FreshWater Cleveland was “On the Ground” in Fairfax
In 2019, the digital weekly e-magazine and website FreshWater moved into the Fairfax neighborhood to help tell our story. The program resulted in ten feature articles, eight news stories and one video. The series kicked off on July 18, with “Portrait of a neighborhood: Fairfax is ready to enter its long-awaited renaissance area.” Other stories focused on topics like:

- “Fighting to keep Bolton Elementary near the neighborhood”
- “Building community through art”
- “Fairfax workforce program makes believers out of job seekers”
- “Revitalization efforts show respect for heritage”

FreshWater also produced a video on Harry Winfield- “A 90 year-old historian looks back on Fairfax in the 1950s.”

In addition to the digital e-magazine, sent to over 18,500 subscribers, the series generated over 400,000 page views and social media likes, comments or shares. All stories were also posted by Cleveland.com in their e-newsletters and website.

FreshWater also hosted a Ride + Learn Event: The Future of Fairfax. The bike route covered 2.8 miles around the Fairfax neighborhood and stops included:

- PNC Fairfax Connection
- Innovation Square
- Griot Village
- Karamu House
- Churches
- And more

The Event concluded with a panel discussion, moderated by Ideastream®’s Justin Glanville, with August L. Fluker and Denise VanLeer. Thanks to the generous support of Greater Cleveland Partnership/Cleveland Development Advisors, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress and PNC for making this possible.

Come build our story with us.
Fairfax Community Correspondent Program

As part of the FreshWater “On the Ground” initiative, The Fairfax Community Correspondent Program created an opportunity for local reporters to author stories about their community. Supported by a grant from the Cleveland Foundation, four aspiring authors received laptop computers for research and writing, and professional instruction on how to interview, how to verify your information, and what makes up a lead in a news story.

More importantly, the correspondents learned that as citizens, they contribute a particular insight into life that no one else can provide and have a special opportunity to make their voices heard—by reporting news from and about their community.

“Part of any neighborhood is its identity. Often when development happens around the edges, by nature some parts of the neighborhood get annexed. I believe it’s important to maintain our identity. We are not going to be “Mid-Town East.” We are not going to be “Circle West.” There is great history in this community and we have to look back before we move forward. We have to determine and embrace who we are and what we want to be.”

- August Fluker
(at Ride + Learn Panel Discussion)

Teaching the classes was Charlotte Morgan (pictured in the center), an instructor in the first-year writing department at Cleveland State University, where she is also a faculty adviser for an honors program. Additionally, she leads writing workshops for Literary Cleveland.

Morgan, a longtime journalist and a resident of Cleveland’s Glenville neighborhood, was eager to show the participants that they have the power to generate solutions by highlighting problems.

Our four Community Correspondents were, left to right, Lauren Harrison, Angela Thomas, Elle Wilson and Kyle Wilson.
Building Leaders

Jewish Federation of Cleveland-Thomas and Joann Adler Civic Leaders Mission to Israel

Our Executive Director, Denise VanLeer, traveled to Israel as part of the Adler 2019 Mission. The mission’s purpose is to expose Cleveland Leadership to Israel’s innovative approaches to economic and community development, education, and support of at-risk and disadvantaged populations, and to create opportunities for partnership with each other and Israeli counterparts.

The 39-member group spent a week in Israel and a smaller group of community and economic development executives spent an additional three days in Israel to work with residents of the City of Beit Shean to assist with plans for community/economic revitalization of the area’s assets.

In addition to visiting some of Israel’s most historic sites, they met with their Israeli counterparts to assist with relationship building and to enhance the work they do in Cleveland.

“It was truly an extraordinary experience,” says Denise.
Art in the Park–New Mural at Playwright Park

Playwright Park, the first project in Innovation Square, was completed. In July, volunteers from the Cleveland Clinic Learner College of Medicine and the Department of Interprofessional Development joined Fairfax residents, FRDC staff and Digital C to paint a mural. The design for the mural, developed by local artist Augustus Turner, gathered input from the neighborhood through community meetings at Bolton Elementary School, FRDC offices and Griot Village to discuss what the mural should represent. The murals, painted at Fairfax Nursing Home, were installed on two shipping containers in Playwright Park. The containers will serve as a stage for outdoor events including performances with Karamu House.

Innovation Square

The Innovation Square Project gained momentum in 2019. FRDC acquired 32 parcels in the Innovation Square and New Economy footprints to move FRDC’s 80 unit mixed-income apartment building forward and also to create a campus for the New Economy area (Cedar to Quincy Avenues, East 105th to Stokes Boulevard) in partnership with the City of Cleveland to locate educational, medical and technology companies. FRDC will break ground on the 80 unit apartment building in 2021.

Come build a neighborhood with us.
Economic/Business Development

Cleveland Veterinary Clinic opened September 2, 2019 at Church Square on Euclid Avenue and East 79th Street.

The owner, Dr. Venaya Jones, is excited to be offering her services in the Fairfax neighborhood to animal lovers.

Come build the future with us.

Land Acquisition

FRDC continued work in the New Economy Neighborhood, the area along Opportunity Corridor between Cedar and Quincy Avenues, East 105th to Stokes Blvd. FRDC worked with the City of Cleveland and other stakeholders to acquire land to attract “eds, meds and technology” companies to the area. In addition to acquiring 32 parcels, FRDC demolished eight structures in 2019 to make way for new housing, roads and businesses.

Dunkin’ opened December 5, 2019 on Carnegie Avenue and East 79th Street. FRDC staff had worked with various franchise owners to attract Dunkin’ to the Fairfax neighborhood. FRDC staff worked with other developers concerning relocating businesses to the East 79th and Carnegie area in 2019.
Neighborhood Technology Center

The Fairfax Neighborhood Technology Center continued to provide critical services for the Fairfax neighborhood, during 2019. FRDC staff continued to integrate Workforce Development with the technology Center and furthered efforts with technology skill development for residents of Griot Village. Usage of the Neighborhood Technology Center and Griot Village Center was 2,168 in 2019.

New Partner–New Opportunities for Workforce Development

Created to address unemployment and under-employment, FRDC’s Workforce Development Program continued to provide employment skills training including referrals to supportive services, resume writing, and assistance with the online job seeking and application process.

In 2019, FRDC Workforce Development Program successfully engaged over 333 individuals in the areas of career development, soft skill development, resume writing, and online job search.

FRDC’s Workforce Development Program continued its collaboration with Cleveland Clinic’s Greater University Circle Employee Resource Group (GUC-ERG), Dominion Energy and the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to host Employment Workshops and trainings. The Program also established new partnerships with MGM Casinos, Koinonia Homes, Census Bureau and Wheels to host Monthly Hiring Events at the FRDC offices.

The collaborations provide residents and clients the opportunity to learn about specific company hiring processes, discover how to navigate their company’s career website to complete their online applications and provide the opportunity to meet with human resource managers and recruiters to learn about expectations and interview for various employment opportunities. Sixty-one individuals were placed into employment in 2019.
Greater Circle Living

Now in its 11th year, the Greater Circle Living Program (GCL), developed and administered by FRDC and in partnership with the Cleveland Foundation, provides incentives to qualified employees of anchor institutions and nonprofit employers in Greater University Circle. The program helps to support the ongoing recovery in ten neighborhoods surrounding University Circle.

In 2019, GCL processed and approved 125 applications from qualified employees for home purchase, rental assistance and exterior repair. GCL, a catalyst for economic development, launched in 2008 as a $3.9 million joint Employer Assisted Housing Program. In 2012, the program re-launched with increased employee benefits including up to $30,000 in down payment assistance and more inclusive eligibility criteria. Since the 2012 re-launch through December 31, 2019, the program has seen a 605% increase in usage. In 2019, GCL leveraged $6.2 Million Dollars and leveraged a total of $50 Million Dollars from program inception (2008) to 2019.

Believing in a Dream

Dion Walton says his co-workers are often surprised when they learn he moved into one of the GUC neighborhoods. “But after I explain how I acquired the home, their attitudes change dramatically,” says Dion. Based on his personal experience, Dion is now a big advocate for the program. “This program was the most understandable. The person I was working with made me feel like family.”

“Many people are locked out of the American dream because they may not have the capital or understanding of how things work,” says Dion. “This program enabled me to provide a safe home for my family, financial leverage and emotional stability. If home ownership is what you seek, GCL offers the easiest and best opportunity to achieve that dream. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams and have the courage to chase after them. Don’t give up! GCL is here to help.”
Singing a City Song

Dane Vannatter is a renowned jazz vocalist, regularly performing at Nighttown, but his day job is in the Legal Department of University Hospitals. Dane and his partner, Todd Barr, were living in an apartment in Shaker Heights when they heard about GCL and took a bus tour of Greater Circle neighborhoods. They did more exploring on their own and even attended the FRDC Annual Meeting at Karamu House. Eventually, they found what they were looking for, along with a program that helped them buy it.

“The families in this neighborhood have lived in their houses for a long time,” says Dane. “They have been very welcoming. Here we are…two, gay, white guys living in a community that is mostly black and traditional families. We love it. We are engaged with our neighbors and the community in ways that totally fulfills me.”

When asked about GCL and the application process, Dane says, “It was super easy, and I enjoyed all of the steps along the way. What are you waiting for? Dream big and make the call.”
Model Blocks

Model Blocks is a program that provides exterior repairs and improvements such as minor carpentry work, painting, gutter repair or replacement, roof repair, power washing and landscaping. In 2019, FRDC partnered with Cleveland Clinic’s Global Cardiovascular Innovations Center (GCIC) to provide exterior repairs and landscaping to homes on East 100th Street and Quebec. In all, FRDC assisted eight homeowners throughout the community.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

FRDC continued its longstanding HEAP partnership with CHN Housing Partners. HEAP staff assisted nearly 3,000 people with financial payments to restore utilities or prevent services from being disconnected, determine eligibility for the Percentage of Income Program, and process applications for the Cuyahoga County Prevention Retention and Contingency (PRC) Program.
Catondra Noye, Assistant Director, was a panelist at Engage! Cleveland’s 6th Annual CLE YP Week from June 22–29, 2019 to provide young professionals with more opportunities to experience everything this great city has to offer.

Featuring a variety of morning, afternoon, and evening programs and events all tied to the thriving Cleveland Young Professional Community, CLE YP Week has quickly become Engage! Cleveland’s signature event.

“The Young Professional community is inspiring! Some of them have families that have called Cleveland home for generations. Others have come from different parts of the U.S. or world. All of them are seeking to push themselves and the City a little further. They expect and work for change, growth and more. They refuse to settle and I love it! The energy is good for our City and the neighborhoods.”

- Catondra Noye
Homework Help

At Griot Village, students who need help with their homework have a place to go after school from Monday to Thursday. Tutors and mentors from Case Western Reserve University, John Carroll University and Antioch Baptist Church help them with completing their homework and utilizing online literacy software to improve reading and writing skills. A new initiative was started for students in fourth grade and up who demonstrated that they were good students and mentors. They are called Homework Help Officers and three students were selected to assist with daily tasks and serve as role models. This initiative has helped to incentivize leadership qualities. At the end of 2019, the Cleveland Kids’ Book Bank donated 4 cases of additional reading materials for the program.

Cleveland Cavaliers Youth Sports League

In 2019, FRDC started a partnership with the Cleveland Cavaliers Youth Sports League, dedicated to improving youth participation in competitive sports. In the summer of 2020, the Junior Cavs will host a basketball clinic in the Fairfax neighborhood in an effort to pilot their programming in marginalized communities. Also, as a result of this new partnership, two young women from Griot Village were able to participate in the Cleveland Cavalier’s All-Girls Clinic on International Women’s Day.
The Fairfax Learning Farm

First opened in 2008, the Fairfax Learning Farm on East 79th Street employed kids from the neighborhood during the summer months to learn about gardening and food. The program was created by the Cleveland Botanical Gardens and then taken over with their merger with Holden Arboretum. (Sadly, 2019 was the last year for the Learning Farm.)

“I enjoyed going to the farm every day. Healthy eating is important for athletes so it was very informative for my diet.”

“I like to cook for my family so I learned how to plant a small garden at home with fresh vegetables. They love it!”

“I still eat Big Macs, but it’s no longer every day. I had to learn that green is not bad for you. I’m joking, but it’s true.”

CENSUS 2020

In October 2019, FRDC and PNC Fairfax Connection established a partnership to conduct outreach for the upcoming 2020 Census. Planning sessions were held so outreach efforts could begin early 2020. FRDC also partnered with the non-profit, Cleveland VOTES, and the City of Cleveland to plan census activities.

2020 Census Self-Response Rates

This is the self-response rates from households that responded to the 2020 Census online, by mail or by phone as of July 9, 2020.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cleveland</th>
<th>Ohio</th>
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<tr>
<td>National - 62%</td>
<td>46.9%</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio - 66.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleveland - 46.9%</td>
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2524
Interprofessional Development (IPE) Community Outreach Project

FRDC and Fairfax residents partnered with Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine and Case Western Reserve University to create the Interprofessional Development Community Collaboration Initiative. This unique program allows health professions students to collaborate with Fairfax residents to address community health needs by working together to design and implement one or more specific project(s). The goals of the initiative are for health professions students to learn from the residents as much as the residents learn from them, to increase health professions students’ cultural competencies, to empower residents to maximize resources for accessing healthcare, and to address one or more aspects of social determinants of health. As a result of meetings between students and residents that began in late 2019, a nutrition project was selected that will be implemented in 2020.

Cleveland Clinic Health Challenge

The Cleveland Clinic Health Challenge is a part of the Healthy Community Initiative, which is a collaborative effort between Cleveland Clinic and community partners to promote optimal health and wellness through education, nutrition and physical activity. The program includes pre/post biometric screenings, health risk assessments, and six weeks of activities and educational programs. Participating neighborhoods included: Central Kinsman, East Cleveland, Fairfax, Glenville and Hough. With Health Challenges occurring three times in 2019—winter, spring and fall—residents had multiple opportunities to participate. In the spring six-week session, Fairfax was highlighted for first place Community Completion, and shared a win with Central Kinsman for the overall event. As an added bonus, Fairfax participants lost a total of 86.0 pounds for all three challenges!

Cleanups/Louis Stokes Interns

During 2019, Fairfax residents, Cleveland Clinic volunteers, Cleveland Clinic Louis Stokes Scholars and FRDC staff volunteered to clean-up multiple locations around the neighborhood. Vacant lots along Quincy Avenue and East 79th Street and Serenity Park were some of the areas that received beautification efforts.

Come build health with us.

Come build community with us.
On August 20, 2019 FRDC, Fairfax residents, Mayor Jackson and Councilman Griffin joined Bishop Nelson Perez and Principal Jim Smith to cut the ribbon at the Cletus Jeckering Learning Center, on the campus of St. Adalbert Church & School. As the first African American Catholic Church in Cleveland, the institution holds history and hope. The 13,000 square foot learning center holds nine classrooms, a cafeteria and a playground. The school raised nearly $5 million through a fundraising campaign and a generous donation from the Jeckering family. The school plans to continue to expand its campus and is definitely a neighborhood jewel.
GardenWalk Cleveland

Each year, GardenWalk Cleveland offers free, self-guided tours of community and residential gardens in Cleveland. In 2019, Fairfax was selected as a participating neighborhood. 2018’s resident of the year, Debbie Copeland, hosted Fairfax’s information station. Visitor numbers exceeded benchmark expectations as those who lived outside of Fairfax marveled at our neighborhood’s natural beauty and public green spaces. Participating resident gardens were all along East 97th and East 84th Streets. Resident leaders decided to form a neighborhood garden club—with the goal of creating a private garden village in Fairfax due to the success of the 2019 GardenWalk.
Movie Nights

During the Summer, FRDC continued its tradition of hosting Summer Movie Nights in Quincy Park. In July, FRDC showed The Emoji Movie and in August, Smallfoot. Red Walters, a neighborhood restaurant, provided hamburgers, wings and hot dogs. Recess Cleveland provided outdoor games and activities in August. Carla Smith and Cynsational Faces provided face painting. Other sponsors included Cleveland Veterinary Clinic, Boyd Funeral Home, Neighborgreen, Tanner Construction Group, Ebony Angels and The Rose of Sharon Barber Salon.
Adopt a Family

Nine families were sponsored by Liberty Hill Baptist Church, Westfield Insurance, Antioch Baptist Church, the Cleveland Clinic Respiratory Nursing Unit, the Cleveland Cavaliers Youth Sports League and FRDC for 2019's Adopt-A-Family Program. The families, identified by FRDC and community partners, were active community members in the Fairfax neighborhood who were in need of financial support over the holidays.
Cleveland Clinic Thanksgiving Meals
In November, FRDC assisted Cleveland Clinic with distributing free Thanksgiving meals to residents of Griot Village, Carnegie Towers and Fairfax Elderly Homes. Nearly 300 Meals were distributed.

Community of Saint Peter Yarn Drive
Over the Holiday Season, FRDC connected with Marie Deitrich, a member of the Community of Saint Peter, to assist with distributing over 500 skeins of yarn and 500 hand-knitted hats throughout the neighborhood. Yarn and hats were given to Griot Village, Bolton Elementary School and the Sunbeam Community Center knitting group.

Gift Cards
Continuing with a tradition that began in 2006, FRDC partnered with Ward 6 Councilman Blaine Griffin’s office to distribute 1,000 Dave’s Supermarket gift cards to low- and moderate-income families over the holiday season in Ward 6.
The staff at Cleveland Clinic Innovations (CCI) was so wonderful to the Fairfax neighborhood and FRDC in 2019, and we want everyone to know it! Over the years, CCI, who operates and manages the GCIC facility, has supported the Fairfax community in a variety of ways, including hosting community cook-outs and working with FRDC to identify opportunities to help residents with home projects and clean-up. The team also supports the student community through internship and mentoring programs for area high school students, and a school supply drive for Bolton Elementary School.

From the very beginning, the GCIC facility was meant to be an anchor for both Cleveland Clinic and the community, as well as a collaborative partner in moving the neighborhood forward. “By understanding, discussing, and addressing the issues that affect where we all live and work, we can, together, work on solutions that will enable Fairfax and the Clinic to both grow and succeed,” says Will Morris, MD, Executive Medical Director, Cleveland Clinic Innovations.

“We look forward to continued collaboration with the Fairfax community,” says Dr. Morris. “As neighbors, we have a tremendous interest in ensuring that the steps we have taken so far, and the planning we will do together, will lead to more residents, improved community health, and a better social and economic environment that lifts Fairfax, as well as the larger Cleveland community.”
John Addison wasn’t born in Fairfax. He moved into the neighborhood when he was 1 year old and continued to live here until he was 16.

“When I grew up, there was a theatre on 83rd and Quincy and a skating rink on Cedar that everyone went to,” says John. “If you grew up in Fairfax, you skated. We had places like Biscuit Field for baseball and Quincy Woods and a park where kids could play. Quincy had a bustling business community. There were many stores owned by both White and Black businesspeople who had an entrepreneurial spirit.”

John taught at Patrick Henry Junior High and Franklin D. Roosevelt Junior High, both in Glenville, directed the Street Academy for the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, an alternative school that focused on getting high school dropouts to drop back in, and the PUSH Excel movement in Shaker Heights, before becoming a school administrator in the Shaker Heights School System. He is now retired, but you couldn’t tell it from his level of activity.

“I joined Antioch Baptist Church and started volunteering in Fairfax,” says John. “I spend a great deal of time visiting the elderly in nursing homes, including Fairfax Nursing Home. FRDC was doing lunch buddies at Bolton and Homework Help at Griot Village so I joined the program. During the last four years, I was a fulltime volunteer at Bolton and helped any way that I could, especially helping with reading and math. I’m 81 years old and still teaching every day via Zoom.”

John attended Washington Irving School on 83rd Street, before moving to Bolton Elementary, when it was on 89th and Carnegie. He got his first book from the Quincy Library on 79th when he was 5. “I had my first theatre experience at the Cleveland Playhouse on 86th and Carnegie, and was able to go to Karamu and enjoy art classes,” he remembers. He overcame the racism ingrained in the educational system, graduating from every level of school with academic honors. So it was not surprising that he became a teacher.

“The reason I wanted to be a teacher is because that was the way I thought I could help our people establish the foundational skills to enable them to move forward in this society that we live in,” says Addison. “I saw teaching as a way of helping my people advance.”

John and his wife, Pamela, have two children, a boy and a girl, now in their 30s. “My belief is that Blacks need to give back to the communities that need resources,” he says.
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Hammes Company
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Yourkvitch & Dibo Ltd.
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Cleveland Museum of Natural History

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Grace Chu, CWRU Graduate Intern
Johnese Sherron, CWRU Graduate Intern

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Teresa Avery
Neighborhood Technology Coordinator
Demetrious Williams, Program Manager,
Workforce Development
Tamela Powell
Workforce Development Specialist
Lakeyia, Anderson, H.E.A.P. Intake Officer
Jacci Prather, H.E.A.P. Intake Officer
Tracey Smith, H.E.A.P. Intake Officer
Ray Brown, Maintenance Staff
Jamal Kelley, Maintenance Staff
Diane Crawford, Maintenance Staff
Latonia Goins, Maintenance Staff
Brenda Ruffin, Maintenance Staff

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Brenda Ruffin, Maintenance Staff
Debra Wilson—An FRDC Original—Retires After 23 Years

Debra Wilson, FRDC’s Real Estate Development Manager, retired after 23 years with the organization. Debra was one of the “original” FRDC staff members with the organization since 1996. Debra spearheaded land acquisition efforts that led to FRDC’s first tax credit project, Fairfax Homes, FRDC’s office building, FRDC’s 54-unit apartment building and Griot Village, FRDC’s affordable intergenerational housing project. Debra also led efforts that resulted in FRDC’s Acquisition/Rehab Program. Debra is a Fairfax resident and remains committed to the revitalization of the Fairfax community.

Financials

Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation

Statement of Activities for the 12 Months Ending December 31, 2019

Support & Revenue

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<td>Total Support &amp; Revenues</td>
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Expenses

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Change in Unrestricted Net Assets

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<td>Chemical Bank</td>
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<td>Venaya Jones</td>
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<td>E. F. Boyd &amp; Sons, Inc.</td>
<td>Judson at University Circle</td>
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<td>Ebony's Angels, Inc.</td>
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<td>PNC Bank</td>
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8111 Quincy Avenue
Suite 100
Cleveland, OH 44104
p: 216-361-8400
f: 216-361-8407
fairfaxrenaissance.org