

Cincinnati

September 2008

PANEL REPORTS

COMMUNITY INCLUSION

(Al DeJarnett & Sue Wilke)

Over the course of the year, the Community Inclusion Panel completed the study of *Stable Integrated Communities* (SIC) and began the task of communicating the findings to the public. Presentations to many groups, including the Vibrant Neighborhoods Committee of City Council, have generated a great deal of interest in the findings, which highlighted a trend of increasing SIC's and generated pride in an area for which the City and

(Continued on page 2)

ARTS AND CULTURE

(Jay Chatterjee & Robin Gehl)

One of the highlights for the year for the Arts & Culture Panel included its partnership with CET to host the live television forum exploring the impact of the arts and cultural resources in Cincinnati. *Focus Special Edition: Arts & Culture in Greater Cincinnati* aired in March on CET and is available for reviewing at www.CETconnect.org. The entire Cincinnati membership shared the experience of a live television broadcast.

(Continued on page 2)

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

(Kent Friel)

2007-2008 was a year of real achievement for the Cincinnati Education Panel, with Cincinnati being recognized as an education leader in the region.

Key was the leadership of Panel member (and 2008 Citizen Cincinnati Award winner) Jan Leslie and good work by many panel members in the passage of the *CPS Emergency Tax Levy* in March against overwhelming odds.

The pilot *Principal Mentoring Program*, in collaboration with the Mayerson Academy, mentoring CPS

(Continued on page 3)

Monthly Dinner Meeting

ARTS & PARKS IN THE 'NATI

The Arts & Culture Panel presents *Cincinnati Parks Director* (and Cincinnati member) *Willie Carden* discussing the City's successes and plans for its award-winning parks. The evening will, of course, include our usual outstanding networking opportunities (starts at 5:30) and the University Club's award-winning dining.

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

5:30pm to 8:00pm (Dinner at 6:10)

The University Club

401 East 4th Street (at Broadway)

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

VISITORS WELCOME!!

We hope you will bring a guest! (Dinner for guests is \$35, payable at the door.)

EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT

(Mark Silbersack & Bob Schrage)

2007-2008 was an extraordinarily busy and productive year for the Government Panel.

Initial efforts were directed to Hamilton County's criminal justice system, including the *Comprehensive Safety Plan* and the ballot issue to fund that plan. We presented a lively debate, studied the ballot issue and sought & obtained the Association's public endorsement of the plan. In addition, we worked with the Rookwood-5 to develop a program to explain these difficult issues to the public, and co-sponsored a televised debate and

(Continued on page 2)

Year-In-Review – More Please !!

We've only hit the very highlights here, but readers are encouraged to see the full descriptions of our programs, progress and plans on the Cincinnati website.

www.CincinnatiAssoc.org

Excellence in Government (continued)

Q&As with Commissioners Portune and Dewine. We also studied the two Hamilton County human services tax issues on the November ballot, seeking and getting the Association's public endorsement of these levies.

We focused on **Agenda 360**, the regional "shared vision" initiative. We identified and filled additional opportunities, including citizen engagement meetings to gain input from people throughout our region, and the Association's June meeting on Agenda 360.

Our involvement with the **Rookwood 5** saw members working with City administrators and neighborhood councils to improve citizen input into the **Cincinnati City budget** as well as supporting a study of the **Ohio school funding formula** in conjunction with the Excellence in Education Panel. Finally, we assisted Citizens for Civic Renewal in meetings with **public health officials** from Hamilton County and Cincinnati, to discuss coordination of functions, particularly the new "no smoking" law.

For 2008-2009, the Panel's principal focuses will be on 1) promoting City/County cooperation, 2) facilitating citizen engagement, 3) hosting civic forums/debates, and 4) educating members on matters of importance. We are reviewing potential projects in all of these areas. We remain eager to tackle "big issues" while also seizing opportunities to promote good governance that may present themselves in the coming year.

The Panel is reviewing potential ballot issues for this fall, including red light cameras, proportional representation voting, renewal of the Clean Ohio Fund, mandated sick leave, and pay day lending. The Panel may provide information and potentially bring a recommendation for Association endorsement.

Finally, we have an open invitation to all Cincinnati members: if you have an interest in the issues we've been working on -- or, just as well, a passion to improve government in any way -- we want you on our Panel. Please contact Bob Schrage, the 2008-2009 Government Panel chair, to talk about joining us.

Community Inclusion (continued)

region are not generally recognized. On April 25, the fair housing organization, HOME, recognized the SIC report as a great contribution by Cincinnati's with the **HOME Founders Award**. The study's findings and the buzz they've created have the potential to positively influence public policy and real estate industry practice. That will be our focus in the upcoming program year.

Tremendous progress was made on the **Greater Cincinnati Commitment (GCC)** over the year. Fourteen respected civic organizations are now co-sponsors of the Commitment which aims to create a climate of greater inclusion and equity. We formed a partnership with the Birmingham (Alabama) Pledge Foundation, an organization that is completing ten years of similar effort with laudable results. Over the 2008-9 program year we plan to transition leadership of the effort to the newly formed GCC Alliance as it moves to make the Commitment an important part of the public discourse in our community.

The final key goal area -- increasing the number of active Panel members -- is progressing well with the interest of several new members. We invite all members who have an interest to attend a Panel meeting to learn more about how we are working to make Cincinnati an even better place to live and work. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 11:30 at the Health Foundation.

Arts & Culture (continued)

Keynote speaker **Robert Lynch, President & CEO of Americans for the Arts**, now in his 30th year of work for the industry, is motivated by a personal mission to empower communities and leaders to advance the arts and to advance appreciation for the arts in society. Other panelists included James Schwab (U.S. Bank, Cincinnati Market President), Roxanne Qualls (Cincinnati City Council), Ellen van der Horst (President & CEO, Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber), Nancy Zimpher (President, University of Cincinnati), and Nique Swanson (Agenda 360 "Livable Communities" Co-Chair).

Panelists explored the impact a vibrant arts community has on the well-being of the entire community, discussing such ideas as attracting and retaining an engaged workforce, the importance of arts education in developing 21st century skills, and the economic impact of arts in our community.

The Panel met with **Kathy Merchant of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF)** in June to recap the year and to plan for the Fall. Kathy shared her vision for the arts, which is embraced by the Panel, that we "diversify and grow the pie of support for the cultural assets that other communities only wish they had."

The **Arts & Culture Partnership of GCF** is now associated with the Fine Arts Fund and is working in five areas: Public and private sector funding opportunities, operating efficiencies, arts education, advocacy/public awareness, and a data initiative based on the Philadelphia Arts Partnership where arts groups analyze audience information to strengthen their position in the community. We will work closely in support of these initiatives. The Panel also supported the inaugural **RiverSpan Sculpture Exhibition** which took place June 20-22 on the Purple People Bridge.

Our Panel invites any individual to attend and participate in their activities and encourages interested individuals to join the Panel. Those interested can contact Robin Gehl, the 2008-2009 co-chair.

Seeking Mentors!!

Cincinnatus is seeking members to volunteer in its successful collaborative with the Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) and Mayerson Academy to mentor Principals in leadership and management. Over the past 1 ½ years eight Principals have been mentored in this program and CPS and Mayerson want to expand it for the 2008-2009 school year.

What is the Principal Mentoring Program?

Cincinnatus members are matched 1:1 with Principals in CPS who have requested mentors. Mentors receive ½ day training by the Mayerson Academy, are assigned a Principal and generally meet with the Principal for 2-3 hours a couple of times a month. The mentoring schedule and areas of emphasis are determined between the mentor and the Principal. The mentoring sessions typically occur at the Principal's school.

What can I contribute as a mentor? The Superintendent of Cincinnati Public School schools in the most recent strategic plan determined that Principals needed development in leadership and management. It was determined that many Cincinnatus members have skills in both areas and could contribute greatly to that development of the Principals. In the first year and a half of the program, the mentored Principals have unanimously praised their mentors and have found them an important independent sounding board.

How do I sign up? Either e-mail Kent Friel, mentoring coordinator, at kpriel@cinci.rr.com or call him at 513-477-4174. He will be glad to answer questions, get you signed up and into the program.

**YOU can make a difference
in the Cincinnati Public Schools!!**



At Our October Meeting!

You won't want to miss the October 14th Cincinnatus Dinner. Our Excellence in Government Panel will have the latest information on *upcoming ballot initiatives* plus an *extraordinary speaker* you won't want to miss.

*A must-attend
for the informed Cincinnati voter!*



Excellence in Education (continued)

Principals in management and leadership, was well received by the Principals and will be expanded in the coming year.

The *2008 Education Awards* dinner, honoring outstanding administrators, teachers and volunteers, was held at the new Woodward Career Tech High School and was rated one of the best meetings ever by the Cincinnatus membership.

Support of the dramatic *STRIVE* initiative, focused on improving education in Cincinnati, Newport and Covington, has taken us to support schools in Newport and Covington for the first time. Specific initiatives in Northern Kentucky will be announced early in the new year.

The Panel is very involved in the Cincinnati USA Chamber's *Agenda 360 plan*, to be unveiled in the coming year.

Our Panel encourages everyone to learn about our activities and to bring your own interests and ideas for improving Cincinnati education with you. All are welcome at meetings and those interested are cordially invited to join our Panel. Those interested should contact Kent Friel, the Education Panel chair.

Articles & Pictures Wanted!

Our newsletter and website need your information! Help keep our Association members informed. Remember to send us invitations, plans, reports & opinions, as well as pictures, graphics, videos & links.

The more they know, the more they help!

New Member Candidates, Please !!

The vitality of Cincinnatus and its ability to improve the quality of life in our region depends on its having civically engaged and effective members. As a result, we constantly seek candidates who reflect racial, gender, professional, community experience and age diversity as well as diversity and depth of thought.

Encourage potential candidates to visit our website where they will find lots of information about our Association's mission, history, membership and activities, as well as a guide to our membership process designed especially for them. www.CincinnatusAssoc.org

Members are reminded that, when nominating someone, you must discuss the nomination first with the nominee, then provide the Membership Chair with a brief resume or other information about the nominee and how we may contact them (email or phone).

**Don't wait for January!
Nominate someone today !!**

Awards !!

Cincinnatus Receives HOME Founders Award

Cincinnatus Association was honored with the Founders Award from HOME, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, a private, non-profit organization which seeks to promote choice in housing and to fight illegal discrimination in housing. The award acknowledged Cincinnatus Association's civic leadership in opposing discrimination and in recognizing the value of integrated communities. The award was accepted by Dr. Brandon Wiers, one of the Cincinnatus members instrumental in coordinating the Stable Integrated Communities Study, which identified 14 economically healthy communities in Hamilton County that had been integrated for at least 20 years and continues to pursue research and analysis to identify the reasons for this success. HOME also acknowledged Dr. Wiers and Cincinnatus for its further efforts to actively carry the message to the larger community, celebrating the quality of life in these "Gold Medal" communities.

Friel Wins Ransohoff Civic Award

Kent Friel, Chairman of the Excellence in Education Panel, is the 2008 recipient of the Daniel J Ransohoff Civic Award, presented by the League of Women Voters. The award recognizes the achievements of an individual for outstanding civic service in our community. Mr. Friel is currently a community fellow with Knowledgeworks Foundation, and has been actively involved for decades working for excellence in Cincinnati education. He was co-convener of the Citizens' School Committee, dedicated to improving public information, accountability and oversight of CPS.



Jan Leslie Named 2008 Citizen Cincinnatus

Cincinnatus Association awarded Jan Leslie with its highest honor - the 2008 Citizen Cincinnatus Award. "There is no one who works harder in Cincinnatus Association, and no one who has worked harder for Cincinnati education in the past year than Jan," said Kent Friel, Chair of the Excellence in Education Panel, as he announced the award at the Association's June meeting.

Leslie, a Cincinnatus member since 1997, was recognized for her leadership in the successful effort to pass the Cincinnati Public School levy in March 2008. She is the former Director of Public Affairs for the Cincinnati Public Schools.

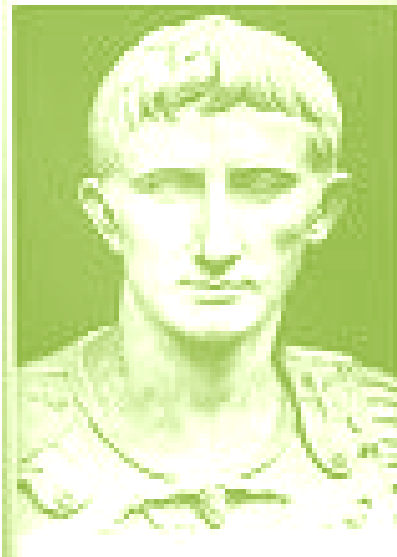
2008-2009 Association Leadership

The following individuals were duly qualified, nominated and elected as our 2008-2009 Association officers at our regular dinner meeting on May 13, 2008.

- PRESIDENT, Bill Scheyer (President, Southbank Partners)
- VICE PRESIDENT, Robin Gehl, (VP for Programming, Cincinnati Public Radio)
- SECRETARY, Al DeJarnett (Managing Director, 40 Acres Land Company)
- TREASURER, George Molinsky (Partner, Taft Stettinius & Hollister)
- AT-LARGE: Dorothy Battle, Chuck Curran, Kent Friel, Mark Silbersack and Betsy Townsend plus John Frank (Past President)

The Executive Committee ratified the appointment of our 2008-2009 panel and committee chairs.

- ARTS & CULTURE PANEL: Jay Chatterjee & Robin Gehl
- COMMUNITY INCLUSION PANEL: Al DeJarnett & Sue Wilke
- EDUCATION PANEL: Kent Friel
- GOVERNMENT PANEL: Bob Schrage
- CINCINNATUS FOUNDATION: Chuck Curran
- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Peter Hoyt
- MARKETING COMMITTEE: Paul Bernish
- PROGRAM COORDINATION: Melinda Kruyer



Check Out the New Website !!

Cincinnatus has upgraded and expanded its website, now with tons of information for members and the public! !

- **Public Section** includes news, panel & issue pages, a calendar of Association activities, general Association & membership information, links to interesting sites, archives and more.
- **Members-Only Section** includes Panel & Committee sub-sites (information, calendar, rosters), the Member Handbook and Directory, and other Association information and resources.

This is YOUR website too! If you have announcements, opinions, information or anything else you think would benefit our members, contact Roger Smith about getting it put onto our website.

See it all at www.CincinnatusAssoc.org !!

(Contact Roger Smith for member access information.)

Association Inducts 18 New Members for 2008

Bren Blaine (CEO, Tender Mercies), **Tony Brown** (CEO, Uptown Consortium), **Thomas Dietz** (CEO, Schiff, Kreidler-Shell), **Joellen Grady** (Executive Director, Council of Christian Communion), **John Greiner** (Partner, Graydon Head & Ritchey), **Barbara Henshaw** (Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland at Cincinnati), **David Houston** (Consultant, Booz Allen Hamilton), **Terry Joyner** (CEO, Systems Solutions), **Jane Keller** (CEO, Cincinnati Youth Collaborative), **Tillie Hidalgo Lima** (CEO, Best Upon Request), **William Muse** (Consultant; and formerly President, Auburn University), **Mark Neikirk** (Director, Scripps Howard Center, NKY), **Polly Lusk Page** (Director, Partnership for Successful Schools NKU), **Leonard Randolph** (Chief Medical Officer, Mercy Health Partners), **Timothy Riordan** (Manager, Numbers & Money), **Seena Skelton** (Consultant, Special Education Regional Resource Center), **Sandra Berlin Walker** (CEO, YMCA of Greater Cincinnati), **Roberta White** (CEO, Great Oaks Institute), **Owen Wrassman** (First VP, Robert W. Baird).

Commenting on the announcement, Peter Hoyt, Membership Chairman, said, "We are pleased that we were able to attract these business and community leaders who have demonstrated their commitment to civic betterment in our community."

Executive Committee Update

[July 15, 2008 Meeting] **Panel Chair Reports** were received and discussed (see Panel Reports on page 1 of this newsletter). The group discussed authority and process for replying to external requests for statements of opinion and position on public issues, concluding that any member so designated by a panel may speak for themselves and the panel. Association positions may only be established through the Executive Committee. The **Membership Report** showed 165 members total. There was active discussion of member participation expectations, and the group will be reviewing member involvement and activity for the past year. The **Marketing Committee** is focused on management and coordination of our newly-upgraded website, seeking content and individuals willing to help keep the site current, fresh and interesting. The **Program Coordinating Committee** is working on several outstanding meeting ideas and continues to seek new topics and venues to ensure diverse and interesting meetings. The **President's Report** noted successful contract negotiations with our part-time Executive Administrator for the 2008-2009 year and a brief discussion of possibilities regarding the update of our now out-of-print Association history, Cincinnati's Citizen Crusaders (Louis Leonard Tucker, 1967). The **Finance Committee** is finalizing the new budget and related dues, with its recommendations anticipated at the August meeting.

Executive Committee meets at 4:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday every month. Agendas and minutes are available. Meetings are open to all members, but advance notice of attendance is requested to ensure agenda inclusion. Please contact Roger Smith at 513-293-4621.



Cincinnati On CETconnect Web Video!

Cincinnati has joined **CETconnect**, the nation's first community-based on-demand public media website. With hundreds of videos available online, CETconnect helps bring Cincinnati to the world with rich, high quality video content: interviews with local leaders and experts, documentaries and much more. This is content you won't find anywhere else, updated daily so that there's always something new to watch. Find it at www.CETconnect.org today!



Cincinnati Association Information

MISSION: The Cincinnati Association believes that the quality of life in the City of Cincinnati and in the Greater Cincinnati metropolitan area is among the highest in the United States and can be further improved. It is the mission of the Cincinnati Association and its members to initiate, recognize, participate in and promote projects that improve the quality of life for all citizens in this region through the study of critical issues confronting the region, engaging community leaders and shaping public policy.

NEWSLETTER: This Newsletter is distributed periodically during the Association year and is intended for Cincinnati Association members' general information only. Members are welcome to share it with invited guests and others as they feel appropriate. Newsletter submissions should be sent to Roger Smith at Cincinnati_Assoc@hotmail.com.

MEETINGS: The Cincinnati Association holds its monthly meeting at 5:30pm on the second Tuesday of every month (except July & August) at various locations around Greater Cincinnati. RSVP at Cincinnati_Assoc@hotmail.com or (513) 293-4621.

PANELS: Cincinnati Association maintains four primary "panels" where individuals with similar missional focuses coordinate and fulfill our organizational missions. Each panel meets monthly.

- **Arts and Culture Panel:** Meets the second Tuesday of each month 4:30pm-5:45pm at the same location as the monthly Association member meetings. (This is just before the monthly Association member meeting.) Co-chairs are Jay Chatterjee (jay.chatterjee@uc.edu) and Robin Gehl (rgehl@cinradio.org).
- **Community Inclusion Panel:** Meets the first Monday of each month from 12:00noon-1:30pm at the Health Foundation Offices, 5th floor, Rookwood Tower, 3805 Edwards Road. Co-chairs are Al DeJarnett (alex38122002@yahoo.com) and Sue Wilke (suewilke@fuse.net).
- **Excellence in Education:** Meets the third Monday of each month 12:00noon-1:30pm at Graydon, Head & Ritchey, 19th floor, Fifth-Third Tower, 4th & Walnut Streets. Lunch is provided. Chair is Kent Friel (kpfriel@cinci.rr.com).
- **Excellence in Government:** Meets the second Tuesday of each month 4:30pm-5:45pm at the same location as the monthly Association member meetings. (This is just before the monthly Association member meeting.) Chair is Bob Schrage (Robert.schrage@nkadd.org).

ADMINISTRATION: Administrative tasks are fulfilled by our Executive Administrator and several standing committees.

- **Executive Administrator:** Roger Smith (Cincinnati_Assoc@hotmail.com; 513-293-4621)
- **Cincinnati Foundation:** Chuck Curran, Chair (ccurran09@fuse.net)
- **Marketing Committee:** Paul Bernish, Chair (pbernish@nurfc.org)
- **Membership Committee:** Peter Hoyt, Chair (designtoo@msn.com)
- **Program Coordination Committee:** Melinda Kruyer, Chair (kruyer@aol.com)

TAX STATUS: Cincinnati Association is tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(4) (a social welfare organization). Dues, fees and contributions to Cincinnati Association are NOT tax deductible as charitable contributions. Our Federal Tax Identification Number is 31-1227954.