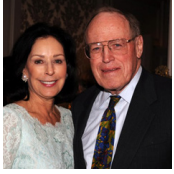




PEOPLE, PARTNERS,
AND PROGRAMS
MATTER P2



JOHN AND ALEXANDRA
NICHOLS: TOWERING
LEADERSHIP P3



NLCCC - NORTH
LAWDALE COMMUNITY
COORDINATING
COUNCIL P4



Photo credit: Raquel Venado

Celebrating People, Partners and Programs



PROGRAMS:

SAIC Portrait Project

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) collaborated with community leaders to create a series of portraits to celebrate and honor those who have shaped their community. The participants of these photographs were incredibly generous; opening their homes, places of work, and sites of invention to be photographed.

Sheila McNary and Paul Coffey created these portraits with the assistance of SAIC students Kelly Catarino and Joseph Goh.

This exhibition is supported by the Office of Engagement at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

According to Coffey, "Since we were introduced to the North Lawndale community seven years ago, SAIC has found great collaborative partners, engaging hosts, and one community. SAIC is learning how to be a better citizen institution through North Lawndale's graciousness and patience."



Photo credit: Edward Chao (BFA 2020)



People, Partners, and Programs Matter

DEAR FRIENDS,

The past year has been an exciting period of growth for the Foundation for Homan Square. A good deal of that excitement has been driven by our participation in the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC), an organization of North Lawndale residents and leaders taking stock of community needs and marshalling resources to address them. We could not ask for a better partner. Homan Square is not an island, and in order to reach the full potential of our vision for the campus, we need to be actively involved with community residents and institutions with a vision for community development. NLCCC is exactly that.



Kevin Sutton

The Foundation has also had a strategic plan of its own that we developed with IFF (our new management partner) and neighborhood residents. That plan directs our work in housing, programming, and community partnerships. There is tremendous overlap with the goals of NLCCC, and that overlap represents opportunity and the promise of great things.

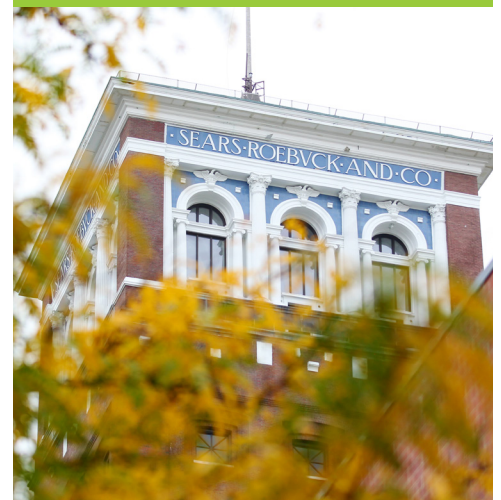
Homan Square has always been built on relationships. In this Annual Update we are highlighting the amazing and long-term support we've received from John and Alexandra Nichols. They are indicative of an amazing group of supporters who have been with us since the beginning when Charlie Shaw likely encouraged them to come on board. We are grateful for supportive relationships measured in decades.

Finally, we are encouraged by the story of Sam Cole. Sam found help from a Homan Square partner at a crucial time in his life. His story of reversing his fortunes and finding new hope for the future could not be a better testament of the work we are engaged in every day. Whether we are focused on changing individual lives, or the trajectory of a community, we know that people, partners, and programs matter. When they are aligned, there is no limit to how much we can accomplish.

Kevin Sutton
Executive Director
Foundation for Homan Square

Homan Square strives to sustain an environment that helps students and families live their best lives through quality education, recreation, healthcare and family support services, while instilling the desire to DREAM BIG and the skills to maximize success. The Homan Square campus includes:

- Chicago Park District
- DRW College Prep
- Family Focus Lawndale
- Free Spirit Media
- Gardeneers - Homan Rails Farm
- Green Garden Café
- Holy Family School
- Lawndale Business Renaissance Association
- Lawndale Christian Health Center
- The Lunch Box
- Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago
- North Lawndale Employment Network
- North Lawndale YMCA
- Options for Youth
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Turning the Page
- YWCA Julian Grace Innovation and Technology Institute



PEOPLE:

Sam Cole: What Success Looks Like

When Sam Cole walked into the North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN) to inquire about its U-Turn Permitted program for returning citizens, he had one goal — get back on his feet again. After completing the program he walked out a model for how you turn your life around.

U-Turn Permitted provides financial literacy, job coaching, and a proven set of workshops that directly target the needs of formerly incarcerated individuals trying to build a solid foundation and find meaningful work. According to his job coach, Nicole Parham-Munoz, “Sam was awesome. He took everything we provided and just went with it. He appreciated the support and believed in what we were doing so much that he became one of our greatest referrals of new program participants. It seems like everywhere Sam went he recruited others who needed the same support.”

Financial literacy is crucial for people reentering the workforce. In many cases, people need help with credit repair and eliminating obstacles to employment and preparing for how to handle their finances successfully once employed. These services continue even after graduation.

Another benefit of graduation is eligibility for a transitional position with local employers. Sam took a transitional position with Foundation for Homan Square as a temporary custodian. Foundation for Homan Square, Executive Director, Kevin Sutton says, “Sam was such a great employee and great fit with our staff and mission that we hired him as a full-time employee.”

Sam has nothing but gratitude for everyone who has supported him. “When I got out of prison I had lost everything. Having someone say that they were going to help me get back on my feet again was a huge blessing,” Sam stated. “NLEN has helped me build a beautiful future and I pray that they can continue to advocate for others who need the same help that I did.”

According to Parham-Munoz, programs like these contribute to more immediate success and lower recidivism.



Sam Cole

JOHN AND ALEXANDRA NICHOLS: TOWERING LEADERSHIP

The story of Homan Square has many characters, from visionary founding developer Charlie Shaw to countless neighborhood heroes who make a difference every day. When it comes to champions, there have been no bigger supporters than John and Alexandra Nichols. Their years of steadfast contributions have driven projects through obstacles and toward remarkable success.

Honored this May by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Chicago Chapter as Distinguished Philanthropists of the Year, the Nichols have contributed their support to the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Music Institute of Chicago, Art Institute of Chicago, WTTW|WFMT, University of Chicago, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago Community Trust, and the Lyric Opera. Their most visible contribution is the Nichols Bridgeway which connects Millennium Park to the Modern Wing at the Art Institute, which they also supported generously.

John Nichols was introduced to Homan Square shortly before Charlie Shaw’s untimely death in 2006. He stepped up and led restoration efforts of the Sears Power House and its transformation into the Charles H. Shaw Technology and Learning Center, home to DRW College Prep High School.

According to Kristin Dean, Foundation for Homan Square Board President, “Mr. Nichols stepped up at a critical time. Charlie had been our guiding light and just when we needed a champion the most, John committed to the Power House project and Homan Square.”

Not long after, explorations began to determine the future of the original Sears Tower. This project was championed by the Nichols Family. When it became clear that the best use was office and programming space for neighborhood non-profits, it was full-speed ahead. The Nichols not only contributed financially but provided personal leadership in fundraising as well as lending the project expert advisors. They were all in. The Tower was subsequently renamed the John D. and Alexandra C. Nichols Tower in honor of their remarkable stewardship and support.

The Nichols have shown a humble dedication to lifting up Homan Square with the same dedication and pride they’ve shown for Chicago’s top cultural and educational institutions.

PARTNERS:

NLCCC - North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council

North Lawndale has not had a comprehensive community development plan for fifty years, but the North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC) is actively working to change that. Started with exploratory meetings in 2015, NLCCC has assembled leaders from every aspect of North Lawndale community life who are focused on broad improvements.

“What started with 4-5 preliminary issues has grown to 13 issue areas from technology and workforce development to wellness, arts, and green space,” said Rodney Brown, Executive Director of New Covenant Community Development Corporation and a NLCCC co-founder. “We want to make sure that we address the issues most important to North Lawndale residents in a comprehensive and inclusive way.”

NLCCC is already actively involved in conversations around bringing a new grocery store, a new school, and new housing to the community. “One great accomplishment so far is that we still have nearly all of the original leaders at the table, have maintained support from our local elected officials, and gained support from individuals and organizations outside of North Lawndale,” said Brown. “It will take all of us to rebuild a community worthy of all the great people and institutions that call North Lawndale home. We are especially pleased the Foundation for Homan Square has been there from the beginning and remains a vital partner.”

Elevated Chicago Grant - SAIC, New Covenant Small Business Development Center

Art and music fill a community with creative energy and enhance a sense of identity. The Foundation for Homan Square (FHS) has received a \$75,000 Elevated Chicago grant to harness that energy and transform the vacant lot on the corner of Kedzie and Fillmore with a Boombox pop-up. The Boombox concept uses shipping containers as temporary art and retail spaces, allowing maximum creativity and portability.

The project will be owned and maintained by FHS, but programming for the pop-up retail and surrounding open space is being done in coordination with community partners New Covenant Small Business Development Center and SAIC—who will create outdoor public art and spaces for social enterprises and small businesses to market their products. The location is near the Kedzie Homan CTA station and will activate in 2020.

Roberto Requejo, the Program Director for Elevated Chicago, who awarded the grant says, “Our Equity Forward grants are intended to provide flexible capital to build and connect community assets and CTA hubs, making areas around transit more walkable, healthy, and inclusive for community residents. The FHS pop-up project puts community ownership and racial equity front and center and truly represents the values of Elevated Chicago.”



FOUNDATION FOR HOMAN SQUARE

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*Thank you to those whose
great generosity allows
us to touch the lives of many!*