

KEEP PEACE

Advocacy
Toolkit

coventrypeacecampus.org
2843 WASHINGTON BLVD. :: CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

SAVE OUR

Arts,
Culture &
Education
Center

Cleveland Heights & University Heights
are at risk of losing the Coventry P.E.A.C.E.
Arts, Culture & Education Center.

What you can do to help...

On the following pages we have outlined ways in which local residents, businesses and fellow nonprofit organizations can help advocate to save this unique Arts, Culture and Education hub located in the heart of the most creative neighborhood in Cleveland Heights. The Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Building is home to a dozen local and regional nonprofits that serve 20,000 Clevelanders (and growing) each year. It is an important component to attract and retain residents—it adds to the overall quality of life that residents are looking for.

We hope you will join us in envisioning and creating, and advocating for a future for our nonprofit collective that embodies these values. Together, we can uphold Cleveland Heights' reputation as "Home of the Arts" by securing the future of our diverse hub, which is dedicated to enriching the lives of our residents and beyond.

Together, we can "Keep the P.E.A.C.E."





#1 Get the facts.

For some community members, a decision like this comes down to only numbers, and for others there is an immeasurable social benefit cost that is of greatest importance. We believe those concepts are not mutually exclusive. What we know is...

Coventry P.E.A.C.E. provides a social impact that benefits the entire city.

The organizations of Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus employ over 60 people and serve nearly 20,000 people each year.

The Coventry P.E.A.C.E. project was—and can be again—financially sustainable, without the need for public dollars.

Our nonprofits host or participate in over 40 FREE events each year, and provide FREE programs, as well.

The Coventry P.E.A.C.E. tenants have a plan to fund necessary repairs to the building without needing public dollars.

Demolition isn't free—not by a long shot. Not to mention, tearing down the building is not an environmentally responsible decision.

For more facts and statistics, please scan the QR code above or go to coventrypeacecampus.org/keepthepeace.

The \$2.8 million figure in needed repairs that the Library cites is misleading.

Not everything listed in that number is a NEEDED repair, and can be rolled out over a duration of years, with the costs also being spread out. AND Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc. has a plan to fund those costs WITHOUT needing public dollars.

Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to maintain, improve, promote, and activate the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Campus as a Arts, Culture & Education Center in the heart of Coventry Village.

- In 2020/2021 (14 months) Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc. was the sole lease holder with the Library, subletting to all of the organizations in the building.
- The Coventry P.E.A.C.E. tenants have always paid rent, even during COVID. In 2022, the Library returned \$40,000 in overpayments, and tenants gave back \$20,000 for future HVAC refurbishment.



#2 Do the survey.

Our landlord – Heights Library – is collecting feedback to help determine the fate of our building. **THE SURVEY CLOSES ON JULY 28th.**

While only residents/businesses in Cleveland Heights and University Heights can complete the full survey, it's important for everyone to participate to the extent possible.

For questions 10, 11, & 12, please select “other” and use the available text box to state your support for our organizations and the Keep The P.E.A.C.E. plan.



#3 Add your name to our list of supporters.

Because the Library's survey is so limited, we're asking you to add your name to our list of supporters. If you own a local business, or are in the leadership of a nonprofit, we ask that you also make an entry for your entity. And please be sure to sign up to receive our emails, too.



#4 Write letters.

Taking the time to write a letter sends a powerful message. It is important for those in leadership to know where you stand on this issue. Let them know you support our organizations and our effort to establish a permanent Arts, Culture and Education Center in the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. building—a win-win solution for all involved. If you own a local business, or are in the leadership of a nonprofit, providing a formal letter of support is of great help.

Scan the QR code above to go to our website where you will find an easy link which will enable you to write one email that will be forwarded to the following:

Heights Library

Vikas Turakhia
Board President
Nancy Levin
Library Director

University Heights

Mayor Brennan
City Council
Michele Weiss
Christopher Cooney
Threse Marshall
Brian J. King
John P. Rach
Sheri Sax
Winifred Weizer

Cleveland Heights

Mayor Seren
City Council
Tony Cuda
Davida Russell
Craig Cobb
Gail Larson
Anthony Mattox, Jr.
Jim Petras

Coventry P.E.A.C.E.

Krista Hawthorne
Board President
Brady Dindia
Board Secretary

If you'd like to send a letter to the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. collaborative only, please send it to info@coventrypeacecampus.org.



#5 Attend the Library's Public Meeting.

Let your voice be heard about the potential closure and demolition of the P.E.A.C.E. Building. The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Library, our landlord, hopes for a turnout similar to their recent Noble Library reopening. Please attend and share your support of our Keep The P.E.A.C.E. effort. *An RSVP is greatly appreciated.*
THE MEETING WILL BE AT THE LEE ROAD LIBRARY AT 7:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 24th.



#6 Come to our P.E.A.C.E. Pops event.

On top of all the amazing events planned for the evening (live music, open studios, open mic, workshops & more), we will also be hosting a Q & A table and offering tours. This all ages event is FREE and open to the public. *An RSVP is greatly appreciated.* **Friday, July 26th from 6-9 pm.**

We improve the community by...

... strengthening neighborhood networks and building bridges across different intergenerational groups, ethnic groups, races, economic levels, religions, and more.

... providing positive outlets for youth, steering them away from risky behaviors, and reducing their time spent on their phones and tablets.

... stimulating the local economy by increasing investment, attracting startup artists and businesses, driving visitors to Cleveland Heights-University Heights, and increasing property value.

Our plan...

- **Secure a long-term lease between Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc. and the property owner.** If the Library does not want to retain ownership of the property, the City of Cleveland Heights should assume ownership to steward this project to success.
- **Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc. will resume management of the property.** This includes:
 - » holding the sub-leases for all organizations in the Campus,
 - » finding and securing new tenants to work toward full occupancy,
 - » financially managing the property,
 - » **securing funding for the needed capital repairs and updates**, and
 - » overseeing all the completion of all needed repairs, maintenance, and updates.
- **Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc. will assume all financial responsibilities and liabilities for the Campus, shielding the property owner from any financial burden.**
- **Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc. and the property owner will negotiate a contracted plan for an eventual transfer of the property to Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc.—including measurable benchmarks to demonstrate to the property owner’s satisfaction our ability to manage the property successfully and actualize the goal of establishing a thriving Arts, Culture & Education Center.**
 - » **When we previously managed the building, we did so financially “in the black.”** Only when the Library took over managing the building and outsourced that management, as well as accrued \$72k in legal fees, did the building start operating “in the red.”

Brief History...

The history of the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. is a testament to community resilience and vision:

Early 1900s: Local family donates land to be used for educational purposes. The original school building was constructed around 1919 and the current structure built in 1976.

1991: PTA forms Coventry P.E.A.C.E., a nonprofit dedicated to creating and maintaining a dream playground for the school.

2007: School closes; citizens appointed by the School Board recommend repurposing the building for local arts and nonprofit organizations.

2010: First tenants move into the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Building; by 2017 the space reaches full occupancy with the addition of ARTFUL in the upper mezzanine.

2017: CH-UH Board of Education announces intention to sell the property for development; community volunteers form a committee to propose the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. project, expanding its mission to include arts, culture, and education.

Late 2017 & 2018: Volunteers and Heights Libraries representatives develop a plan to purchase the property from the School Board, ensuring preservation of the park, playground, and building for community benefit.

March 2018: Heights Libraries acquires the 6+ acre property and building for \$1.

July 2024: The nine original tenants were placed on short-term six month leases and the Library (owner) is now in the process of determining the fate of the building, including possible demolition.

Coventry P.E.A.C.E.

Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc., partners with these organizations to leverage our shared space and enrich the community.

ARTFUL

ARTFUL is a vibrant Cleveland Heights artist community, fostering collaboration and inclusivity through diverse public events and workshops.

Lake Erie Ink

Lake Erie Ink empowers Greater Cleveland youth through creative writing and academic support, offering workshops, in-school programs, and a safe space for all students. They collaborate with schools and libraries to enrich citywide educational opportunities.

FutureHeights

FutureHeights fosters civic engagement and sustainable development, empowering residents through forums, supporting local businesses, offering leadership workshops, and publishing the Heights Observer.

Reaching Heights

Reaching Heights enhances Cleveland Heights–University Heights public schools by mobilizing community support. They promote educational success through tutoring, speakers, camps, and student musical performances, fostering community engagement.

Do Good Day Hub*

Do Good Day Hub is a day “hub” for adults with developmental disabilities that offers engaging, community-focused activities.

**Denotes a new tenant with a lease running through the end of 2025. All other leases expire Dec. 31, 2024.*

Singers’ Club of Cleveland

One of the oldest nonprofits in Cleveland, the Singers’ Club membership reflects a cross-section of the Greater Cleveland area, with men of varied backgrounds, professions, and avocations sharing a love for fine choral music.

DANCECleveland*

DANCECleveland enriches Northeast Ohio with diverse dance experiences, supporting education, new creations, and the vibrancy of modern and contemporary dance for all ages.

Cleveland Heights Teachers Union

The Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, AFT Local 795, advocates for optimal teaching and learning environments through collaboration, political action, and community engagement, championing public education and teachers’ rights since its founding.

Building Bridges Arts Collaborative

Building Bridges Arts Collaborative fosters community engagement and creativity through programs involving diverse participants, including at-risk youth, promoting public art projects across Cleveland.

Grace Communion of Cleveland

Grace Communion Cleveland integrates deeply into the community, supporting P.E.A.C.E. Pops events and hosting gatherings like Kidz Blast Day with activities and free hot dogs.

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