



SLAVIC VILLAGE

2023
ANNUAL REPORT

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CHRISTOPHER ALVARADO | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus is said to have claimed “change alone is unchanging.” That is, nothing ever remains the same. This neighborhood that we call “Slavic Village” was originally an Irish and Manx community, became a Polish, Slovenian, Czech, Slovakian, and Croatian neighborhood for several decades, and is now a colorful mix of African Americans, Appalachians, Puerto Ricans, Slavs, and citizens from around the world. A community whose air was once thick with smoke is now an EcoDistrict. Homes that were once vacant teem with life. Our Village constantly renews and reinvents itself, driven by our residents, businesses, and organizations.



But, if anything remains the same, it is Slavic Village Development’s commitment to our community. While our programs continually adapt to meet the changing needs of this neighborhood, we continue to work with and for our residents, businesses, and institutions to promote civic engagement, community empowerment, and neighborhood investment.

I am grateful for the nine years that I have spent at SVD, and I look forward to what this Village will become with a changing, but always, always dedicated and capable team.


Yours,

Chris Alvarado, Executive Director (2014-2023)


Our Mission

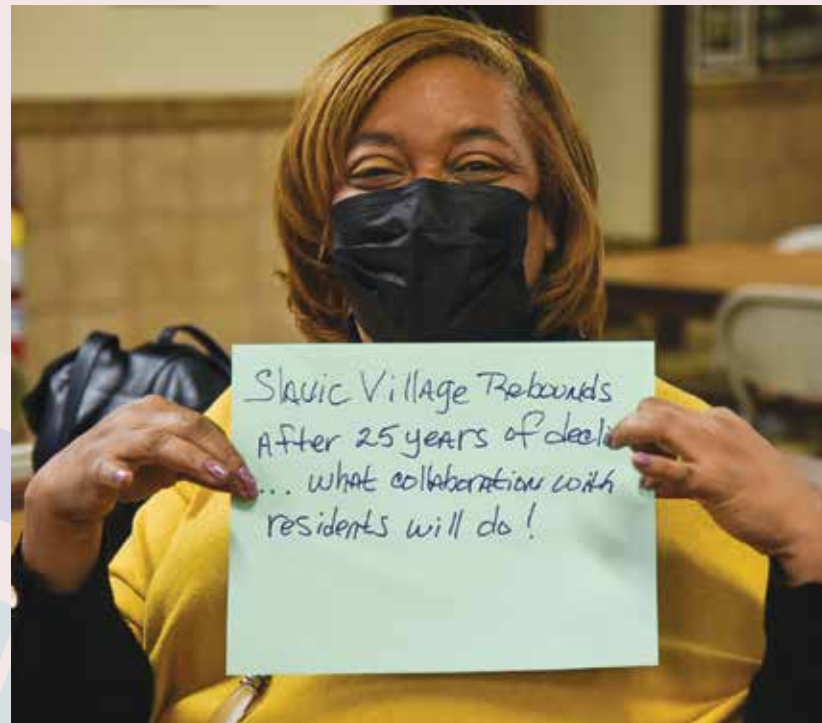
“Slavic Village Development works with and for its residents, businesses, and institutions to promote civic engagement, community empowerment, and neighborhood investment.”

BROADWAY SLAVIC VILLAGE ROADMAP

- **Broadway-Slavic Village** became the 9th community world-wide to receive EcoDistricts certification this past July. The EcoDistricts certification details a neighborhood-wide commitment to equity, resilience and environmental protection through year 2050. The Broadway-Slavic Village Roadmap was adopted by the EcoDistrict team in December of 2022 after 2.5 years of collaboration, workshopping and outreach. The Roadmap includes goals, strategies and indicators/performance targets under each of the three pillars and will be recertified every two years. 


MASTER PLANNING

- CRTA received \$432,000 from the Federal Department of Transportation to carry out a comprehensive Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) study for the Broadway Ave Corridor. The study will allow for better transportation improvements and sustainable, equitable development projects that are conducive to transit. The section of Broadway that the TOD plan will consider is approximately 4 miles long beginning at the E. 34th ST Red Line Rapid Station and ending at the Turney/Ella bus loop. The Broadway Avenue TOD will make recommendations to meet the following goals within a half-mile buffer of the corridor: (1) Address racial and economic disparities, (2) capture economic value and (3) advance climate action. Outreach and community engagement will begin January 2024. 



SPECIAL PROJECTS

How do we develop community? What tools do we use to help engage our community better? How do we take what a resident tells us and translate that into actionable items? These are just some of the questions we try to answer daily at Slavic Village Development. After all, we work for our residents. Until now, we have mostly managed our outreach processes using paper and spreadsheets, not out of want but out of necessity. A lot of the work we do for our residents requires paper documentation and organizational knowledge. This has worked well for us for many years, but we're forward thinkers, dreamers, and implementers who strive to do better because the residents deserve better.

That is why we have created our own updated internal processes using CRM software to better serve our neighborhood. Updated technologies alert us about required call-backs, responsive emails, and much more. We're constantly working to improve our processes and our neighborhood so your applications, comments, and discussions, can be responded to quicker and more intentionally. Time is the only thing you can't get back, and we're constantly looking for ways to save it for the people of our neighborhood. 

DAN KANE RIBBON CUTTING



COMMUNITY STEWARD SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Community Steward Safety Committee is working hard to change the negative stereotypes and perceptions and has been working on monthly flyers, called Village Success – to highlight all the amazing things happening in our community. Additionally, postcards informing and encouraging residents to be proactive in their communities in regards to calling or e-mailing the city about housing violations or dumping to city services have been produced and are being delivered throughout the community. Stay tuned for other projects of the safety committee.


Community Stewards

- Waste committee launched a No Littering/No Dumping and Pick Up Poop (PUP) sign campaign. They also hosted two neighborhood clean-ups with support from Court Community Service.
- Active Living hosted a Fix-A-Thon with Bike Cleveland and Ohio City Bicycle Co-Op, fixing 60+ bikes that are now ready to ride. Active Living also helped promote Slow Roll Cleveland in Slavic Village.

Neighborhood Clean-Ups

- Volunteers from Notre Dame Club and Wade Trim assisted us in an Earth Day clean-up at Mural Park, April 22nd. Volunteers picked up trash, pulled weeds and mulched planter beds at the


park and along Broadway. Volunteers also reset the planter bed surrounding the veteran’s memorial and flag pole at Memorial Park.

- The East 63rd and Forest City block clubs worked with SVD and Councilwoman Maurer to host block club clean-ups April 29th. Ninety volunteers total between the two clean-ups picked up trash to make the neighborhood cleaner, healthier and safer for all.
- Elizabeth Baptist Church worked with SVD and Councilman Starr to host a Ward 5 clean-up in Hyacinth on May 13th. Twenty-five residents and volunteers from Cleveland Water Pollution picked up trash to make the neighborhood cleaner, safer and healthier for all.
- SVD, Bike Cleveland and Cleveland Water Pollution worked together with Canalway Partners to host Riversweep at three locations in our service area this year: Morgana Run Trail, Booth Avenue and Mill Creek/Garfield Park. Eighty-five volunteers picked up trash at the three locations which filled a 20-yard dumpster.
- We requested CCS for trash sweeps 10 times this year which has resulted in a total of 623 total vacant lots cleaned.
- SVD hosted three Rooms To Let clean-ups this year leading up to the event, June 22nd, June 29th and July 6th. Residents and volunteers from Notre Dame Club helped us pick up trash, pull weeds and mulch tree beds from Dolloff/E. 55th to Lufkin/E. 55th. 




HOUSING OUTREACH

This year, we have had several exciting developments for our Housing Outreach department and in our community partnerships in our effort to assist our residents. In conjunction with WRAAA, we launched the ADA Senior Home Modification program. This grant program helps senior residents of Broadway-Slavic Village neighborhood who qualify to age in place by providing installation of safety and accessibility equipment such as ADA-approved windows, ramps, grab bars, and walk-in showers. We have also been able to create our Eviction Prevention Pilot Program through grants awarded from the Ohio Bar Association, Huntington

Bank, Key Bank, Enterprise, and the Sisters of Humility of Mary – providing funding allocated towards assisting residents in financial crisis with necessary resources to keep them in their homes. As in the past, we were also able to secure grant funding through CareSource and CMPHF in order to facilitate larger-scale home repairs for several households. We are thrilled to be well on track to meeting and exceeding our last-year’s achievement of assisting over 600 households in the neighborhood, and look forward to expanding our programming further next year in order to give the most supports possible to our residents. 

HOUSING STABILITY

Our strategies to stabilize the Slavic Village community include renovating and marketing housing to provide various options to retain existing residents and attract new ones. Slavic Village ReDiscovered (SVR) and Neighbors Invest in Broadway (NIB) are two of our alternative purchasing options offering homes for very low to low-moderate income levels. The Housing Team has worked on growing the use of nuisance abatement capacity by utilizing the receivership tool to address problem properties. SVR’s renovation of Dorver Avenue and Cullen Drive are examples of transformative nuisance abatements that provide safety and stability to the neighborhood and its residents. Over ten years, SVR home values have nearly doubled, with sales price increasing with

each sale. This past year, our annual Vacant Property Survey shifted to a parcel-by-parcel strategy, yielding a more detailed report regarding occupancy, vacancies, green space, and more. We have continued systematic progress on reducing vacant structures in Slavic Village by collaborating with the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County to notify them of problem properties, pushing for the remediation of code violations, more strategic demolitions, prioritizing condemnations, and holding absent property owners accountable. SVD has also begun collaborating with developers to usher in new developments and amenities. In 2023 and beyond, we will seek additional grant funding to extend the reach of our housing development programs, benefit buyers, and increase accomplishments overall. 



Before



After



Before




After

BUSINESS

This past year has been fruitful for business in Slavic Village. We have seen successes in small business, manufacturing, and institutional sectors.

This spring saw the reopening of Daisy's on Fleet, a beloved neighborhood ice cream shop. New owner Brittany DePriest has kept much of the business the same, recognizing its previous importance to the community and offering new options, such as Polish Bois and other creative sweets and savories.

A long-time manufacturing business, Cleveland Wire Cloth, has undergone new ownership. Local group, Freshwater Capital, purchased CWC in the spring of 2023 and is looking to modernize the company and grow its operations.

Lastly, the national organization Beat The Streets has moved into the neighborhood on Broadway Avenue. Their mission is to positively alter life's trajectory for youth in the community through wrestling programs and activities. They support health and wellness, social and emotional impact, and physical literacy. Cleveland chapter executive director Demetrius Williams has already significantly impacted the community and is working alongside the board of directors to fund substantial improvements to their facility. 



Daisy's on Fleet

ENVIRONMENT

Recycling & Composting:

Through generous support from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, Slavic Village Development received two grants to promote recycling and composting efforts in our work and the community.

The first grant focused on a composting and equipment program to build a backyard compost station for yard waste generated by our vacant lot maintenance and park/greenspace work. This spring, we hosted a DIY yard waste composting workshop, teaching residents how to build a compost station. In the fall, we will host a second workshop to teach residents what materials are used for yard waste composting and how to care for a compost pile.

The second grant focused on special projects; the funding was used to implement recycling and composting in our events, such as Pierogi Dash and Rooms To Let. We partnered with Republic Services and Rust Belt Riders to reduce up to 100+ lbs of recycling and compost. Our new partnership with Republic Services allowed us to host a recycling dumpster on office property, which has led to around 500 lbs of recycling diverted from the landfill this year.



Trailwork

- Contractors for the MetroParks/City of Cleveland RAISE grant are now in place for the Morgana Run Extension, Booth Ave Extension and Opportunity Corridor/Iron Court Connector. Chagrin Valley Engineering is the selected contractor for design, and the Smith Group has been selected for community engagement which will kick off late summer 2023. Deliverables for the Morgana Run Extension include construction-ready documents that will segue to construction with the ODOT I-77 Repavement Project, 2025-2030. Deliverables for the



Morgana Run Extension include full design of the link between Morgana Run Trail at Booth Ave and Mill Creek/Garfield Park Reservation. Opportunity Corridor/Iron Court deliverables include feasibility planning for the connection between the Opportunity Corridor Trail at E. 55th to the Slavic Village Downtown Connector Trail near Iron Court/Broadway.



ReForest Slavic Village

- Twenty trees were planted November 2022 through the Cuyahoga County Planning

Commission's Healthy Urban Tree Canopy PY 2022. For PY 2022, we also treated 76 trees in the right of way for pests, soil care/fertilization and root collar surgery.

- SVD was recently awarded \$50,000 from HUTC for 2023-24. Project scope includes continued maintenance for an additional 126 right-of-way trees, updating the ReForest Slavic Village tree canopy plan, and planting 100 residential trees over the next 18 months.
- Fifty residential trees were planted in May in the Forest City neighborhood with support from Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Cleveland Cliffs Foundation.

Parks & Public Greenspace

- The Dan Kane ribbon cutting and park rededication was held July 2023. Working with neighborhood leader Chuck Gliha, we were able to coordinate the event with Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer and the Iron Ward Music Festival, which is hosted every Monday evening in the park throughout the summer and is in its 19th year. Councilwoman Maurer issued proclamations to Chuck and to former Councilman Anthony Brancatelli in appreciation for their commitment to the neighborhood, leadership and financial support of the Brancatelli Pavilion.



- Worley Park now features a natural meditation labyrinth! July 2023, we worked with Right Focused Ltd, CAP Academy, Y.O.U and volunteers from Hyland to prep the site and use repurposed materials to build the beautiful, new amenity.


Zero Waste

This year we received a grant from the Solid Waste District Recycling, Composting and Equipment Program to build a backyard compost station for yard waste generated by our vacant lot maintenance and park/greenspace work. This spring we hosted a DIY yard waste composting workshop, teaching residents how to build a compost station. In the fall, we will host a second workshop that will teach residents what kinds of materials can be used for yard waste composting and how to care for a compost pile. 🌱



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT


This year, we want to highlight the Slavic Village Youth Council, which was formed to elevate youth voices in our neighborhood and develop them as youth leaders. The youth council consists of youth who live, learn, or work in Slavic Village. We are focused on incorporating youth voice when creating opportunities, events, and spaces that will foster their personal and academic growth and success. Looking forward, our focus is on securing funding to increase current programs to build capacity to serve more children. We intend to put these resources toward:

- Support staff of youth programs (i.e. tutors and mentors)
- Providing diverse experiences for youth (college tours, career exploration opportunities)
- Programming to help youth cultivate practical life skills, financial literacy, healthy lifestyle, relationship building
- Allocating resources for a youth think-tank where young people of our neighborhood can plan, pitch, and receive funding to execute their ideas 



SUMMER OF PURPOSE



Sam Azizuddin joined our staff as a Cleveland Foundation Summer Intern this year! Sam researched neighborhood characteristics such as age of housing stock, housing burden, median housing value and median annual income. Sam also researched highest and best use for vacant lots within our service area. Some of the recommendations include side lot acquisition, green space or park development, infill housing and commercial development. Sam's Summer of Purpose culminated in a report, complete with maps, tables and Excel sheets that can be used across a number of mapping platforms to support our work in neighborhood development and master planning. 

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Friends of SV


Friends of SV Mini Grant program continues to thrive and support small groups and residents in fulfilling projects all around the community. 17 grants were funded last year totaling over \$8,500.

Neighbor UP Grants

Over \$16,000 in small grants have been granted to 5 community groups to do special projects throughout the community.



Block Clubs

SVD continues to work with and support our block clubs. Currently there are 8 active block clubs throughout the 5 square miles of Slavic Village. 



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Rooms To Let

This year's Rooms To Let event, held July 8th-9th, culminated in months of hard work from organizers, volunteers, artists, and staff. Two historic commercial buildings and "The Hub" were utilized for art installations, an artist market, and live music. The mediums included interactive installations, film, audio-visual productions, sculpture, photography, live performance, and murals. Over 50 artists, 20 vendors, 50 volunteers – totaling 116 hours, and 1,800 attendees made this year's event better than ever.

RTL is funded through generous support from the Fowler Foundation and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture Project Support. Of the 2023 budget, \$12,000 was spent on artist stipends and \$1,000 to musicians.

Pierogi Dash

Always a family favorite, this year's Pierogi Dash took place near and around Third Federal headquarters, located on the 71st and Aetna block of Broadway-Slavic Village.



PHOTO CREDITS: Damion Maxwell
& The Labyrinth




Rooms To Let

We gathered for food, festivities, and a little friendly competition and couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day or a better turnout. Over 350 runners made it through the course; with 18 different categories, those who made the best time in their class received medals made by a local artist, but we count everyone who participated as a winner!

Nite at the Races

Nite at the Races once again provided an evening of boisterous festivities for both residents of the neighborhood and friends from without. Over 250 attendees enjoyed hearty food,

beverages, a DJ, and some good-natured betting on our 'horses.' We were so pleased with the turnout and the celebratory atmosphere, and guests of this year's event are already talking with anticipation about next spring's Nite at the Races return!

As always, all three events were a resounding success inviting staff, community stewards, and volunteers to come together with creative solutions in planning and executing, as well as embracing and reveling in the air of community that we aim to cultivate through these occasions. These occasions help garner significant support for future, ongoing services for our community. 



Pierogi Dash



Night At The Races

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

CHAMPIONS

The James and Susan Ratner Family Foundation
Republic Services
The Mary Ann Koral Fund

Buildings and Food
Cleveland Cliffs
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corp.
Enterprise Community Partners
The Cleveland Foundation

The George Gund Foundation
The McGregor Foundation
Third Federal Foundation
Anonymous

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Boys & Girls Club of Greater Cleveland
Broadway Scrap Metals & Recycling
CHN Housing Solutions
Cleveland Central Catholic High School
Cleveland Wirecloth

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Cuyahoga Land Bank
Czech Catholic Union CCU Life
DeGeronimo Family Foundation
Douglass and Associates
Fairchild Printing
Fifth Third Bank

Fortuna Funeral Home
Globe Sewing Machine Co
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Huntington Bank
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Notre Dame Club of Cleveland
Paran Management
Pettiti Garden Center

PNC
Premier Development Partners
Morabito Enterprises
Saucisson
South End Printing
The Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation
The Kurtz Foundation

The NRP Group
Third Federal Savings and Loan
University Settlement
Village Partnership, LLC/VEDA Capital, LLC
Virginia Goetz
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Anonymous

INDIVIDUALS

Alan Mosinski
Andy & Kate Vinciquerra
Ann Knuth
Anna Maria Motta
Antoinette Thomas
Blaine Griffin
Bobbi Reichtell
Bonnye Albrecht
Charles Gliha

Chris Smetana
Christina Znidarsic & Chris Alvarado
Clark Broida
Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer
Dave Thomas
David & Lyn Thomas
Doc Warr
Eugene Bak

Gail Glamm & Tony Brancatelli
Greg Knapp
Howard & Jane Wise
Howard Maier
Ione Parry
Jacob VanSickle
Jamie Pawlak
Jeff & Jenny Spaeth
Joe Duffy

John Michael Zayac
Joseph Znidarsic & Jill Ledin
Kate Vinciquerra
Kevin Bishop
Kevin Shannon
Krume & Susan Stojanovski
Lisa Gribbell
Margaret Matuska
Margaret Sylvester

Marilyn Mosinski
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Mary Ellen Gardner & Renard Turner
Michael Geregach
Michael & Francis Minha, Jr.
Nancy & Bill Seelbach
Pat Shields
Peter Baszuk

Rob Curry
Sean & Colleen Gilson
Sr. Ann Solma
Suzanne Ferrara
Tim Verba
Trent & Meghan Brown
Zachary & Jennifer Ehrhardt Robock
Anonymous

SVD REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Sources: Total \$2,355,796

Revenues and Support:

City/Council \$588,711
 Other grants \$1,153,800
 CNP/CNPP \$204,475
 Development and service fees \$197,681
 Property management \$8,200
 Operating \$79,400
 Fundraising \$121,561
 Other \$1,968
Total revenues and support \$2,355,796

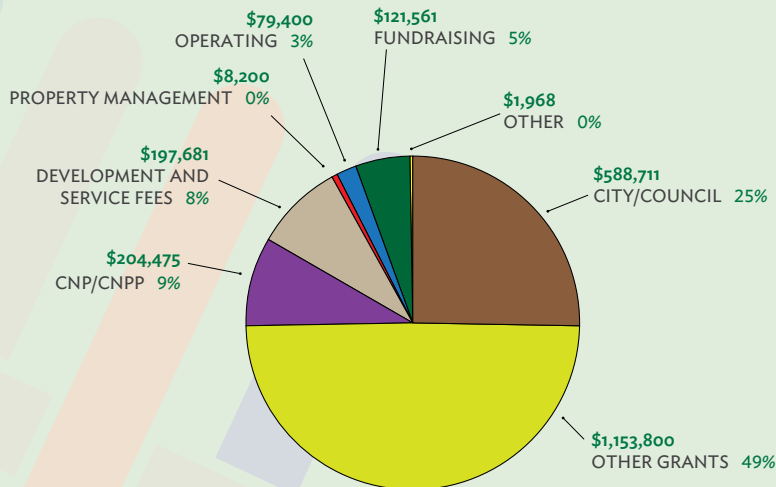
Housing production \$142,734
 Special projects \$289,846
 Commercial development \$187,350
 Real estate \$26,845
 Code enforcement \$71,320

Support Service:

Management and general \$355,487
 Fundraising \$68,918
Total expenditures \$2,309,066
 Change in net assets \$46,730
 Net assets at beginning of year \$1,765,636
 Net assets at end of year \$1,812,366

Program Services:

Community organizing \$300,997
 Consumer services \$790,437
 Property management \$75,132



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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