

THE REAL DEAL
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PRESS

All ACES for Area High Schoolers

Extracurricular energies of Cleveland, Warrensville students culminate in dazzling designs



Area students presented their ACE projects before mentors and peers on April 24 and April 30, 2019 at Cuyahoga Community College's Jerry Sue Thornton Center.

By R. T. Andrews
EDITOR

It truly does take a community to raise children. Watching a dozen or so high school teams in competition on two recent late afternoon programs last month drove home the point emphatically.

The competition was not on fields or courts. It was in the imagination and spirit of the more than 150 students who participated this past year in Cleveland's ACE mentorship program, an effort to introduce high school students to the worlds of architecture, construction, and engineering.

Students, their mentors, families, and friends, gathered on two days last month to share

and discuss their solutions to some of our area's infrastructure challenges. Several high school teams accepted the challenge to move pedestrians safely over the downtown shoreway to connect downtown to the Science Museum, Rock Hall and First Energy Stadium. Their ideas were spectacular as they combined aesthetics, energy conservation and renewal, efficiencies, safety concerns, and various other practicalities. Their models were, in short, anything but pedestrian.

Some audience members were undoubtedly taken back to their own childhoods filled with [Legos](#) and building blocks, or, perhaps if of a certain age, [erector sets](#) and [tinker toys](#).

But these presentations

were far more sophisticated, embracing expansive modern designs, scale models, computer renderings, animation, and much more.

Each team, as a part of its project, had to address issues of site prep, scheduling, and cost estimating. One student drew real world laughs when he suggested that a particular task "would not cost not that much", while pegging the expense at a mere \$98 million.

There were a number of fascinating takeaways from the presentations. One was the chance to see the city through the eyes of its young. The team from New Tech East, for example, said that Cleveland needed the shoreway bridge "to stay relevant."

Another was how, despite the prevailing one-dimensional racialized frame of much public discourse, city schools remain a crucial intercultural space. One hundred years ago, the voices of students would have reflected an abundance of middle and eastern European accents. Today, the symphony of accents is infused with a mix of Caribbean, Central and South American accents.

And of course, the student mix is thoroughly integrated in terms of gender, with more hairstyles than even Vidal Sassoon could imagine.

Not to be overlooked is the squadron of volunteers that undergird the ACE mentorship program. These include the

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All ACES for Area High Schoolers

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students' teachers and scores of working professionals in architecture, engineering, and construction. They were present as cheerleaders, coaches, and reactor panel members for student feedback.

Behind the scenes is [a larger set of supporters](#) who mentor the students one-on-one, provide exposure to career pathways, and who have helped to raise the nearly one million

dollars that as of this year has been given to program alumni to support their collegiate ambitions.

Local participating high schools include Cleveland's Collinwood, Ginn Academy, James F. Rhodes, John Hay, John Marshall, Max Hayes, New Tech East, New Tech West, High Tech, and Lincoln West, along with first ring suburban Warrensville

Heights.

Warrensville has enjoyed special success in this program, and this year will be joined by New Tech East in the [final presentation and scholarship award night on May 9](#).

End note: a few days after the presentations, [the architect Bob Madison shared episodes and perspectives from his life at the City Club Friday Forum](#).

Madison, now 95, was Ohio's first licensed African American architect, and founded the state's first black architectural firm in Ohio in 1954. Among other reminiscences, he shared the wonderful classic education he received at East Tech HS at the onset of WW II. The company he founded still operates in town today and is one of the state's oldest professional services firms.



Case Western Reserve University 2019 Diversity Award winners pictured last month with CWRU senior leaders include Heather Burton, PhD; Erin Phelps; Shemariah Arki, EdD; Vice President for Student Affairs Lou Stark; Margot James Copeland; University President Barbara R. Snyder; Victor Ruiz; Vice President for Inclusion, Diversity and Equal Opportunity Marilyn S. Mobley, PhD; Ibtesam Ghazy; and Emily Pentzer, PhD.



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MEDIA WATCH

Tuesday, May 7, 7:30a [5 min.] • *Real Deal Press* editor R. T. Andrews debuts on WOJU 95.9/ FM, offering quick takes on the latest news. Mobile livestream available [here](#).

Fri. May 10, 11a • "We The People" WKYC-TV. Host Tiffany Tarpley with guest Tonya Perkins, founder of Bessie's Place, which provides services and housing for young women who have aged out of foster care.

Sat. May 11, 1-2p • "It's About Justice". Host Meryl Johnson, state board of education member. Hon. Marcia Fudge, guest. WRU-W/91.1FM. Livestream www.wruw.org

This Week in Politics

Lead update, Gerrymandering, Parole Board

By R. T. Andrews
EDITOR

LEAD SAFE COALITION SUBMITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL

The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition, a cluster of nonprofits, health care providers and philanthropic groups bearing the imprimatur of the city's civic establishment, has submitted to Cleveland City Council a set of 33 policy recommendations intended to make the city's rental housing "lead-safe", that is, free from *hazardous* levels of lead.

Council's safety committee, chaired by Blaine Griffin, D-6, is expected to begin considering the proposals immediately, with a view towards passing legislation by June 30.

Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing [CLASH] presented a set of recommendations to council earlier this year, along with a proposed ordinance supported by thousands of citizens, that legislators set aside to await the Coalition's work.

Council members are now under both moral and political pressure to come up with a workable resolution to a critical problem and to find a way to fund their solution.

They can expect to be challenged by CLASH in court and at the ballot box if they fail to do so.

FEDERAL COURTS STRIKE DOWN OHIO'S GERRYMANDERED MAPS

Friday, three federal judges in Cincinnati ruled unanimously that Ohio's congressional maps are unconstitutional. Predictably, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost issued a statement lamenting the decision and vowing an appeal.

"Ohioans already voted to reform how we draw our congressional maps. This protracted opinion takes that decision out of the hands of the people and is a fundamentally political act that has no basis whatsoever in the Constitution," said Yost in a statement released by his office.

The [301-page opinion](#) is in line with a similar ruling issued by a three-judge federal court in Michigan a week earlier, ruling that Michigan's congressional and legislative maps were unconstitutionally gerrymandered.

In Ohio, Republicans get just over the half the vote but allocate it in a way that gives them 75% of the state's 16 congressional seats.

The court set a June 14, 2019 for state lawmakers to submit a new plan or risk having the court impose a new map in time for the 2020 elections. The vote that Yost referred to would not be implemented until 2022.

The U.S. Supreme Court may render a decision by June 30 on gerrymandering cases from North Carolina and Maryland that may affect the applicability of the decision in *A. Phillip Randolph Institute vs. Husted*.

PAROLE BOARD REFORM, NEW PAROLE BOARD MEMBERS

Gov. DeWine and Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) Director Annette Chambers-Smith announced a series of reforms surrounding the operation of the Ohio Parole Board, including the appointment of three new board members. The reforms follow a comprehensive review of the board's operations, efficiency, transparency, and commitment to victim rights.

Chambers-Smith appointed the
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Lead update, Gerrymandering, Parole Board

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following three board members to six-year terms:

• **Glenn Holmes** of Girard (Trumbull County): Former state representative for Ohio's 63rd district and former mayor and council president of McDonald, Ohio.

• **Lisa Hoying** of Lewisburg (Preble County): Current assistant Clark County prosecuting attorney, with previous experience in the appellate and civil

divisions. She is also a member of the Preble County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

• **Steven Herron** of Vermilion (Erie/Lorain counties): Current assistant state public defender for the Ohio Public Defender Commission and City of Vermilion council president. He holds a bachelors degree in clinical psychology and has practiced extensively in front of

the parole board.

Director Chambers-Smith is seeking to fill a fourth Ohio Parole Board position with a candidate who has a background in mental health or addiction counseling.

Additional reforms focus around increasing transparency and efficiency surrounding the parole board process; improving victim services; and helping parolees successfully reintegrate back into society.

THE REAL DEAL PRESS

Reporting on the interplay of race, class and power in the civic, business and cultural spaces of Northeast Ohio and beyond.

Our mission is to attract, articulate and amplify civic intelligence and community engagement for a healthier, stronger community.

We welcome letters to the editor. Please include your name, address, and best phone number. [Address and phone will not be published.] We may edit for clarity and space.

Submit letters, press releases, notices, calendar items, and corrections via email at rta@TheRealDealPress.com or fax 216.672.4304.

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LifeCycles



APPOINTED:

Timothy J. Cosgrove

of Kirtland (Lake Co) has been appointed to the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees for a term ending May 1, 2028. The Collinwood area native holds bachelor's and law degrees from CSU. He is a partner at Squire Patton Boggs.



HIRE:

James Pasch

attorney and Beachwood city councilman, to regional director, Cleveland Anti-Defamation League.

QUOTE of the Week
"Without faith,
nothing is possible.
With it, nothing is
impossible."

— Mary McLeod Bethune
[She founded the Daytona Normal and Industrial School for girls in 1904 with \$1.50. It became Bethune Cookman University.]

Community Calendar

Friday, May 17 • 11:30a-1p. The Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center (DVCAC) will hold its 25th Annual Break the Cycle Luncheon at Windows on the River, 2000 Sycamore St. [44113].

Tony Porter will be keynote speaker. Jejuana C. Brown and the South Euclid Police Department will be honored. Tickets are \$100. [Visit here](#) for tickets or more information.

Sunday, May 19 • 2p-5p. The Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation will salute founders Art Baker, Thaya Allmond [deceased], & Nancella Wilson, along with community leaders, Hon. Ronald Adrine, Marsha Mockabee, Campy Russell, & Yvonne Pointer at its annual Lifetime Achievement luncheon

The event will take place at The Venue at Stonewater, 1 Club Drive, Highland Hts. [44143].

Tickets are \$60. For more information, visit www.bpacf.org.

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Sunday

Budding Entrepreneurs Pitch Business Pros in Y.O.U.'s Entrepreneur of the Year Competition



Top: 2019 E CITY participants. Bottom, L-R: Competition winners Ghala Alkhalidy, Lincoln-West HS; Jefferson Adjetey, Shaw HS; Heidy Valenzuela, John Marshall HS; Samantha Doeing, Thomas W. Harvey HS; and Alexis Ervin, Horizon Science Academy.

Twenty-one high school student entrepreneurs from Glenville, Horizon Science Academy, Lincoln-West, John Adams, John F. Kennedy, John Marshall, Shaw and Thomas W. Harvey went head to head Friday, and pitched their business ideas to Northeast Ohio's business professionals as they competed for the title of "Northeast Ohio Young Entrepreneur of the Year."

The students who participate in the competition are all enrolled in [Youth Opportunities Unlimited's](#) E CITY class, at their high schools. The class teaches entrepreneurial thinking using the award-winning Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) curriculum. E CITY stands for Entrepreneur-

ship: Connecting, Inspiring & Teaching Youth.

As part of their course, student entrepreneurs learned about entrepreneurship and developed business ideas and business plans — with guidance from their Y.O.U. Career Coaches and business mentors from the community — during the school year. In April, they competed against each other at their respective high schools. Volunteer judges from each community selected the top entrepreneurs to advance to Friday's semifinal and final rounds.

Samantha Doeing of Thomas W. Harvey HS won first prize for her project, "Cordi"; she will receive \$1,000 to help fund his or her business idea. She will

also be recognized at the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Gala this summer.

Second place went to Heidy Valenzuela, John Marshall High School; she will receive \$500; Shaw HS's Jefferson Adjetey will receive \$250 for his third-place finish. \$250.

Alexis Ervin of Horizon Science Academy and Ghala Alkhalidy of Lincoln-West High School tied for fourth place and will split the \$100 prize.

Twenty-one students competed in the semifinals.

Serving as judges in this year's competition were Dionna Appling, owner of B.A. PRO, Inc.; Theo Fielding, an IT data analysis manager at Progressive, and Gene Williams, a talent recruiter for Ernst & Young.

E CITY is a Y.O.U. in-school program designed to help teens develop an entrepreneurial mindset and acquire financial capabilities by learning how to create business plans and conduct market research using the award-winning Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) curriculum. It also works to help them build positive attitudes, recognize opportunities, and create solutions to problems.

Founded in 1982 Y.O.U. is a nonprofit, workforce-development organization in Cleveland that serves teens and young adults, ages 14 to 24. The agency has helped more than 150,000 teens and young adults find work or internships since its founding in 1982.

Looking Around America

Navigating through the Chaos

By Marilyn Dyson
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



We will never know our impact on the world. If we're lucky, we may have some idea of the immediate results our actions have on a person or an organization. Basically, we use our talents to take actions to accomplish our goals; then, along with science and a strong faith we hope for the best outcomes.

I formed this perspective from the tenets of Chaos Theory. Non-scientists use the butterfly metaphor to explain the concept simply: "A butterfly flaps its wings one continent and months later a tornado happens on another continent." This statement oversimplifies the complex series of events and the myriad of steps between a single action and a large scale event that takes place later. It also illustrates the necessity for believing that any one of our smallest actions has a significant impact.

For me, Bill Traylor perfectly exemplifies having a major impact by doing one's best. Recognized as one of the most important artists of twentieth century America, his work has not only been displayed regionally in Atlanta, Georgia and Montgomery, Alabama; it has also been exhibited at the [American Folk Art Museum](#) and just last year at the [Smithsonian Institute](#).

Bill Traylor was born a slave in 1853 and freed at age 10. He and his family remained on a plantation as sharecroppers for the next 40 years. While there, Mr. Traylor had two wives and 13 children. After the owners sold the land, the family scattered. Eventually Mr. Traylor moved to Montgomery, where he rented a small shack and supported himself with odd jobs.

To connect Mr. Traylor with Chaos Theory, consider the many events and actions in his life. He lived through the Civil War, Reconstruction and the Great Migration. Each event and its result had a "butterfly moment." Each decision (stay or move, marry or separate, farm or take a job) required that he have a level of faith to believe he was doing what would benefit himself and his family.

At 83, when his health prevented him from working, his whirlwinds began to form and start his tornado. Mr. Traylor was homeless. He spent his nights sleeping in the back of the Ross-Clayton Funeral Home. During the day, he sat on Monroe Street creating pencil drawings of his life and his neighborhood.

Another Montgomery artist, Charles Shannon noticed Mr. Traylor's drawing and decided to sponsor him not only by providing art supplies but also by intro-

ducing him to the art world. Eventually, Mr. Traylor's art debuted in New York galleries, though he received no monetary benefit from these efforts.

After attempting to live with his children in northern cities, Mr. Traylor returned to Montgomery, all the while continuing to create his pictures. As his health deteriorated, he moved in with a daughter. He died in 1949 leaving behind over 1,200 drawings.

Mr. Traylor clearly faced innumerable difficult situations and many uncaptured "butterfly moments" during his 96 years that combined to create whirlwinds small and large. But his tornado formed in the 1970s when his work received major recognition. Art critics recognized that Bill Traylor's folk art reflects a century of African American history from the Civil War through Reconstruction into Jim Crow segregation and past the Great Migration reaching into the 1940's African American urban culture.

Now, in 2019, Bill Traylor has not finished making an impact. He is still showing us and future generations not only his artistic skills but also his perseverance in doing his best under harsher conditions than some of us can probably imagine.

Bill Traylor is just one person who is making ongoing contributions to the world. He is demonstrating that we



can create whirlwinds and tornados that can impact people for decades if not centuries.

Marilyn Dyson is a career coach. Born and raised in Washington, DC, she now lives and works in Philadelphia, PA.

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