

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

Kennedy Heights Community News

FREE FOOD!
KIDS GAMES &
CRAFTS!
RAFFLE PRIZES!

upcoming events

Spring Art Camp
Registration Opens 3/1
Register online kennedyarts.org
or call 513-634-4278

March Into Spring, 3/5,
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Kennedy
Heights Arts Center Annex, 6620
Montgomery Rd.

Community Council Meeting
3/15. 7:30 meeting. Virtual.
Access info on page 2.

Book Club 3/10, 4/14, 2-3pm.
Adults, Pleasant Ridge Library.
Learn book titles by calling 513-
369-4488

Sap Run 5K
4/9. 9:00 a.m. Friendly
neighborhood race. To-go
breakfast provided

Student Art Show
4/9-30. Original artwork in
all media created by youth
and adult students. KHAC
Annex Lindner Gallery, 6620
Montgomery Rd..

Community Council Meeting
4/19. 7:30 meeting. Virtual.
Access info on page 2.

Community Art Day 4/24,
11-3pm. Kennedy Heights
Arts Center Mansion, 6546
Montgomery Rd. Free food,
entertainment, and collaborative
art making w/ local Black artists.

March into Spring!

Photo courtesy of Will Jones Photo LLC. All images ©2022

Hibernation season is over and the Kennedy Heights Community Council is excited to welcome Spring with a new event: our March into Spring Expo.

Explore a collection of vendors ready to put you in the mood to enjoy the great outdoors on Saturday, March 5th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. residents are invited to the Arts Center Annex at 6620 Montgomery Road. There will be things to do and see both inside and outside of the Arts campus.

- **Outside Time Ohio** - showcasing rent-able camping gear and campfire cooking demonstrations
- **Silverton Donuts** - free donuts for all!
- **Hello Sunshine Yoga** - offering a free outdoor yoga class at 12:00 p.m.
- **Kennedy Heights Arts Center** - with a free kids craft of paper-making
- **Girl Scouts** - cookies for sale

- **Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste** - crafts and games for kids, composting info, and more
- **Urban Harvest** - new gardening start-up that hopes to offer a produce pop-up in the summer.
- **Solar Now** - offering information on how you can solarize your home

Plus, visit all five Neighborhood Plan booths to share your priorities in how we implement the finalized Plan! Every booth you visit earns you two raffle tickets to win Raffle Baskets. Prizes include five classes to Hello Sunshine Yoga, custom Kennedy Heights coasters from woodworker Thane Lorbach, and the Grand Prize of two FREE nights camping in a County Park, all gear provided, courtesy of Outside Time Ohio!

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Kate Elliott



Sharifah Tafari

A LETTER FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear Neighbors,

We hope your 2022 is off to a strong and healthy start. The Community Council and the Steering Committee are both hard at work wrapping up the Neighborhood Plan. We are grateful to everyone who has participated in the process thus far, and hope you can participate in the final steps we have ahead of us.

First, help us prioritize the Goals we have set. You can do this by attending our first ever March Into Spring Expo on March 5th. In addition to local vendors showing off their services and wares to get your excited for being outside again, there will be booths set up with the final Goals. Visit each booth and share which Goals are your highest priorities, and you will be entered into a raffle for a fabulous prize from Outside Time Ohio (learn more at www.outsidetimeohio.com)

Next, please attend our Community Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on March 15. Representatives from City Planning will make a final presentation, incorporating the priority feedback received on March 5th. After the presentation, all present members will vote to move the Plan forward through City Hall. After that, Steering Committee members will present the plan to the City Planning Commission in April, and finally to City Council in May. **Once approved by City Council, the plan will be officially adopted and will help guide decisions in the neighborhood for approximately the next ten years!** This is the last chance for you to make sure your perspective is represented in this long-lasting document. Please do not miss these opportunities to participate.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Kate & Sharifah
Kennedy Heights Community Council

How To Access Virtual Council Meetings

Website: meet.google.com/amo-fjbm-bgq

Or call in by phone: **574-241-1036**

Then enter PIN: **453 185 950#**

Receiving Timely Updates

Because the future changes rapidly, it is difficult to communicate up-to-date information in a bi-monthly newsletter. Event cancellations and venue changes are shared, when possible, on our social media pages and via emails. If you do not have access to these resources, please reach out to the Board at khcc@kennedyheights.org or call **513-202-4345** so that we can add your phone number to a Phone Tree and provide more timely updates as our resources allow.



PROPOSED DENSITY CHANGES AT CINCINNATI CITY HALL

Housing has been a hot topic in the city for many years now. Council-member Liz Keating has sponsored an Ordinance that would remove land area/unit (density) limitations in the zoning code. These changes would only apply to existing Multi-family, Office, Commercial, Urban Mix, Manufacturing, and Riverfront zoning districts.

Removing these limitations is among the strategies the previous City Administration recommended to increase the supply and availability of housing within the City. The recommendation was made in a March 16, 2021 report to City Council, which inspired Keating's proposal.

Right now, it is unclear how this might affect Kennedy Heights. Only about 20% of our neighborhood contains existing zoning that would be impacted by these changes, and our neighborhood plan clearly indicates residents' desire to maintain a quiet environment not bustling with businesses and dense apartments. That being said, prices are skyrocketing and we will need to be creative to fight to keep residents in their homes as costs climb.

On Friday, February 4, the Ordinance was taken up by the City Planning Commission. The meeting lasted for more than five hours and 55+ community members participated, speaking both in support and opposition of the Ordinance. The Ordinance received a tie vote of 3-3, meaning it failed in the Commission. Keating opted to move it to City Council without revision. At the time of writing, it is likely it will be sent to the City Council Housing Committee by Wednesday, February 9, but it may sit in Committee for an undetermined period of time. We will keep you updated as best we can.

Read more about the views of supporters and opposition at kennedyheights.org/home/housing-city-hall-and-kennedy-heights

Be sure to follow social media or sign up for email news at www.kennedyheights.org

THE SAP RUN 5K RETURNS! SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022

Kennedy Heights offers an annual tradition each spring to encourage KHers and friends to emerge from hibernation and work out the winter kinks. This 5K (or 10K or 15K or bike ride!) kicks off race season with a challenging course that rewards you with a breakfast. Due to Covid, we will abstain from the hot, syrupy breakfast, but we will be sure to reward you with something delicious to-go!

The course is no easy walk in the park—our neighborhood is built on hills, and our run will challenge any runner or cyclist. Though a hilly course, the race itself is only as competitive as you want it to be! Run the route more than once to challenge yourself to a 10K or 15K.

Volunteers are always needed to put up route signs in advance, check-in registrants, direct traffic during the race, distribute breakfast, and clean up.

Contact board@kennedyheights.org if you are interested in supporting or participating in this event in any way.

VOLUNTEER TO SUPPORT LOCAL STUDENTS

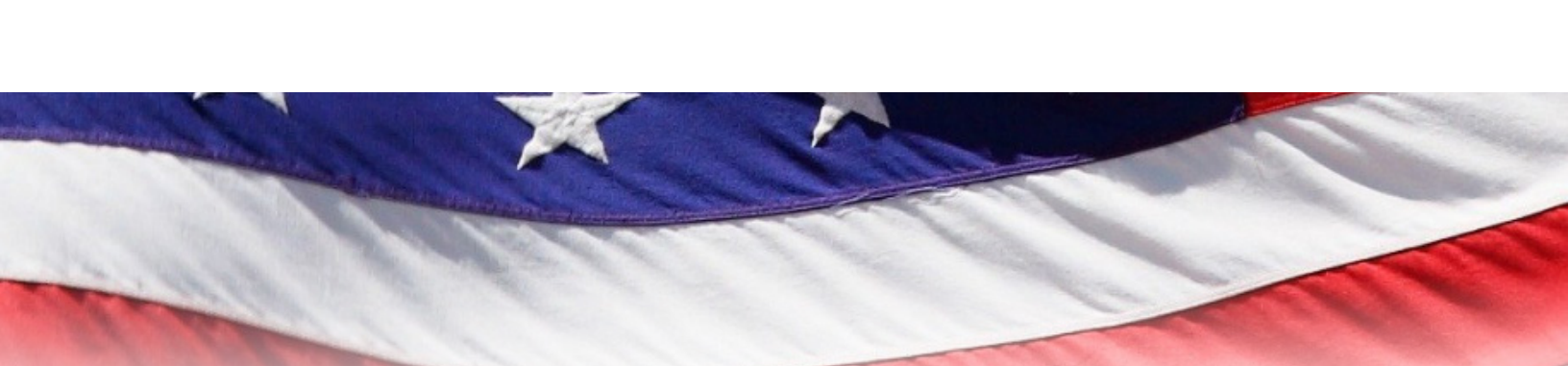
Our local high school, Shroder High School, is in need of Fundamental Math tutors for 7th grade students. Volunteers are only asked to give one hour per week. Training sessions are available.

Additionally, the Shroder building is at capacity. It was originally built for 600 students and currently enrolls 800. As the community strives to make the most of their space, they could use volunteers willing to paint rooms and rearrange furniture.

Contact the school Resource Coordinator, Pam Wilder, for any of these opportunities. wilderp@cps-k12.org or call 513-363-6977.



photo courtesy of Will Jones Photo LLC. All images ©2022



VOTE! PRIMARY ELECTIONS MAY 3, 2022

You're an essential part of our democracy, and every election matters. Plan ahead so you can enact your American right.

ARE YOU REGISTERED?

Don't wait to find out at the polls whether or not you are registered to vote. **Voter registration deadline is April 4.** Check your registration online:

votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/check-registration-status/

or call 513-632-7000. Kennedy Heights residents have more than one polling location available to them, so you can confirm your polling location this way.

Important: If you are already registered but have moved and/or changed your name, you must update registration.

VOTE BY MAIL

Anyone may vote by mail, but they must complete a Vote-by-Mail Application. These can be found online:

votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/voting-options/mail/

or call 513-632-7039 or 513-632-7044, or pick up at the Board of Elections Office located at 4700 Smith Rd, Cincinnati OH 45212, or at any Hamilton County Public Library. If your name or address has changed you MUST update information with the Board of Elections before attempting to vote by mail.

Applications must be received by the Board of Elections by noon on the third day before Election Day. Because your ballots must be mailed to you, give yourself lots of time.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Sample ballots will be posted online 46 days before Election Day. They can be viewed online at

votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/sample-ballot/

You can also use www.vote411.org

GREATER CINCINNATI WATER WORKS PROGRAMS FOR TENANTS & HOMEOWNERS

GCWW has funds available to help renters keep their water on. Tenants residing in the City of Cincinnati may be eligible for Emergency Rental Assistance that will pay up to 18 months of past due and current water, sewer, and storm water charges accrued after March 2020.

For more information:

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/billing-information/emergency-rental-assistance/>

In addition, homeowners who are behind on their water bill can use GCWW's 0-interest payment plan called "Promise Pay" to get caught up.

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/water/billing-information/promise-pay/>

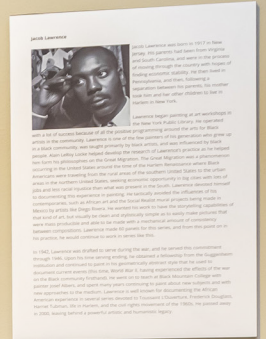
MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD MINI-GRANTS

The Community Council is piloting a mini-grant program to empower neighbors to achieve pet projects throughout the neighborhood.

The Council is dedicating \$1,000 to fund four different mini-grants. The grants will be competitive meaning that people will need to fill out an application in order to receive the funds. Grants are available in amounts of \$100-\$500 as funds remain available. Eligible projects must be public projects; they cannot be on private property. Applications will be available on kennedyheights.org, emailing treasurer@kennedyheights.org, or calling 513-202-4345.

Ideas include: funding a van rental for community food drives; constructing a Little Free Library; community garden projects, etc. Applications will be rolling until all four grants are given out. Recipients will be announced at Community Council meetings.

Artist Ike Slimster with his work in Juneteenth Cincinnati's 2021 Celebration of the Harlem Renaissance at KHAC
 Photo courtesy of Will Jones Photo LLC. All images ©2021



Voices of Freedom

Juneteenth Cincinnati presents an exhibition of commissioned new works by 10 artists and 10 poets. This performing arts series explores the promise and reality of “freedom” as experienced by those whose lives and destinies were touched by emancipation. Curated by Michael Coppage (visual art), MoPoetry Phillips (poetry) and Lex Nycole (performances), *Voices of Freedom* will take place at Kennedy Heights Arts Center’s Lindner Annex, 6620 Montgomery Road, from February 26 to March 26, 2022.

VOICES OF FREEDOM EXHIBITION Opening Reception

Saturday, Feb. 26, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 Spoken word performances at 7:00 p.m.

Artists: Desmond Beach, Mark Anthony Brown Jr., Kierston Ghaznavi, Jeni Jenkins, Fatima Laster, Dave McClinton, Komikka Patton, Blake Pierre, Vitus Shell, Michael Thompson. Poets: MoPoetry Phillips, Jacqueline “Gifted” Johnson-Wilkinson, Kimberly “Duwaup” Bolden, SoL, Dawn “The Psalmist” Crooks, Victoria Cipriani, Queens Jurnee, Manual Iris, ASlate, Golden Goddess.

Playing for Freedom

Saturday, March 5, 7:00 p.m.
 Performances by Jazz Renaissance and Deondra Means

Dancing for Freedom

Saturday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.
 Performances by Heavenly Doves and Cincinnati Metro Dance, followed by participatory dancing.

March 26, 7pm: Singing for Freedom

Performances by Counterfeit Madison and friends

All events are free, but tickets are required. Register at kennedyarts.org or call 513-631-4278. Masks and proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative COVID test results required for entry.

Gallery hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 12-6 pm, and by appointment.

Made possible by American Rescue Plan funds from the City of Cincinnati, administered through ArtsWave.



Kennedy Heights Arts Center

More information about classes and events and upcoming Call for Artists can be found www.kennedyarts.org
513-631-4278

Ellen Muse
Executive Director



SUMMER ART CAMP Registration Opens March 1!

Unleash your creativity and imagination! This summer, choose from a variety of one-week camps for ages 5-13: visual arts, music, creative writing, animation, and more! Each camp runs from 9:00am to 3:00pm daily.

We are excited to offer in-person camps again this summer. Our COVID safety plan includes small group sizes, socially distant spacing, required masking, HEPA air purifiers, frequent sanitizing, and vaccination requirements for instructors, volunteers, and staff.

Registration opens on March 1, 2022. Register on the website or call. Register

a movement and spoken word project honoring the blessings and the challenges of being a parent. Kimani and Daniel will be leading a series of 2-hour workshops, Participants will be invited to explore the intersection of race and parenting through stories and moving together.

Join us during one the workshops:

- March 9, 11am-1pm or 7-9pm
- March 10, 11am-1pm or 7-9pm
- March 11, 11am-1pm or 7-9pm

The residency will culminate in a performance by the artists and community members and family dance party on Saturday, March 12 at 7pm.

Free, but preregistration is required.

14TH ANNUAL STUDENT ART SHOW

April 9 – 30, 2022

Opening Reception: April 9, 6-8 p.m.

Exhibition featuring original artwork in all media created by youth and adult students enrolled in KHAC classes. This show presents a range of works in fiber art, painting, collage, ceramics and more, and is sure to inspire artists of all ages!

The free opening reception on Saturday, April 9 will also be celebrating the release of *Tellus Zine: Issue 003* featuring art and writing by Greater Cincinnati teens.

Gallery hours: Tues - Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am – 4pm.



by April 1st to get 10% off camp tuition with the code SUMMER22. Sliding scale fees available for those in need.

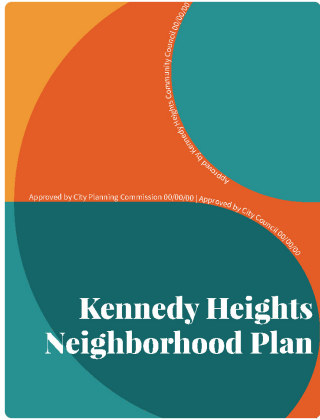
EMBODIED TRUTH: EXPLORING RACE AND PARENTING THROUGH MOVEMENT AND STORIES

From March 9-12, dancer/choreographers Daniel Burkholder (Milwaukee, WI) and Kimani Fowlin (New York, NY) will be in residence, and invite you to collaborate with them on

COMMUNITY DAY AT KHAC

Saturday, April 24, 11am to 3pm

The 4th Saturday of each month (April-Sept) we will be collaborating with local Black artists to create outdoor, interactive installations and welcoming spaces to invite conversation, creativity and connection. In April, see *You Belong Here*, a community photography installation; get your portrait taken; enjoy music, food & creative activities. New surprises every month! Join us at the KH Arts Mansion.



We are thrilled to share the Kennedy Heights Neighborhood Plan! This plan is the result of more than a year of work and would not have been possible without your participation. Before the plan begins its approval process, we need your input on which strategies should be prioritized. You can share your priorities at the March 5th March Into Spring Expo! **Read the plan and fill out the prioritization survey by March 6.** All

documents can be found at

Cincinnati-oh.gov/khplan

The Neighborhood Plan documents our vision for the future through specific goals and strategies, while acknowledging its past and present. This plan, created through a community-led process, will guide future policy, development, investment, and programming decisions in the neighborhood that promotes intentional inclusion.

Mon, Tues 10am-8pm
Wed-Sat 10am-6pm

The Pleasant Ridge Branch of the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library offers curbside service, browsing, Take & Make activities, computer access, and assistance with faxing, scanning, copying, and printing. Visit www.cincinnati-library.org to access all eBranch offerings and for the most current information on the services and programs. Registration required for some events. Call the branch at **513-369-4488** with any questions. **Masks required indoors.**

TAX HELP: The Library is partnering with financial professionals to offer free tax assistance at several locations,

including the Deer Park and Bond Hill Branches. For more information and to register for a time, call 513-369-6900.

- 3/7, 3:30 p.m. - Teens Create.
- 3/10, 2:00 p.m. – Adult Book club.
- 3/16, 4:00 p.m. – Imagine Lab – Science Activities. Ages 6-12.
- 4/4, 3:30 p.m. - Teens Create.
- 4/14, 2:00 p.m. – Adult Book club.
- 4/20, 4:00 p.m. – Imagine Lab – Science Activities. Ages 6-12.
- 4/18 - PLANT WEEK! Plant themed programming all week! Details to come. Story time: Every Tuesday at 10:30 (toddler) and 11:15 (preschool). Craftivity at 11 (all ages).

Become a Friend of Kennedy Heights! Your tax-deductible donation supports the bi-monthly newsletter and the events in and around the community.

Donation: Please check amount.

Cash or check is accepted.

___ \$15.00

___ \$25.00

___ \$50.00

___ \$100.00

___ Other amount: \$ _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/ZIP: _____
 Email: _____

Include my name (only) in the newsletter as a Friend of the Community: ___ Yes ___ No

Please mail this completed form and payment to: P.O. Box 36318, Cincinnati, OH 45236. Other one-time or recurring payment options—including credit card payments—are available at www.kennedyheights.org using PayPal. Kennedy Heights Community Council is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.



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Find us at board@kennedyheights.org

DID YOU KNOW? Our Community Plan is complete and moving through City government for approval! You can view the final document at www.cincinnati-oh.gov/khplan
 Attend our March 5th event to help prioritize which Goals we achieve first! *(details inside)*