MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2019

As I complete my two-year term as President of the Board of Trustees, I believe the future for the Architectural Foundation is very bright. This past year has seen the foundation begin to overcome the financial and organizational challenges of previous years and establish a much stronger foundation for the future. Our roster of programs continues to grow with a variety of options for children and adults. Connecting people with design in both the built and natural environment is essential to respecting and enhancing the lifeblood and resources of our communities and the city.

In 2019, we promoted our Education Director to the position of Executive Director of the Foundation. Christen Lubbers continues to oversee Design LAB, our premier education program, but has broadened her responsibilities to have oversight for all of our programming and activities. Design LAB continues to employ nearly 100 volunteers working with approximately 2000 students in schools across the Tri-State to solve design and construction challenges. This year the program was the recipient of a grant from the First Financial Foundation and received numerous donations of materials and services from the design community and the vendors that support the design and construction professions.

We also continued to offer our legacy programs that included the following:

• The Apple Award Gala honored Elizabeth Pierce, President of the Cincinnati Museum Center for her leadership, advocacy, and service to the community. The award was given in recognition of the massive renovation of one of Cincinnati’s most beloved and important landmarks – Cincinnati Union Terminal. The program was attended by 300 people and included museum tours and a Speakeasy style afterparty. We conducted a construction tour of the Lytle Park Hotel, one of Marriott’s Autograph Hotels.
• We hosted a Great House Tour of The Boulter House, one of Frank Lloyd Wright’s unsung homes.
• The return of Doors Open which was held during Blink weekend and included 26 venues across Over-the-Rhine. Nearly 1000 people attended this event and enjoyed touring the behind the scenes inner workings of everything from Ensemble Theater to the Betts House and Lightborne to the Play Library. This event was supported by a grant from the Haile Foundation.

We continued to provide our in-school education program: Design LAB: Learn And Build. The AFC was again able to reach about 2000 students in classrooms throughout the Greater Cincinnati area with 80+ professional volunteers going into these classrooms and working directly with the students. We continue to refine this program to make a difference in these students’ lives by teaching them “design thinking” and raising their awareness about the possibility of careers in the design, architecture, and construction professions. 2020 will bring about changes to this program that we are extremely excited about.

Through all of these great programs, we continue planning for 2020 and a transition to the new leadership team. There are many exciting programs to come. With the support of our members, corporate sponsors, program sponsors, and donors, the Architectural Foundation will be able to continue to expand on our mission To Help People Discover – and Experience – the Transformative Power of Design and grow opportunities to connect the public importance of design to our overall quality of life, health, and welfare. Thank you to all that helped to make our programs successful once again. We look forward to continued support, energies, and ideas in 2020 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Lauren Della Bella

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Sincerely,

Lauren Della Bella
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

GRANTS
The Architectural Foundation of Cincinnati was the recipient of financial support for one or more of its programs from the following foundations:

- The Spirit of Construction Foundation provided a grant to support Design LAB: Learn And Build in the amount of $12,500.
- First Financial provided a grant to support Design LAB: Learn And Build in the amount of $20,000.
- SHP Leading Design made a donation of $5,000 for Design LAB.
- The Haile Foundation donated $20,000 to the organization to support Doors Open

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS
The following organizations were Corporate Partners of the Architectural Foundation of Cincinnati in 2019:

**Platinum Level ($5,000)**
- GBN Architects
- Hixson Architecture Engineering Interiors
- Megen Construction
- Western & Southern / Eagle Realty

**Gold Level ($2,500)**
- CMTA Consulting Engineers
- First Financial Bank
- FRCH Nelson
- HGC Construction
- Messer Construction
- Pioneer Cladding & Glazing Systems
- RCF Group
- SHP Leading Design
- Turner Construction

**Silver Level ($1,500)**
- Graydon
- Neyer Properties

CONTRIBUTIONS
The following organizations provided contributions to specific programs or activities of the AFC:

Design LAB: Learn And Build
- Champlin Architects
- Cincinnati Museum Center
- Pelican Studio Architect

The AFC through the Apple Awards Gala
- Messer Construction
- Turner Construction
- PGAV Destinations
- Eagle Realty Group
- Taft Law
- CMTA Consulting Engineers
- HGC Construction
- Triversity Construction
- RCF Group
- Nelson
- K4 Architecture
- ESI Electrical Contractors
- CHC Manufacturing
- KLH Engineers
- The Kleingers Group
- Thomas J Dyer Company/CINFAB
- Lang Masonry & Restoration Contractors
- KMK Law
- RoundTower Technologies
- GBNB Architects

IN-KIND DONATIONS
The following organizations provided in-kind donations to support the Design LAB: Learn And Build program:

- Curbell Plastics
- Plaza Art Supplies
- Public Library of Cincinnati
- First Financial Bank

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for year ending December 31, 2019

**ACTIVITIES**

**SUPPORT AND REVENUES**
Events/programs $  97,510
Memberships $  3,750
Corporate Partnerships $ 36,500
Grants/gifts $  99,556
Miscellaneous $  28
TOTAL S&R $197,344

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**EXPENSES**
Events/programs $  57,057
Education $  7,035
Administration $  88,828
Development $  159
Operations $ 11,920
Communications $  2,220
TOTAL EXPENSES $166,689

**FINANCIAL POSITION**
Current assets $  85,236
Current liabilities $  24,426
Net income $  30,656

Compiled from statements prepared by Loftus & Loftus, CPA.
2019

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Design LAB: Learn And Build

Design LAB: Learn And Build had another wonderful year. The 2019 program theme was PUSH PLAY, encouraging over 2,000 students in more than 100 classrooms to ideate, design, and build a unique play space, proving to be the most fun theme yet. More than 80 volunteers presented the students with the challenge to design an imaginative play space. The projects ranged from play areas for soldiers overseas to exercise and relax to gymnasiums build for snakes.

The Design LAB Exhibit at the Public Library of Cincinnati was a fantastic event that engaged both students and their families. Students had a chance to present their work to people who were attending the reception: professionals, their peers, and the public. Through their presentations, they showed a great deal of pride in their work and an understanding of and excitement for the built environment. While Design LAB students were presenting, their families were free to explore the library and we also offered button making, a coloring station, and a virtual reality simulation so they could experience notable architecture globally.

The 2020 Design LAB program is underway, and this year students are focusing on Dwellings, trying to understand how historic figures lived, how different houses can be around the world due to culture and climate, or even trying to think of extreme dwellings right here in Cincinnati. Can the home they build use only the natural resources it collects? Can they build a home for someone with extreme needs? Are there maybe even animals who need an extreme solution to habitat loss? Students are being challenged by these questions and more and we can’t wait to see what they come up with this year.

Each year of this program seems to be better than the last, even we are sure we have hit the height of our students’ abilities. They never cease to amaze us with their curiosity, creativity, innovative ideas, and passion for the world around them.

PROGRAMS, ROUNDTABLES & TOURS

The AFC offered 7 programs, events, and tours in 2019

- On January 12th, we hosted a Great House Tour of the Boulter House in Clifton. This residence was built in 1956 as one of Frank Lloyd Wright’s usonian homes.
- February 12th Alto in Covington held a fundraiser for the Design LAB program.
- February 18th we hosted our Material Pick-Up for the Design LAB program, where over 2 tons of material were diverted from the landfill and used inside of local classrooms instead.
- April 27-May 4th was our annual Design LAB Exhibit at the Public Library of Cincinnati’s Downtown Branch.
- June 12th we held our annual fundraiser, the Apple Gala, where we honored Elizabeth Pierce, on behalf of all of the Cincinnati Museum Center.
- June 19th was our Design LAB Appreciation Event, where everyone involved in the program for the year was invited to come celebrate the success of the year with us.
- August 27th we hosted a construction tour at the Lytle Park Hotel. The realty group on this project was Eagle Realty and the construction component was done by Turner Construction.
- October 12th was the second rendition of Doors Open.
- Our Design LAB Educator and Volunteer Orientations took place on November 18th & 19th.

The AFC held the 26th Apple Award Gala on June 12th honoring Elizabeth Pierce, on behalf of the Cincinnati Museum Center, for her leadership, advocacy, and service to the community. Her role in the restoration of the historic Union Terminal represents a huge contribution to Cincinnati’s built environment. This gala serves as a fundraiser for the organization and is vital to the continuation of the Design LAB program.

The Union Terminal restoration started after the location received national attention in 2014, being called “one of the most endangered historic places.” With Elizabeth at the helm, the 2-year, $228 million project brought the building back to its original grandeur. Elizabeth’s passion for our region’s history and culture is clearly evident to the thousands now able to enjoy the Union Terminal once again.

Thank you for your commitment to this building and our community Elizabeth!