To our partners,

Thank you. Whether you’re an individual member, an occasional visitor to our forum, a corporate sponsor, a community organization, a philanthropic contributor, or simply a fan from our radio and television broadcasts or podcasts, you’re a partner. You’re a collaborator in this work to create a stronger community through civic conversation and a fellow free speech fan, even when you disagree with the speaker. You’re a partner, and we can’t do any of this without you.

This practice of teaming up with others in pursuit of a common mission is as important today as it has ever been. With partners in Youngstown and Warren, we created a City Club of the Mahoning Valley. With TV, radio, and print media, universities, and civic organizations from across the state, we worked together to form the Ohio Debate Commission. With MOCA Cleveland and For Freedoms, we continue to convene a series of Town Hall events bringing artists together with community members for unique, almost unprecedented conversations.

Our partners at ideastream continue to help us bring forums to you over the airwaves and across the web. Our friends at the Global Center for Health Innovation are always there when we need to move a forum to a bigger venue. And with venue partners like The Happy Dog and Public Square, philanthropic partners to provide financial support, and community and academic partners to help us think through programming, we can present about 30 percent of our forums with no cost to the audience. That’s what partnerships can accomplish.

We know you count on us, too, as a partner in helping you better understand the issues and ideas shaping the future of our communities, our country, and our globe. We take that responsibility seriously. We thank you for trusting us and supporting us.

And we count on you to let us know what you’re interested in and what kinds of speakers you’d like to hear from. So, as always, if you have forum ideas or feedback, send them our way. We love to hear it.

Partners for a stronger democracy,

Robyn Minter Smyers, President

Dan Moulthrop, CEO
For the Love of Cleveland: The Geography of Sentiment
For the Love of Cleveland: It Takes a Neighborhood
Ride and Learn: The Future of Riverfront Development
TechStars Communities: A Look at Startups in Greater Cleveland
The Urban League of Greater Cleveland: A Century of Advocacy

POLITICS AND POLICY
2017 City Club Annual Meeting
2017 Constitution Day Forum
2018: The Year Ahead in Politics
The 50 Year Policy Legacy of Mayor Carl B. Stokes
Bias, Fake News, and the State of the Fourth Estate
City Club Youth Forum: Affirmative Action and Unintended Discrimination
City Club Youth Forum: Beyond the Wall - The State of Immigration Reform

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION
Creating a Digital Porthouse: Technology, Human Rights, and Economic Inequality
Dinner + Dialogue: From Digital Divide to Digital Equality

Happy Dog Takes on the World: Protecting Cyberspace - Combating the Growing Global Cyber Threat
Storytelling at National Geographic in the Digital Age
The Future of Imagination: Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and How We Shape Our World

SOCIAL JUSTICE
An Awakened Woman: From Child Bride to International Scholar
Anatomy of Justice: The Mystery of Plea Agreements – Is Justice Being Served?
Being Black and Biracial in America
City Club Youth Forum: Books over Bullets - Keeping our Schools Safe
City Club Youth Forum: Marching for a Movement - Reflections on the 2017 Women’s March and Next Steps for Equality

WORLD AFFAIRS
Building Bridges in our Community and in our World
From the Midwest to the Middle East: The Future of Ohio-UAE Relations

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT
A public media leader known nationwide, ideastream captures and distributes City Club forums to audiences across the region and state. Whether you’re finding a favorite forum on your phone, online, or on the air, that content comes courtesy of our primary media partner.
THE CITY’S CLUB
This year we returned to Public Square for a second summer of dialogue about our neighborhoods and to The Happy Dog for another year of tackling world affairs. But we didn’t stop there. Inspired by the understanding that City Club is as much a spirit as it is a place, we took that spirit on the road to Dinner & Dialogue at restaurants throughout the city, to Edgewater Park to discuss diversifying our parks, and to Playhouse Square to partner with the region’s libraries to create One Community Reads featuring Matthew Desmond’s devastatingly important book Evicted. We hosted Ride & Learns, commissioned a series of Freedom of Speech murals to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Elmer Brown’s original mural, and we even helped to launch City Club forums in an entirely new city with City Club of the Mahoning Valley becoming our first new City Club project.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT
One of our key partners in catalyzing the City Club of the Mahoning Valley is Youngstown State University. From their faculty and financial investment, to their public radio station and engaged student body, YSU’s partnership has helped to turn CCMV from an idea to a reality.
COMMUNITY

THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our community partners are an integral part of our mission. With their outreach and engagement, we are able to attract audiences that help bring perspective to our forums, grounding our dialogue in the realities of those doing the work in our community. We are grateful for these invaluable partnerships.

Akron Press Club
American Constitution Society
Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards
Asian American Bar Association of Ohio
Better Health Partnership
Bike Cleveland
The Business Journal
Business Volunteers Unlimited
CareSource
The Center for Health Affairs
Center for Health Care Research & Policy at MetroHealth
Center for Working Class Studies
CEOs for Cities
The Cleveland Association of Phi Beta Kappa Society
Cleveland Book Week
Cleveland Council on World Affairs
Cleveland Leadership Center
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress
Cleveland Public Theatre
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
Cleveland Transformation Alliance
Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative
Cleveland YP Senate
CLEVR
Community Based Education of the Master of Public Health Program at CWRU
Community Partnership for Arts & Culture
Countryside Conservancy
CSU Center for Educational Leadership
CSU College Democrats
CSU College Republicans
Cuyahoga Democratic Women's Caucus
Cuyahoga Young Dems
EDWINS
Family Connections
First Year Cleveland
Flora Stone Mather Center for Women
Greater Cleveland Schools Superintendents’ Association
Global Cleveland
The Happy Dog
Higher Education Compact
Hispanic Alliance
International Partners in Mission
Irish Network Cleveland
Lake Erie Ink
LAND studio
League of Women Voters Greater Cleveland
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries
Magnolia Clubhouse
Metro Catholic School
Neighborhood Family Practice
Northeast Ohio Consortium on Middle Eastern Studies
North Eastern Ohio Education Association
Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education
Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op
Ohio Environmental Council
Open Doors Academy
OpenNED
Positive Education Program
PRECLE
PRSA, Greater Cleveland Chapter
Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics
Recovery Resources
Salam Cleveland
Schubert Center for Child Studies
Sierra Club
Sixth City Sounds
Social Justice Institute
Starting Point
Suzie’s Dogs & Drafts
UH Bikes
Union Miles Development Corporation
WYSU
Young Entrepreneur Institute at University School
YWCA Greater Cleveland

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Our community partnership program allows us to partner with great organizations like Cleveland Neighborhood Progress who help us reach new audiences by using our forums to bring together members of their networks for consequential conversations.

The first Tuesday of every month, we go global with Happy Dog Takes on the World presented in partnership with Cleveland Council on World Affairs, Global Cleveland, IPM, and the Northeast Ohio Consortium on Middle Eastern Studies.
This year, over 2,000 students from 66 schools across Northeast Ohio attended forums for free, thanks to generous donors to our Student Participation Fund. The City Club Youth Forum Council produced six forums which explored everything from affirmative action, to #MeToo, to school safety. For 20 years, the Youth Forum Council has engaged high schoolers to create conversations of consequence for their peers. In addition, we received nearly 250 submissions to the annual Hope & Stanley Adelstein Free Speech Contest and awarded more than $4,000 in scholarship prizes to the winners.

“Serving on the Youth Forum Council helped me gain speaking skills I did not have as a freshman and introduced me to people – professors, local and state politicians, activists – I never would have met otherwise. It taught me to be a leader and gave me the courage to use my voice – and amplify others’ voices – in a meaningful way”

- Justin, Student, Hawken Upper School

You see them at almost every forum—students from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District—always challenging our speakers with some of the most incisive and penetrating questions. Your support makes their presence possible, and their partnership makes all our forums more meaningful. All of it is part of preparing the next generation for civic life.
MEMBERSHIP

City Club members continue to be valuable partners in growing our organization. Their financial support helps ensure we can present a great diversity of programs. Their active engagement on committees and in the community challenges us to present new voices and critical conversations. And their participation in our audience inspires a robust exchange of ideas. We thank all 851 of them for all the ways they support our mission throughout the year. Additionally, we recognize our long-standing members whose unwavering commitment to free speech at the City Club has spanned multiple decades.

SUPPORT

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Roberta Steinbacher, Ph.D., was among the first women to join the City Club when women were welcomed in 1972. Dr. Steinbacher remains Professor Emerita and Senior Fellow in Urban Studies at Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs. Her 46 years of membership are a testament to her commitment to lifelong learning and civic engagement.
FINANCIALS
The City Club’s $1.9 million budget is built on diverse revenue streams and a strong mix of earned and contributed revenue.

**REVENUES**
- Program Revenue: 19%
- Membership: 6%
- Individual Gifts: 6%
- In-Kind Contributions: 9%
- Corporate Support: 30%
- Catering and Rental: 6%
- Foundation Grants: 20%

**EXPENSES**
- Programming: 78%
- Fundraising: 12%
- Management and General: 10%

**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**
We hosted more than 300 events last year—from business breakfasts to lunchtime forums, and company retreats to family weddings. Our kitchen prepared thousands of meals and thanks to our partnership with Rust Belt Riders, more than 1,300 pounds of food waste was diverted from the trash and turned into compost.

**OUR FISCAL YEAR BY THE NUMBERS**
- Forums held in FY 2018: 137
- Private events hosted at the City Club: 184
- People who attended City Club forums: 18,612
- Students who attended City Club forums: 2,134
- Schools that attended City Club forums: 66
- Media hits: 258
- Minority speakers: 74
- Twitter followers: 16,777
- Sold out programs: 26
- Tweets: 3,904
- Instagram followers: 2,551
- City Club Youth Council forums: 6
- Facebook likes: 7,525
- Current board members: 27
- Blog posts: 118
- People participating in program committees: 146
- Livestream viewers: 6,257
- Authors who spoke at a forum: 18
- New members who joined: 223
- Forums in a bar/restaurant: 32
- Community partners: 76
- Views on YouTube: 136,673
- Corporate partners: 88
- Forums at Global Center: 6
- Venues other than the City Club where we held forums: 12
- Female speakers: 102
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Robyn Minter Smyers, President
Kristen Baird Adams
Karen L. Allport
Terry Brennan
Louis A. Chaiten
Joanne Clark
Robert Falls
Judi Feniger
Jerry A. Gootee
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J. Donald Cairns
David Kall
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Catering Sales Manager
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Director of Programming
Julie Kelly
Chief Financial Officer
Julia Wang
Marketing and Outreach Coordinator

Photography: Michaelangelo’s Photography
Excalibur Photography Services
Design: Ellen Seguin Design

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/CityClubofCleveland /CityClubofCleveland @TheCityClub

The City Club Building, 850 Euclid Ave, 2nd Floor, Cleveland, OH 44114
216.621.0082 | info@cityclub.org | cityclub.org