

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8, No. 1, Spring 2025, Section A

CAF Events Calendar

The Cleveland Architecture Foundation continues its Lecture Series into 2025 with speakers and content that continues our strong tradition. Lectures are held in the Union Club of Cleveland at 1211 Euclid Avenue. Admission is \$20.

Registration opens at 5:30 pm, followed by light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar with the programs beginning at 6:00 pm. Our Union Club programs are jointly sponsored by the Ohio & Lake Erie Chapter of the Institute for Classical Art and Architecture.

The second lecture previously planned by Prof. Mark Souther has been postponed indefinitely due to Prof. Souther's congested schedule. We hope to include Mark in our 2026 Lecture series.

The lecture previous planned for **Prof. Steven W. Semes** has been postponed to September. Prof. Semes who lives in Rome half the year to fulfill his academic obligations there fell in the Rome

Continued Next Page

Below: Prof. Steven Semes



CLE. vs. COL. Scorecard:

Columbus Has Been Kicking Cleveland's Butt for at Least Two Decades. Why and Who is Doing Anything About It?

Columbus has been kicking Cleveland's butt for quite a while now.

Columbus now has a population of over 900,000 people, is the 14th largest city in the US and is now the fastest growing city in the country. Thanks to The Ohio State University, a stable state government, Les Wexner and his Limited, Victoria's Secret and Bath & Body Works stores, the Big Lots chain, the city's hospitals and Wendy's restaurants - the Columbus metropolitan area grew by 500,000 people from 1.14 million people in 2000 to 1.64 million in 2020.

Columbus has no real mass transit, not that Cleveland's Regional RTA and its \$350 million annual budget serves that many of its residents. Columbus has no Amtrak, not that the two trains that run through Cleveland's lakefront at 3:00 am and whenever mean that much to the 100 or so people a year who use it. Columbus has newer neighborhoods and they do not have the character that Cleveland's do - Lakewood, Little Italy, Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights.

Cleveland's GDP is \$148B while the Columbus GDP is \$155B.

Cleveland's cultural assets are superior in number and quality to those of Columbus thanks to Cleveland's great industrialists of the last century. The Cleveland Orchestra is one of the top four symphonies in the world. The Cleveland Museum of Art makes the Columbus Art Museum look like a high school senior show. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History's expansion is strong, though the exhibit designs are a disappointment. The Columbus Zoo is a much better experience than the Cleveland Zoo.

Continued Next Page

Contents

Section A:

CAF Events Calendar	1-2
CLE. vs. COL. Scorecard	1-11
Preservation Leadership in Buffalo	11
Sherwin-Willims HQ Problems	12 - 13
Too Many Glass Skyscrapers	14 - 16
Consent Decree's 10th Anniversary	17
Trump Tries to Dictate Design	17 - 22
Meritocracy After DEI?	22 - 24
Cinainnati's Green Leadership	25
Spotlight: Fairview Park High School	25
FLW in Oberlin to Close for Repairs	26
Spotlight: Wellington Town Hall	26

Section B:

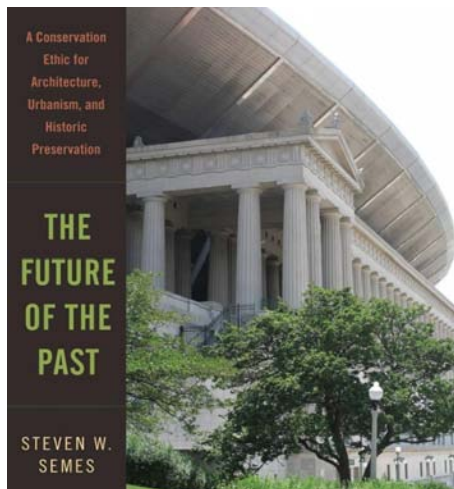
Bye to St. Vincent Charity Hospital	27 - 28
U.C.C. HQ Renovation Underway	28
Calvary New Life Presbyterian	28 - 29
Epworth United Methodist For Sale	29
CLE Clinic to Demo Franchester	30 - 32
Browns' Fight in Brook Park Continues	33 - 51

Section C:

Hopkins Design Must Start Over	52 - 58
Who is CAF?	59
The Return of Erieview	59 - 63
Marquee Cedar-Lee Apartments Destroyed	64
Cass Gilbert at Oberlin College	64 - 66
Browns Plan B Is Not the Latest	67 - 72
Larkin Trashes GCP	73
Haslam's Facebook Flop	74
West Side Market Renovation Underway	75 - 77

CAF Events Calendar, Cont'd:

CLE. vs. COL., cont'd:



Above: Prof. Semes latest book, *The Future of the Past*

subway recently and broke his shoulder. Semes is back in the US but has asked to catch up with his teaching obligations at Notre Dame.

As soon as we have a September date that works for everyone, we will announce it.

Prof. Semes was a practicing architect for over 30 years before joining the Notre Dame faculty in 2005. The author of two books and numerous articles, Professor Semes is interested in the recovery of the classical language of architecture and the impact that this recovery has on changing approaches to the conservation and interpretation of cultural heritage sites. **His current research in this area focuses on the issue of defining appropriate new architecture in historic settings.**

Prof. Semes served as Academic Director of the Rome Studies Program from 2008-2011, and continues to divide his time between the Notre Dame campus and the Rome Global Gateway. His research there has focused on the architects of the inter-war period in Rome who continued the classical tradition in architecture and urbanism.

He is the author of *The Future of the Past: A Conservation Ethic for Architecture, Urbanism, and Historic Preservation* (2009), *The Architecture of the Classical Interior* (2004), and was a contributor to the republication of Georges Gromort's *The Elements of Classical Architecture*, all published by W. W. Norton & Co,

His articles have appeared in *The New Criterion*, *National Trust Forum Journal*, *American Arts Quarterly*, and *Traditional Building*, among other publications. Professor Semes received a BS in Architecture from the University of Virginia (1975), and a MArch from Columbia University (1980).

Cleveland has nothing like Short North/ North High Street with its non-chain retail, terrific restaurants and decent new multi-family developments. In general, the design of new multi-family developments in Columbus are B+ or better while those in Cleveland are primarily C- or worse. Cleveland's developers and architects are very far behind in matching the nation's new standards in multi-family design.

But then, Cleveland's design culture has been falling for decades while the design culture of Columbus has been ascending for decades. Of the 96 accredited architectural schools in the country, Ohio State's Knowlton School ranks 29th, while Kent State's is ranked 61st.

Cleveland's food scene is OK – C+/B-? - though it has lost a number of star locations and players in the last 10 years. Jonathon Sawyer is out and Michael Symon is down to Mabel's. Thank heavens Doug Katz keeps chipping away with his quirky small initiatives. Some rightly argue that thanks to Cameron Mitchell, the quality and depth of the food scene in Columbus now is obviously superior to that of Cleveland. Mitchell started in 1993 in a Columbus storefront and now has over 100 restaurants all over the US, with 25 outstanding offerings in Columbus alone.

When people graduate from college in Cleveland, most leave. Not so in Columbus. One of the reasons Columbus continues to grow is that people come from out of town and out of state to attend The Ohio State University, whose enrollment is 66,444. Enrollment at Cleveland State is down to 14,000, where a GPA of 2.75 gets you in. If you have a GPA under 3.5, you will not see the OSU main campus unless you start at a branch and try and transfer in after two years.

CSU has an acceptance rate of 94%. At OSU, it's 53% even though it is a land grant college, so if you live in Ohio, they HAVE to take you. You just don't get to the main campus unless you qualify academically or athletically.

The other big magnet for Columbus is the hospitals. The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, Ohio Health Riverside Methodist Hospital and Nationwide Children's Hospital currently have over 1250 jobs available. So people come to Columbus to attend college or perform an internship or residency at one of the hospitals. They make friends. They find decent housing in a variety of decent neighborhoods, even those close to the city center. They find a city that is not geographically constrained with decent highways that are better maintained than those in Cleveland.

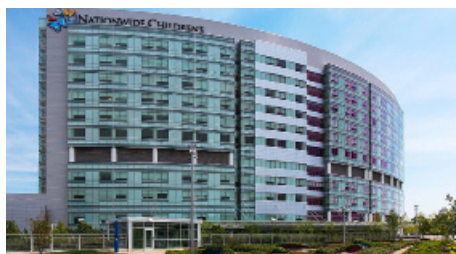
They find Saks, Nordstrom and Ikea and they find non-chain retail on North High Street. They find walkable neighborhoods, low crime and they stay. **Columbus is the only city in the US where the**



Above: Columbus Short North District
Below: Cameron Mitchell's Guild House Restaurant



Above: OSU Wexner Medical Center 27-Story Tower Expansion
Below: Nationwide Children's Hospital New Expansion
Bottom: The Ohio State University NCAA Football Champs-2025



CLE. vs. COL., cont'd:

population is increasing in EVERY age bracket.

That is because the old folks want to live near the grandchildren, even if they got a place in the Outer Banks or Ft. Myers when they retired.

In the words of one transplant, "Born in Cleveland. Came to Columbus for education. Stayed for employment. You may argue that success is boring, but I am one of many thousands of former NE Ohioans who found a better life here in the world's largest college town. If you doubt me, I invite you to join us in the annual bumper-to-bumper ride north up I-71 on Thanksgiving Day. I love Cleveland, but it's zenith was during the last century. Columbus is ascending and I choose to ride that crest."

Cleveland has still not figured out how to transition effectively through disindustrialization although Pittsburgh - 160 miles away - has been showing us the way for decades - and decades.

Cleveland's 'leaders' are still as a strategy talking about trying to re-ignite their industrial base.

Columbus has the advantage of having enjoyed a more stable economy for decades as the state capital, the home of major insurance companies, Ohio State University and their hospitals. So when the financial crisis of 2008 and the pandemic occurred, Columbus was far better insulated.

Columbus suburbs are not ethnically diverse. That is good and bad. One Columbus resident offers, "Yes, Columbus doesn't have a bunch of ethnically diverse shitty suburbs. Sorry, you aren't selling anyone on Parma bro. In the past 10 years all the suburbs have been reinvesting in festivals and their town squares. Westerville, Worthington, Dublin, Hilliard, UA, Grove City, Gahanna, New Albany, Bexley all have fun centers with good food and bars."

Cleveland has the Emerald Necklace park system, which is a wonderful asset. Columbus has a fine park system also. Cleveland has the Guardians, the Cavaliers and the Browns. Columbus has NHL Hockey with the Blue Jackets, Ohio State's National Champion football program, the Columbus Crew MLS team, The Columbus Clippers, the Guardians' minor league team, the Columbus Wizards basketball team, and the Columbus Fury professional volleyball team. So if sports is important, Columbus does not disappoint with a strong and more diverse quiver of offerings.

The Columbus Convention Center has 1.8 million square feet of space in its convention center complex with 1,778 parking spaces in the immediate vicinity. Cleveland's Huntington Convention Center is 410,000 square feet, the same size of the one we tore down to build the new one, and after wiping out the 500 underground parking spaces with our old one, **our new convention center has zero parking**



Above: Cleveland's Deindustrialization
Below: Westerville, OH



Above: Columbus 1.8 Million SF Convention Center
Below: Crain's Cleveland Business 10-24-24 Headline

CRAIN'S CLEVELAND BUSINESS



spaces. Columbus is in the major leagues for convention trade and after spending \$850 million, **Cleveland failed and is still AA.**

The cost of living in Cleveland is 8.7% lower than Columbus, largely because the cost of housing in Columbus - due to greater demand and limited supply! - is higher than in Cleveland.

Cleveland has the Rock-N-Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, though it only draws 500k-600k annually. Ohio State draws 105,000 to every OSU football game. Cleveland has a good live music scene (B+) while Columbus has a B- scene. A monthly transit pass in Columbus is \$63.50. In Cleveland, it is \$95.

While both cities claim outrageous visitor counts, Cleveland claims 18.2 million in 2023 while Columbus claims 51.2 million annual visitors.

The population of Columbus grew by 15.1% in the last 10 years to 905k. And the two counties just outside Franklin County grew by 23%. Cincinnati's grew by 4.2% in that period. **Cleveland's went down 6.1% in the last 10 years to 372k.**

While all three metro areas have grown over the past 50 years, the city limits of Cincinnati and Cleveland are constrained by suburbs so they cannot grow. Their urban cores have lost population, as have urban cores everywhere, without the ability to expand with new growth. Columbus is different.

Columbus owns the water company for its area and refuses to allow anyone to connect to the water system unless they are in an incorporated area, either by annexation into Columbus or into one of the existing suburbs that have an existing arrangement with Columbus. So the suburbs pay more for water, thus helping to support the urban amenities they use while suburbanites in the other major cities in Ohio get to use the cities' infrastructure without paying for it. The benefit for the suburbs is that the central city is able to properly fund services so there is not a derelict urban core.

The unemployment rate in Columbus is 6% vs. 7.3% in Cleveland. Columbus boasts a diversified economy that has been producing impressive growth in recent years. The city is a hub for major industries like healthcare, education, technology, and insurance, providing a wide range of job opportunities. The presence of major employers like Ohio State University, Nationwide Insurance, and Battelle Memorial Institute further strengthens the Columbus job market. With a low unemployment rate and a positive economic outlook, Columbus offers a stable and promising environment for job seekers, even before the Intel and other microchip and EV battery initiatives.

Continued Next Page

Cleveland is home to the Cleveland Clinic and Sherwin-Williams. In 2022, Intel announced it was building two giant semiconductor factories in the Columbus area, pumping **\$20 billion** in to the economy. The first of a possible eight Ohio Intel factories, the development represents “a new epicenter for advanced chipmaking in the U.S.”

Columbus has a vibrant and effective public and private collaborative environment that fosters economic development. And it is not just Intel. **Cleveland does not and as a result is dead last in the country in job creation** – and has been for years, and apparently none of the people being paid to address it have a clue.

Cleveland has zero effective leadership in its public, NGO and private sectors. Its chamber of commerce is a joke - they only do meaningless slogans - as is the Cleveland Foundation who continues to give out only 3% - 4% its assets a year – not counting what they spend on themselves - while the 17 other similar institutions in the country give out an average of 11% annually and are making impacts in ways the CF never will. And those other cities do not have the flagrant and urgent needs that Cleveland has.

NGOs do not work together in Cleveland.
Regionalism is a dirty word that goes unspoken in Cleveland. Not in Columbus.

Central Ohio's trajectory has grown rapidly from a region with a mid-sized state capital city, Columbus, surrounded by farm counties. After World War II, Columbus began to attract branches of national companies, growing alongside the Ohio State University, which was then ballooning with baby boomers from across the state.

The process by which Intel chose Central Ohio illustrates the strength of Columbus and just how far behind and out of touch Cleveland is. **Greater Columbus won Intel because of collaboration and its preparedness.** But it got a tremendous assist from a suburban Cleveland councilwoman.

How Central Ohio Got Noticed by Intel

Mary Springowski, a Lorain councilwoman in 2021 wrote to a number of chip maker CEO's: “I'm writing this to share with you the reasons that Lorain, Ohio, needs to be considered as the ideal place to manufacture semi-conductor chips necessary for automobile production.” The part-time councilwoman's full-time job was as an autoworker at the Ford engine plant in Brook Park, where she had seen the impact of the shortage of chips first hand.



Above: Intel Chip Manufacturing Rendering for New Albany, OH
Below: Intel's New Albany, OH Plant Under Construction
Bottom: Mary Springowski, Lorain Councilwoman



She listed 13 reasons why Lorain should win a chip plant, including easy access to a transportation system that included railroads, highways and shipping on the St. Lawrence Seaway, and “a city council and Port Authority that will go out of their way to bring this to Lorain and do what is necessary to be of assistance to the venture.” Notice that she made that claim about Lorain, not Cleveland. Working in suburban Cleveland, she knew the difference between the two.

She got a response. Intel was at the tail end of its search for a site and had not considered **any** locations in Ohio. The only problem was that the company was then in a hurry and wanted a quick look at what her community, Northeast Ohio, could offer. Springowski got her city's economic development team involved as well as Team NEO, the regional economic development nonprofit, and its deep-pocket state partner, JobsOhio. While closing any deal this big would require significant in-state financing, JobsOhio's practice was that it kept hands off the work of its regional partners until it was invited to the table.

Bill Koehler, Cleveland's former Team NEO CEO, connected with an Intel executive. “They said, ‘Yes, we're doing a process,’” he was told. “‘Ohio's not on the list, but if you can give us any kind of confidence that you have somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,200 acres with all these different specs, we'll listen. But we need it in three days.’”

After spending a day and a half looking for sites, Koehler said, JobsOhio asked if Northeast Ohio had a site. “And we said, **‘You know, based on what we're looking at, we probably don't.’**”

Despite the same problem NEOH faced with Amazon's HQ2 search in 2018, Cleveland was still unprepared for a similar question three years later. “And JobsOhio said, ‘Well, if you don't, Columbus might,’” Koehler recalled.

So JobsOhio found Intel 1,000 acres in Licking County - land that was flat - something that can be hard to find in Northeast Ohio - and, because making semiconductor chips is delicate work, that land was far enough away from rail lines and freeway interchanges to be vibration-free.

Construction is now underway for a factory that will bring Central Ohio at least 3,000 permanent jobs expected to pay an average wage of \$135,000 a year, in addition to 7,000 construction jobs. Instead of continual taxpayer give-aways to sports teams in Cleveland, JobsOhio committed \$150 million in aid to Intel over time, including a \$25 million grant to Intel for workforce development. Intel's Ohio site is also in the running for some of the subsidies available from the \$52 billion federal CHIPS, or Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors in America.

Out of the Greater Columbus Intel deal, 150 suppliers from 38 Ohio counties will likely be suppliers to the new facilities. In addition, Intel is creating the Ohio Semiconductor Education and Research Program, a \$50 million fund that will help educate and train students at colleges and universities across the state – including Case Western Reserve, Cleveland State, Kent State universities and Cuyahoga and Lorain County

community colleges – in technology skills that support semiconductor fabrication and equipment operations.

At last the NEOH higher education institutions will be brought into the current technology context of the world, *not by the leaders of our academic institutions* but by a manufacturer who is committed to its own workforce development.

If all that is not enough good news for Columbus, in mid-March, Amazon announced that they are going to construct two 500,000 sf data centers in Marysville that would mean another one billion dollars investment in the region's economy.

Columbus has two advantages that Cleveland does not. "State capitals over the last several decades have grown faster than other cities and that's for a lot of reasons," said Ben Armstrong, executive director of the Industrial Performance Center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Armstrong researches how workers, firms and regions adapt to technological change.

"Columbus being a state capital with a lot of government service deployment has a lower share of manufacturing historically and is naturally more diverse and able to be more resilient in the face of economic changes," he said. "And I think part of it is that these state capitals also typically have large public universities."

Different Pasts, Different Futures

Armstrong observed that because of its historic industrial economy, the Cleveland area has been following a different path. "Another approach is to take what a region is really strong at and then deepen its strength in those industries and a place like Cleveland has historically had strong manufacturing," Armstrong said. **"And the idea of economic development strategy in Cleveland for a long time was to take those strengths and bring them into the 21st century, and that didn't work."** But Cleveland's 'leaders' still have not grasped that.

In a report for the Carnegie Institute for International Peace, a Washington, D.C., think tank, Edward Hill, a professor of economic development at Ohio State University and a former dean of the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University, and Fran Stewart, a writer and senior fellow at the Ohio Manufacturing Institute, interviewed political and business leaders in Central and Northeast Ohio as well as the four other sectors across the state, and highlighted

some of the stark differences between the two regions.

Though the report focused on foreign policy and international trade, they noted that the Cleveland region has seen a lot of businesses leave or fail, particularly in manufacturing industries paying high wages, with many of those replacing them not paying nearly as well. "Is there anything that will be the mass employer and the gateway to the middle class that manufacturing once was?" a political observer told them. "I don't see it."

On the other hand, the report says, **Columbus is prospering as it attracts "young, educated talent and global investors to a modern, diversified twenty-first-century economy."**

Cleveland needs to ask itself, **"What kind of place do we realistically want to be where people who have a choice want to live?"** The answers are to be a moral city, a city of justice, with relevant climate strategies and a green infrastructure, affordable housing, a manageable cost of government with social cohesion and economic development. **We need to be a city with superior education and R+D – and not just at Case Western Reserve or John Carroll.**

We need CSU to be a powerhouse and at present, it is a D. We need to be a city with a sense of solidarity. The arts and sports can help with that to create a sense of a healthy community. We need leadership in **all** sectors and we need to use all relevant tools to create good jobs. And lots of them.

We are very far behind Columbus and Pittsburgh in IT and technology while we give all of our taxpayer money to sports teams and their facilities. Only when we get our act together on all of these fronts will Cleveland experience growth.

A Plan for Growth in Columbus:

To help Northeast Ohio grow, civic and economic development organizations in the region are, without admitting it directly, looking at Central Ohio strategies it can emulate. They hope to put the Northeast Ohio region on the same kind of upward arc that Columbus and Central Ohio are on, knowing it will not be easy because of the dramatic differences between the geographies and politics of the two regions.

Central Ohio did not grow out of an industrial base like the economies of Northeast Ohio. That is because Northeast Ohio is built around a handful of significant metropolitan areas that have grown up, and grown their economies on their own. Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Lorain and Youngstown-Warren each have their own very independent histories, though their economies all



Above: New Intel Albany Campus Conceptual Aerial Rendering
Below: Intel's New Albany Fabrication Plant Under Construction
Third: Intel New Albany Plant Aerial
Bottom: Typical Intel Fabrication Plant



focus on oil refining, steel making, automotive supplies and manufacturing, paints and chemicals.

So, too, does nearby Wayne County, home to the J.M. Smucker Co., and Lake County, which has a strong manufacturing base led by the Lubrizol Corp., a \$ 6.7 billion business with 2,000 employees in the county that has been there since 1931. With Lake Erie to the north, the NEOH region has never had a single, central city.

By contrast, in Central Ohio the outlying

Continued Next Page

communities, places like Licking County and Marysville, where Honda now makes cars, were largely agricultural. They have grown in concentric rings around Columbus, said Mark Barbash, director of the Ohio Economic Development Institute of the Ohio Economic Development Association. "So you're not dealing with the competing interests that you that you get into when you have multiple metropolitan areas," he said. Barbash is a former chief development officer of the State of Ohio and director of development for Columbus.

To change Northeast Ohio's trajectory, a number of civic and economic development organizations are going through the motions to attract new businesses and expand existing ones to turn Northeast Ohio around. But they continue to focus on manufacturing, denying Cleveland's own disindustrialization and the elements of today's economies that actually do attract employers.

Lessons for NEOH Repeated in Syracuse:

Syracuse also beat out NEOH for a massive chip industry investment because Syracuse had arrows in its quiver that NEOH did not.

Land, water, reliable power and educational institutional focus and support were key assets that Cleveland could not and cannot provide.

Semiconductor manufacturer Micron announced its interest to invest \$100 billion to construct a complex of computer chip plants in a massive private investment. The US government put \$6 billion on the table. Over 20 years, **9,000 jobs are anticipated** along with many more supply chain jobs.

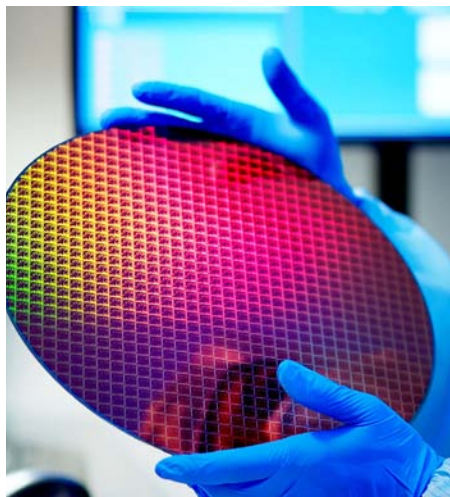
Micron plans to build up to four separate semiconductor fabrication plants in phases at the 1,300-acre site off Route 31, ten miles from Syracuse. The first project would employ 3,000 people in one \$20 billion "mega-fab" that will begin production in the latter half of the decade. The fabs, or foundries, are plants where silicon wafers are turned into integrated circuits, the tiny chips that power personal computers, cell phones and other electronic devices. Micron said the local employees would be paid an average salary of more than \$100,000 per year.

The company's plans call for building a massive 7.2 million-square-foot complex that will include the nation's largest clean-room space. The clean-room facilities alone would cover about 2.4 million square feet, about the size of 40 football fields.

In its competition with four other states, New York offered state and local incentives worth at least \$6 billion over 20 years, the officials said.



Above: Micron Chip Manufacturing Facility Rendering; Clay, NY
Below: Chipmaking



Below: Chip Manufacturing



The deal connects Onondaga County to one of the world's biggest producers of memory chips. Micron, based in Boise, Idaho, employs more than 44,000 people worldwide and recorded revenue of \$30.7 billion in its last fiscal year.

Micron's investment would tie for the largest by any chip manufacturer since Congress passed the Chips and Science Act that provides \$52 billion in incentives for companies to make more components in the United States. Intel plans to invest up to \$100 billion to build eight chip fabs on 2,000 acres outside Columbus, Ohio. Intel is under construction on the first two plants on

1,000 acres.

Micron's stated reasons for selecting the Syracuse location included:

- A rich pool of diverse talent, encompassing communities underrepresented in technology jobs.
- Much to offer for future Micron employees and families, including urban and outdoor lifestyles, an affordable cost of living and leading higher education institutions.
- Partnership opportunities with local K-12 education programs, community colleges and institutions for top engineering and technical talent.
- A significant military population, which aligns with Micron's goals for veteran hiring.
- Availability and access to water and clean, reliable power to achieve their long-term environmental goals.
- A long history of semiconductor development and manufacturing and a promising opportunity to expand to the memory sector.
- \$5.5 billion in Excelsior incentives from the state of New York over the life of the project are critical to support hiring and capital investment. This together with the strong support from the Town of Clay and Onondaga County, made Micron's investment possible.
- New York state agreed to spend \$200 million on road and infrastructure improvements around the site.
- Onondaga County's incentives include a \$10 million investment with Syracuse University to establish a semiconductor research and development center, and \$5 million to fund a skills development program for the chip industry at Onondaga Community College.
- Opportunities to collaborate on R&D initiatives, including with:

1. The Albany NanoTech Complex – a hub for R&D and workforce development programs.
2. The U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory – focused on mission-critical R&D programs and military and defense readiness efforts.

Micron's groundbreaking has been delayed from late 2024 due to the US EPA and US Fish and Wildlife Service complaints about inadequate details from Micron on their environmental impact mitigation efforts with the large scale of construction planned. There are 244 acres of wetlands on the 1100-acre site. Micron submitted

the requested information in December 2024.

New York is currently the eighth ranked state in the US for the number of people in the semiconductor workforce. The existing Global Foundries and the Marcy Nanocenter operations near Utica together presently employ more than 5,000 people.

Chip manufacturers pay more than \$100,000 per year, on average, for skilled production workers that include assemblers and fabricators, maintenance and repair technicians, electricians and engineers. Most of the openings are filled by college-educated and high-skilled workers, but about 20% of the jobs go to those without a college degree.

Micron CEO Mehrotra said the company was ultimately drawn to Central New York because of the region's strong educational system, focus on environmental sustainability and its diversity of talent, including people of color, women and veterans. "There is just a great alignment between Micron's values and the values of this community," April Arzen, Micron's senior vice president and chief people officer, said in an interview. "That is really important to Micron."

The manufacturing complex could consume up to 10 million gallons of water per day, enough to supply a whole town or village. The entire city of Syracuse, by comparison, uses an average of 40 million gallons per day.

The seeds for the White Pine location for Micron were planted more than 30 years when the county decided to create a large, shovel-ready piece of land for industrial use. For years, nothing happened. McMahon said the spot came close to landing a semiconductor plant in 2019.

US Senator Chuck Schumer said he told the CEOs that the Onondaga County site is "one of only a few locations in the world" with the capacity and immediate availability of infrastructure to meet their needs. New York officials touted the White Pine site in Central New York as a natural extension of a growing tech corridor. Global Foundries in Malta, Saratoga County, employs about 3,500 people in the Capital Region. Wolfspeed, near Utica, recently opened a plant expected to employ about 600 people.

New York lost out earlier in 2022 on the effort to lure chip giant Intel Corp. to White Pine. Intel broke ground in 2023 for its new chip plant outside of Columbus, Ohio. At the groundbreaking, President Joe Biden touted the federal chips incentives as a key to the project. Biden said Intel's initial investment of \$20 billion will create 7,000 union construction jobs and 3,000 full-time jobs that will pay an average of \$135,000 a year. Micron is considered an

Micron picks Syracuse suburb for huge computer chip plant that would bring up to 9,000 jobs

Updated: Oct. 07, 2022, 9:24 a.m. | Published: Oct. 04, 2022, 9:00 a.m.



The White Pine Commerce Park owned by Onondaga County spans 1,300 acres bounded by Route 31, Caughdenry Road and Burnet Road in the town of Clay, N. Scott Trimble | scott@syracuse.com

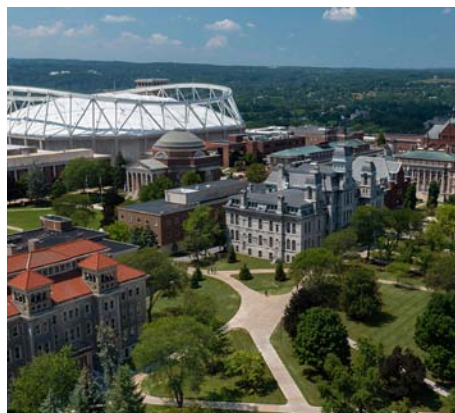


By Mark Weiner | mweiner@syracuse.com

Micron Technology plans to spend up to \$100 billion building a mega-complex of computer chip plants in Syracuse's northern suburbs in what would be the largest single private investment in New York history.

Micron plans to announce details today about the project, which would create up to 9,000 jobs over the next 20 years at the White

Above: Micron Picks Syracuse for Chip Plant
Below: Syracuse University



Below: Micron's Syracuse Plant will be largest Clean Room in US

Micron to Build \$100B Semiconductor Plant

By Tudor Scolio

October 5, 2022

Development Featured Industrial Investment More

Scheduled to break ground in 2024, the project will be New York State's largest-ever private investment.

A giant semiconductor fabrication facility is coming to Syracuse, New York. After initially eyeing Austin for a potential site, Micron Technology has announced plans to build a \$100 billion memory 'megafab' in the town of Clay, representing the largest private investment ever made in the state.

The project is estimated to create 9,000 permanent high-paying jobs over the next two decades.

Micron plans to invest the funds over a 20-year period, with an initial phase of \$20 billion to be allocated by the end of this decade. CEO Sanjay Mehrotra, along with U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, Governor Kathy Hochul and Onondaga County Executive Ryt McMahon broke the announcement yesterday at Syracuse University, Syracuse.com first reported.

The megafab will enable Micron to achieve its goal of increasing its U.S.-based DRAM production to 40 percent of the company's global output. The Syracuse facility will complement Micron's other ongoing project in its home state of Idaho, where the manufacturer recently announced its plan to construct a memory fab, and committed \$15 billion to its development.



Micron CEO Sanjay Mehrotra. Photo courtesy of Micron Technology

industry leader in the development of memory chips that can store data.

The new plant in Central New York will make Micron's DRAM (dynamic random-access memory) chips, which use a type of memory found in all modern computers. DRAM sales account for more than 70% of Micron revenues.

Locally, Team NEO has unveiled "Developing Opportunities," a program designed to improve its region's chances of winning new manufacturing businesses and existing business expansions. Team NEO is supposed to work to grow the economy of an 18-county region that stretches from Ashtabula on the east to Sandusky on the west and south to Tuscarawas County.

Former NEO CEO Koehler laid out the plan in an announcement in November 2024. Better late than never. The "plan" is to provide \$1B from the state and city of Cleveland programs to try and combat the region's lack of shovel-ready development sites. **What it needs to do is assemble such sites - NOW! - and aggressively market them** like Onondaga County/ Syracuse did to land the \$100B Micron plant commitment.

"To attract more companies to the Northeast Ohio Region, we must improve the number and quality of manufacturing sites we offer," Koehler said. Duh. "This will expose the attractiveness of our business environment during site visits with interested prospects."

From 2015 to 2022, Northeast Ohio won only 4% of the potential business attraction opportunities that came across economic development leaders' desks, *Crain's* reported in November 2024, while **the statewide average was 20%.** The region's lack of truly ready sites — not just Intel-sized, but even smaller easily developable sites — is a big part of the problem and is indicative of the failure of our NGO's to make ready for more jobs.

In 2022, the region's economic development network, led by Team NEO, reported that the region had landed 88 new business or business expansion projects that created 5,673 new jobs, \$304 million in annual payroll and \$2 billion in capital investment. Central Ohio, in the same period, won 47 projects, nearly 8,000 new jobs with an annual payroll of \$772 million and \$21.3 billion in capital investment, ten times what NEO's results indicated.

In another effort, the Cleveland Water Alliance, a nonprofit that works to take better advantage of Lake Erie and its supply of water, is working with other regional groups to broaden the way the region values, manages and capitalizes on

Continued Next Page

CLE. vs. COL., cont'd:

Lake Erie to develop innovative water solutions that will create new businesses that locate in Northeast Ohio.

Also, the Greater Cleveland Partnership, with over 12,000 members, the largest metropolitan chamber of commerce in the nation, in its 2022 annual report laid out its "All In" plan, a plan for bringing up Northeast Ohio's standing compared against a group of 10 other Midwest metropolitan areas, including Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and, of course, Columbus, and laying out to those regions.

"People want to be in regions where they're creating the future," said Baiju Shah, GCP's CEO. "So as a region, I want our region to express what our businesses are doing to create and impact the future." **A slogan does not create a context for business expansion.** Unfortunately, the narrative behind GCP's 'All In' slogan is not resonating for that reason.

Intel's attraction to Licking County is just one example of how the region around Columbus has come to eclipse the Cleveland area as a focal point for growth in the state. In the last year, Honda, the Japanese carmaker that already has plants in Marysville, north of Columbus, and South Korean battery maker LG Energy said they will invest up to \$4.4 billion in a lithium-ion battery plant in Fayette County, southwest of Columbus.

Also, Amazon and Google announced in 2024 that they are planning to invest another nearly \$10 billion between them for data centers in Central Ohio, adding to what they already have.

"One of Columbus's biggest selling points," Hill and Stewart wrote, "has been the successful track record of government, businesses, and community leaders working effectively together and across party lines to create an environment conducive for investment."

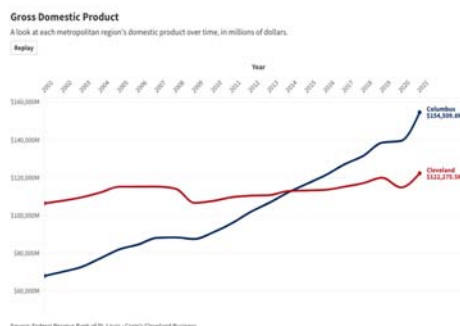
You cannot say that about Cleveland and NEOH.

Workforce Issues are Key:

Unlike NEOH, Central Ohio has also found a way to attract and retain talent that raises a region's appeal to today's growing technology businesses like Intel, Amazon and Google. **"The thing that I see in Columbus, people come from all over the state to Columbus and Ohio State and stay there,"** said the late Richey Piiparinen, a Cleveland writer and former director of the Center for Population Dynamics at Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs who sadly passed away in December 2024. "Whereas in Northeast Ohio, people who are already in Northeast Ohio go to school here, stay here. **That's not the same**



Above: Crain's: CLE in Columbus' Shadow
Below: Columbus GDP Beats Cleveland
Bottom: Crain's Headline: Lessons from "The Columbus Way"



thing at all."

Michael Weidokai, an executive in residence at Baldwin-Wallace University and the president and founder of International Strategic Analysis, a leading provider of economic forecasting and international market analysis, agrees with Piiparinen's analysis.

"Our region also needs to focus on attracting more young adults from other areas of the United States," he wrote in a recent *Crain's* personal view. "To do this, we need to focus on investments that improve the region's quality of life from a younger person's perspective. This means focusing on aspects of life that are important to young people, such as our region's nightlife, its cultural offerings, its outdoor activities and other lifestyle considerations."

Weidokai also believes part of the answer might be to improve the education and training levels of people who already live in this region, especially in high-demand areas such as information technology and engineering.

And he sees a need to make life easier to attract unskilled people into the labor force. "Our region also suffers from a shortage of unskilled labor, something that can be solved, at least in part, through increasing the labor participation rate among younger men in Northeast Ohio," he wrote. "Finally, by improving our public services, such as child care and public transportation, we can make it easier for people in our region to find employment while not sacrificing their quality of life."

Cleveland's Collaboration Failure:

In *Crain's* in December 2023, Jay Miller pointed out that the Central Ohio region's success has a name used by the region's business organizations – "The Columbus Way." A 2015 case study by the Harvard Business School found that "cooperation and collaboration is the Columbus way."

In interviews and conversations, the case study found that business leaders who had moved to Columbus from other cities said that they were more collaborative and civically engaged in Columbus than they had been in their prior locations.

Alex Fischer, at the time CEO of the Columbus Partnership, the region's leading business organization that is similar to the Greater Cleveland Partnership, expanded on that theme: "Leaders of all aspects—civic, business, government, community organizers—have an expectation of each other that we put our selfish interest aside, or at least below community interest," he said. "I think the Columbus Way has

been our way for a long time. I'm not sure we've always been introspective enough to actually have recognized it and talked about it."

It is a method Northeast Ohio leaders say they believe has merit. But actions speak louder. "I give a lot of credit to the Columbus Way," said Baiju Shah, CEO of Greater Cleveland Partnership. "Understanding how vital that foundation is continues to lead the success they enjoy has led me to convene people and create the 'All In' approach."

The 'All In' plan is hoping to see 25% in economic output growth, a 15% increase in new jobs and 12% in average income growth for the Cleveland region. By comparison, from 2009 to 2019, GCP data showed the economic output for the region grew by 15%, while jobs increased by 6% and average income increased by 9%. But in reality, these 'All In' numbers are just aspirational. GCP has not put forth a strategy to attain these results. That fact is what culturally separates the leadership in Cleveland from that of Columbus.

In an interview, Shah said the goal is to build a better foundation for growth. "Whether it's business expansion and attraction, talent transformation, major projects in the downtown and waterfronts areas, air services, all of that takes that foundational system," he said. "That's what's working in other places."

Both regions benefit from JobsOhio, considered one of the country's leading economic development agencies. Though it was created in 2013 by the governor and the legislature and offers financial incentives to businesses as state agencies do in other states, it is not a state agency and is not beholden to the state legislature or the governor for money to woo business expansion.

Instead, it is part of a quasi-state entity that acquired the franchise from the state for liquor sales, paying for it with the sale of bonds. So, after paying for liquor and repaying its bondholders from liquor profits, it has a tidy sum left for economic development activities. In fiscal 2023, which ended June 30, that came to \$481.2 million.

JobsOhio works in collaboration with six regional economic development organizations - including Team NEO - which covers 18 counties, and One Columbus, which spans 11 counties. The other four regional organizations are the Dayton Development Coalition, the Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Cincinnati, the Regional Growth Partnership of Northwest Ohio and Ohio Southeast. While JobsOhio is a key funder of all six groups, it typically supports the direction its regional affiliates take.

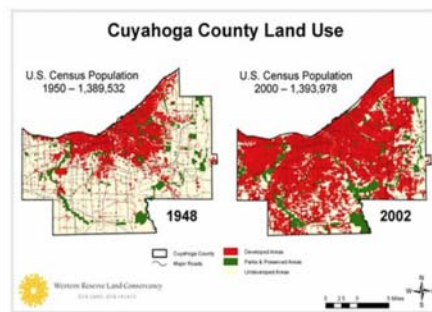
Of course, as in the case of Intel, it does step



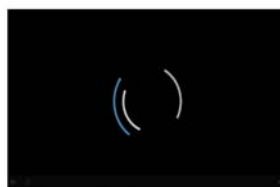
Above: Columbus Sprawl
Below: CLE Sprawl Driven by Poverty
Third: Clevelanders Want Jobs Protest
Bottom: Forbes Ranks Cleveland Last for Job Growth

How Northeast Ohio communities are building small transit solutions to solve big issue of sprawl

Northeast Ohio Solutions Journalism Collaborative | By Connor Morris
Published June 10, 2022 at 3:00 AM EDT
Updated June 10, 2022 at 1:21 PM EDT



Cleveland ranks dead last as worst city for jobs by Forbes



Search CLE with a job creation strategy. Please click below.

By: Joe Paparella
Printed on 11/21 PM, May 15, 2018 and last updated 12:40 AM, May 15, 2018



Click here to see stories with Hope and Heart.

in when it is appropriate. Its success in Greater Cleveland pales in comparison to its effectiveness and results for Greater Columbus that reveals why Cleveland continues to get its butt kicked.

Controlling Sprawl in Columbus:

An important issue for these enormous new data centers and chip labs surrounding Columbus is where the employees will live and how their presence will shape existing and new communities. Unlike Greater Cleveland, Columbus has had 'sprawl' on its radar screen for two decades thanks to a period of stable growth. This stability now has the potential to become more explosive.

Dr. Bill LaFayette, an expert on community-level economics and workforce development and owner of economic consulting firm Regionomics, attributes this stable growth to Columbus' unique economic structure. "The fact that our economy is different from the rest of Ohio really goes back to the founding of Columbus in 1812. Columbus was established to be the state capital. And so over the years, manufacturing grew up in cities throughout the state, throughout the Midwest and Northeast, and much less so here," LaFayette said.

In addition to government jobs, LaFayette cited the presence of employers such as Ohio State University, JPMorgan, Huntington Bank and insurance companies as major players shaping the city's economy. These large firms also attracted another key industry: **information technology**.

"These banks and the insurance companies and state governments and so forth had a real need for information technology. And so last time I looked, **our concentration of IT employment is about 40% greater than what you would expect in a region our size. And so we've lately started attracting a whole bunch of data centers here,**" he noted.

Besides the city's growing economy, LaFayette noted other reasons Columbus' population has been increasing, like the city's affordable housing, as well as an influx of recent immigrants, who contribute to the city in diverse ways. "[Recent immigration has] certainly helped our small business formation rate, which admittedly needs help, as it's true of pretty much everywhere in Ohio. But [immigrants] certainly contribute to the fabric of the community."

"They improve diversity and help the quality of life. So that's far beyond what they contribute economically. I believe that most or all of our net increase in the last decade was through immigrants," LaFayette said.

Continued Next Page

Another advantage that Columbus has had over other Midwestern cities that is not often discussed has been its ability to define and expand its limits. Dr. Mark Salling, an expert on demographic analysis and redistricting from Cleveland State University, said that one way Columbus has outpaced other cities is by absorbing new tracts of land.

"Since 1950, Columbus had annexed territory and is able, therefore, to gain population in those new areas, whether those new areas already had some population that they obtained through annexation, or one of those areas [was an area] of suburban growth eventually, and therefore contributes to the city's population growth," Salling said. "A lot of cities like Cleveland and Cincinnati, and others that are not even in Ohio, haven't been able to annex territory."

For these reasons, Columbus has been growing at the same time that other cities in Ohio like Cleveland have struggled to retain their population; along with Cincinnati, Columbus is one of two among the ten most populated cities in Ohio that are not depopulating. Data shows that Cleveland's population has been shrinking since the 1950s, part of a larger trend across Ohio and the Midwest. LaFayette accredits this pattern to the region's emphasis on manufacturing and agriculture, citing the book *"Caught in the Middle"* by Richard C. Longworth.

"His [Longworth's] argument was that we, in the Midwest, have economies that are founded on manufacturing and agriculture. And there's nothing inherently wrong with that. The problem, though, is that manufacturing and agriculture's output grow much faster than their need for workers grows. Over the years, they've gotten far, far more efficient, and that trend's likely to continue. And so when you've got strong concentrations of manufacturing and agriculture, what you see is relatively slow growth and jobs, relatively slow growth in population," he said.

With the Greater Cleveland Partnership advocating a strategy on re-industrialization, someone needs to clue them in that even if successful - doubtful according to the experts - **its results will be slow and meager.**

Besides the unique economic challenges of our region, Cleveland has failed to face another issue that affects its growth: urban sprawl. Salling pointed to migration to the suburbs as one channel through which the city is losing population.

"Urban sprawl is a phenomenon that hit places like Cleveland much harder than other places because the economy in the city itself has declined in terms of the number of jobs,



Above: Lee-Harvard Community Meeting on White Flight, 1979
Below: Crain's Headline: Lessons from "The Columbus Way"



and you've built highways and other road improvements that enable people — even when there are jobs still remaining in the city — to move somewhere else in the region and still commute to their jobs in Cleveland," he said.

And Cleveland's sprawl is multi-generational.

It began in the 1950s and 1960s with blacks moving to the city from the south for manufacturing jobs, displacing whites in urban neighborhoods on both east and west sides of the CBD. And as the churches and synagogues prove, those families have continued to move further and further from the urban core, leaving behind neighborhoods with housing that deteriorates and produces vacant lots where houses used to be.

At the same time that people are leaving Cleveland, the city is also growing poorer.

According to a 2016 study from the University of Minnesota, the city's low-income population had grown by 30 percent since 2000. Over the same period, an **additional 49 percent** of Clevelanders were in poverty.

The study also reports a related trend in regards to race. Since 2000, a fifth of Cleveland's white population has left, a phenomenon known as "white flight." Salling blames this pattern on individual racial prejudice. He also said that because white Ohioans have on average more access to job opportunities and higher and more rapidly increasing incomes, they can more easily afford better and newer housing in the suburbs.

"And so you proceed to better schools and more opportunities and green space and trees and parks and all those kinds of advantages in the outlying suburbs. So the whites move out there," he said.

Columbus' advantages over other regions in its state became especially apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic.

LaFayette reported that Columbus lost 14.2 percent of its employees from February 2020 to April 2020. Ohio as a whole, however, lost 15.8 percent. Ohio has also regained fewer jobs since then, with a net loss of 3.9 percent, while Columbus reported a net loss of 2.7 percent, about equal to the U.S. average.

LaFayette said that Ohio's economic structure makes it particularly vulnerable to economic downturns. "The last time that Ohio did as well as the U.S. in an expansion was the late 1940s. So, every recession back as far as I can go, Ohio has lost more than average because of its manufacturing focus. Manufacturing's really cyclical. Used to be that we'd make up for that with an increase in employment greater than average. But now what's happening is that we lose more in recessions and make less in expansion. And again, that's because of the increasing efficiency of manufacturing," he said.

LaFayette also emphasized the importance of pinpointing and investing in economic drivers — industries in a region that are larger than average and exhibit high levels of growth. Once cities have identified their economic drivers, they can determine the long-term factors in the economy that are contributing to these industries' success and plan accordingly.

But Cleveland's service sector which grew in the 1970s and 1980s — lawyers, accountants, advertising agencies, management consultants — many of which supported the auto industry,

CLE. vs. COL., cont'd:

compensating for the evaporation of the city's steel industries and the supporting businesses, are now scaled back substantially locally.

"You think about the advantages that those industries might be drawing on, and those industries then become good candidates for attracting more of the same and building them up because, over the long run, the jobs in those industries are going to be more stable than average, and offer greater potential for advancement," LaFayette said. "And the point is that the answer to that question — What are the drivers? — is different everywhere you look."

Through this strategy, cities in the same region can also collaborate to improve their economic prospects as a whole. LaFayette proposes that once cities identify their economic drivers, they can fill in the gaps in the economic structures of other communities.

"If you can figure out what the needs are in Toledo, what the under-concentrated industries are that might be highly present in Dayton, in Columbus, or Cincinnati, what you can do is you can kind of do matchmaking. You can figure out firms that are good candidates to supply goods and services that firms in Toledo need, and so you've got more contracts that are going to Dayton and fewer contracts going to Denver or Dallas," he said.

Salling, however, warned against expecting a quick fix. One of the obstacles he identified was the current state of government and the political process.

"Cities in Ohio, for example, don't have a lot of say in the laws that are made in Columbus. And disproportionately the legislators in Columbus represent small towns and suburban communities," he said. "Because of partisan gerrymandering, they disproportionately represent voters who don't see the problems and don't really need to have the problems of the inner city fixed very fast," he said.

Ultimately, the work of learning from Columbus' success and encouraging growth in the Midwest will rest on the shoulders of several actors. Such an endeavor will likely take place over a long time and will require multiple organizations' collaboration.

"Institutions — not just political institutions, but financial institutions, nonprofit organizations, cultural institutions — are all very important in how a region and its population will grow,"

"Form follows form, not function."

Philip Johnson; 1904 - 2005

Preservation Leadership in Buffalo

Buffalo has a distinctive quality urban fabric thanks to contributions from architects such as H. H. Richardson, Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. University of Buffalo architecture professor Dennis Maher has started a new historic preservation program by joining his Assembly House 150 group with the City of Buffalo and Buffalo History Museum's Melissa Brown to form an initiative to deliver a "framework to salvage and repurpose meaningful elements from significant buildings."

Buffalo, in its postindustrial aughts, produced one of the most progressive art movements in U.S. history, now remembered as the 1970s Buffalo Avant-Garde which included Cindy Sherman, and Gordon Matta-Clark. Bingo, a house deconstruction project by Matta-Clark, was sited at Niagara Falls in 1974.

The initiative is about recognizing buildings that were lost to demolition, according to press materials. The collaboration will result in a "framework to salvage and repurpose meaningful elements from significant buildings, ensuring these materials inspire future storytelling, design, and reflection."

Maher's vision is predicated on three key principles: the artful reimagination of historic buildings, fostering educational collaboration between UB architecture students and apprentices at Assembly House 150, and promoting visionary leadership.

Maher founded Assembly House 150 in 2014. He describes it as "part interactive architectural museum, part art/design studio, part construction trades workshop." The organization works from an 1850s church and helps create job opportunities for architecture students and affiliated trades people. Adrienne Economos Miller visited Buffalo and reported on Assembly House 150 in a feature story for AN last year.

The new program helmed by Maher started after two beloved bars—The Pink and Mulligan's Brick Bar—were lost due to fires. "We know this can never replace the loss of a cherished space," said Catherine Amdur, Buffalo's commissioner of permit & inspection services, "but it ensures the stories, memories, and tangible pieces of these places are preserved for future generations to recall and connect with our shared history."

Mulligan's Brick Bar was located in the Dearing Building, which was completed in 1897. It burned down early the morning of January 5. The building was already going to be torn down, but the City of Buffalo intervened to delay demolition. Now it seems portions of the historic structure will be salvaged by Maher, including the cast iron pilasters, made by Washington Iron Works.



Above: Buffalo's Guaranty Building; Louis Sullivan; 1896
Below: Larkin Administration Building; Frank Lloyd Wright
Bottom: Mulligan's Brick Bar Fire & Demolition



"Buildings are containers of our memories, and their pieces often move unseen, like a current beneath the surface," Maher said in a statement. "This project allows the city to 'breathe in and breathe out' these pieces, giving the memories back again."

What comes next? The program will look towards "collecting, curating, and publicly displaying salvaged architectural elements" that will allow "Buffalo's residents to engage with their city's history and cultural identity."

Who would step up to take the lead of such an initiative in NEOH?

S-W's Own Steel Fireproofing Coating Not Applied in Adequate Thickness to do the Job

Sherwin-Williams told the City of Cleveland recently that the fire-retardant coating on some of the skyscraper's steel beams is too thin. This is a major black eye for S-W, the construction manager, Welty-Gilbane and the fireproofing subcontractor, Champion Infrastructure of Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

The material, which is made by S-W must be applied to structural steel that supports the building in a specified thickness so that in the event of a fire, the structure could stand for a code-prescribed period of time to enable firemen to save people and the structure. But the application failed to be done in accordance with S-W's specifications. Given that the building has a glass exterior, the only other use of S-W's products on the building will be the paint on interior drywall partitions.

The subcontractor responsible for the failure to execute the work properly is Champion Specialty Services Corp. Champion's website states that they applied S-W's Firetreat FX-9502 epoxy-based intumescent paint and an MMA 6002 fireproofing system in a temperature-controlled environment and then after curing, transported the steel to the jobsite for erection.

Champion's website claims, "Following the erection of the steel, Champion's crews then went to work addressing all connection points, which included surface preparation and application of fireproofing coatings, ultimately providing a complete fireproofing system overall structural steel."

Apparently, Champion's work was not completed to the specified requirements. When applied in the proper thickness, the intumescent coating blisters up, increasing its thickness when exposed to extreme heat or flame, protecting the steel for a defined period.

In the 3-10-25 *Crain's Cleveland Business* article by Dan Shingler on the Sherwin-Williams HQ, the majority of the narrative concerned S-W offering staff buyouts and the number of S-W employees that would move into the new tower which had been projected to be 4000.

S-W has received \$135 million in tax credits and subsidies from Cleveland and the State of Ohio when it committed to build its HQ downtown. Councilman Mike Polensek stated that the reason he supported the incentives then was "the fact that they're bringing all these people downtown." Mike, virtually S-W's entire headcount is ALREADY downtown – two blocks away.

Sherwin-Williams has refused to identify how severe or prevalent the problem is, or what subsequent materials (wall stud framing, insulation, drywall, electrical conduit, ceilings, lighting,

Sherwin-Williams to fix fire protection problem on new headquarters

The company told Cleveland recently that the anti-fire coating on some of the skyscraper's steel beams is too thin. Sherwin-Williams would not say if the issue will further delay the opening of the taxpayer-supported building.

By Mark Housh
January 7, 2025

Sherwin-Williams Co. expects to move employees into its new headquarters on Public Square this year. The company recently discovered that it needs to fix anti-fire coating on some of the building's steel beams. But it won't say how this affects plans for the building's opening.

Sherwin-Williams Co. expects to move employees into its new headquarters on Public Square this year. The company recently discovered that it needs to fix anti-fire coating on some of the building's steel beams. But it won't say how this affects plans for the building's opening. Credit: Jeff Hughes / Signal Cleveland

Cleveland's newest skyscraper – the 36-story Sherwin-Williams headquarters under construction just off Public Square – needs some additional fire protection that could delay the company's plans to move workers into the building.



Above: S-W Fireproofing Headline
Below: S-W Fireproofing Problems Headline
Bottom: S-W Fireproofing Delays Headline

Sherwin-Williams faces fireproofing problems – with its own product – at new Cleveland HQ

Published: Feb. 02, 2025, 9:30 a.m.



Sherwin-Williams recently installed signage atop its global headquarters in downtown Cleveland. Occupancy is to begin at an unspecified time in 2025. (File photo) David Pelliccioli



By Rick Evers, cleveland.com

CLEVELAND, Ohio – Sherwin-Williams faces issues with its own fire-retardant product in the construction of its new downtown headquarters. But the company has yet to publicly answer key questions about how bad the problem is or whether it will push back the chronically delayed project yet again.



You Might Like

Amazon is Losing Money as Shoppers Are Cancelling Prime For

CRAIN'S CLEVELAND BUSINESS

A CRAIN FUND PUBLICATION

NEWS REAL ESTATE MARKETS SPECIAL FEATURES DATA & LISTS COMMENTARY LATEST

January 24, 2025 05:50 AM

Sherwin-Williams new HQ, R&D center face delays over protective coating

DAN SHINGLER

EMAIL SHARE X TWITTER IN SHARE REPRINTS



The new Sherwin-Williams HQ in downtown Cleveland. The Sherwin-Williams Company



Above & Below: S-W Fireproofing Spraying on Steel Beams
Bottom: Champion Infrastructure's Web Page on S-W HQ Fireproofing Contract



employees into the 36-story building in late 2024.

Welty-Gilbane told city officials in January that inspectors had discovered that the coating was not thick enough to meet the specified fire rating to protect the steel. The Cleveland Division of Fire confirmed being advised of the discovery.

Marie Zickefoose, a spokeswoman for the mayor, said that Sherwin-Williams and the city have "periodic project meetings where they discuss progress and the like." She said the company told the city in a meeting in January that in a "special inspection process they determined that there would be a need to update the intumescent spray-on coating in some areas."

Sherwin-Williams acknowledged the issue in a statement but did not address specific

Sherwin-Williams HQ Problems:

questions about how the issue might affect plans for S-W's HQ2 tower which is planned at the northeast corner of Superior and West 6th while the mixed-use project at the southeast corner of St. Clair and West 6th which has been officially referred to as Sherwin-Williams' "strategic development site."

NEOtrans stated prior to the fireproofing snafu that many of the same companies Sherwin-Williams hired for the first phase of its new headquarters will likely be tasked to help it pursue the second phase. Given the public embarrassment over the fireproofing – S-W's own product – by the construction management team to say nothing of the resulting added costs and delays, that might not be the case.

Cleveland.com reporter Rich Exner in February 2025 quoted a Cleveland fire spokesman who said he believes the fireproofing problem affects exposed interior beams. But if the coating is too thin, it would affect ALL interior beams AND columns throughout the building, not just exposed members.

Both Sherwin-Williams and city officials said the company – not city inspectors – discovered the problem and notified the city of its plan to fix it. The problem involves the thickness of the intumescent fire-resistant coating, a material designed to expand when exposed to heat and buy the building time before it collapses in a fire.

S-W spokeswoman Julie S. Young tried to spin the problem in an email response to questions: "In July 2024, a third-party certification provider changed its listing for one of these protective coating products. The coating's applied thickness necessary to achieve certain fire ratings increased as a result of this listing change." A third-party certification provider typically refers to an independent organization that certifies compliance with safety and quality standards, according to the National Science Foundation. Young's comment implies that when undergoing independent testing, SW's new coating did not meet the code-required fire rating without an increased thickness.

On the company's website, Sherwin-Williams explains performance of intumescent coating products this way: "When in its natural state, intumescent coatings look smooth — just like most other paints. However, when exposed to heat or flames, it quickly expands and forms a char that reduces the transfer of heat from the fire to the underlying substrate, thereby acting as an insulating layer and delaying the time it takes for the structure to fail."

The coatings are typically sprayed on in layers, making it unclear if fixing the issue mid-project



Above: S-W's Original Model with Phase I Tower on the Right and Phase II Tower on the Left
Below: S-W Fireproofing Applied in Controlled Conditions



means removing what's already been applied and starting from scratch.

Sherwin-Williams did not say whether the change in specifications happened before or after the coatings were applied, nor has it confirmed whether the product used in Cleveland is its FIRETEX FX7002, a newer fireproofing coating introduced last year.

The website *firebuyer.com* reported on the product launch in March 2024, noting that testing was still ongoing at that time. Construction of the S-W tower was well underway by that time.

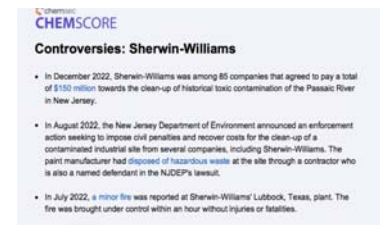
But the tower's fireproofing subcontractor, Champion Specialty Services Corp. states on its website that on the S-W Cleveland tower, they applied S-W's Firetex FX-9502 epoxy-based intumescent paint and an MMA 6002 fireproofing system in a temperature-controlled environment and then after curing, transported the steel to the jobsite for erection.

The company has not said whether the issue will lead to more delays. The new headquarters has already been pushed back multiple times—initially expected to be done in 2023, then 2024, and now sometime in 2025. A City Hall

spokeswoman said there is currently no sign of a "huge delay," and Sherwin-Williams, when asked directly, would only say, "We look forward to beginning the multi-phase move to our new facilities later this year."

Sherwin-Williams broke ground on its headquarters in January 2022, and the final steel beam was installed in December 2023. The 1 million-square-foot complex will include a tower, atrium, and parking garage. Eleven-foot-high letters spelling "Sherwin-Williams" were installed near the top of the tower last fall, making the company's presence visible for miles.

The company's decision to build a new headquarters downtown — announced in early 2020 — came just ahead of the COVID-19 pandemic, which reshaped office work across industries. But Sherwin-Williams never wavered in its commitment to a headquarters in Cleveland, home to the company since its founding in 1866. The team includes design firms Pickard Chilton Architects, Inc., HGA Architects and Engineers, LLC and Vocon Partners, LLC, plus construction manager Welty Gilbane.



Above: Past Sherwin-Williams Controversies
Below: Sherwin-Williams HQ; January 2025
Bottom: Mock-Up of Interior of S-W Offices



Too Many Glass Skyscrapers:

In 2011, British architect Ken Shuttleworth – who designed the Gherkin while at Foster + Partners – declared that “the tall glass box is dead”.

He doubled down a few years later, telling the BBC: “We can’t have those all-glass buildings. We need to be much more responsible.” Speaking to CNN in 2018, he described a “sea change in attitudes” towards the typology.

“We created too many large expanses of glass.”

Shuttleworth’s is not a fringe view. In 2021, Morphosis partner Ung-Joo Scott Lee and Kohn Pedersen Fox president James von Klemperer also predicted the demise of the glazed tower in interviews with *Dezeen*.

“I think we all feel, as a community of architects, that we all created and had built too many large expanses of glass in our cities,” said Von Klemperer.

For their proponents, glass skyscrapers remain one of the most powerful and economically attractive ways of staking a claim on a city and skyline.

But for their critics, they are gleaming symbols of all that is wrong with modern architecture and construction, representing the maximizing of real estate regardless of how energy-guzzling or visually homogenous the results may be.

As pressure to decarbonize the built environment intensifies, the scrutiny is only growing.

Studies have shown that the environmental performance of glass buildings simply does not stack up. Nowhere in the world does it make practical sense to cover a building entirely in glass – they require air conditioning in summer and leak heat in winter.

“There’s strong evidence we are over-glazing our buildings,” said Phillip Oldfield, head of the school of the built environment at UNSW Sydney and author of *The Sustainable Tall Building: A Design Primer*.

“Most towers probably have a window to wall ratio of 50 to 80 per cent. Research suggests in office buildings in Europe, the optimal ratio is closer to 30 to 45 per cent – but this should differ on each facade,” he told *Dezeen*.

In spite of all of this, the sea change predicted by Shuttleworth, Scott Lee, Von Klemperer and others is yet to happen. In some places, the trend seems to point in the opposite direction.

A quick glance at the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat’s list of the 100 tallest build-

ings under construction shows that most are all-glass, steel and concrete-framed skyscrapers, regardless of geographic location.

Even in New York City, where in 2019 then-mayor Bill de Blasio said that glass skyscrapers “have no place in our city or our Earth anymore”, proposals for such buildings continue to emerge – including a design for a 487-metre-tall tower on Park Avenue by architecture studio Foster + Partners, unveiled in September.

“I think the trend, rather than being dead, is accelerating for two reasons,” said Oldfield.

“One: glass curtain walling is incredibly successful as a building product. It combines all the basic performance requirements of the building skin (acoustic, thermal, solar, visual, et cetera) into one comprehensive product that can be quickly lifted on site and fitted into place – so it’s an efficient and economical solution.” Glass skyscrapers continue to spring up in New York despite moves to curb them by the city’s former mayor.

“Two: I think there’s still a weird obsession with skyscrapers portraying a sleek, transparent aesthetic – a hangover from the modern movement,” he said. The history of the glass skyscraper is often told through this lens: that of a sleek, transparent emblem for technological advancement, openness and democracy borne of the modernist era.

Whether its origins are attributed to Charles Burton’s tall, skinny reimagining of Joseph Paxton’s Crystal Palace or Ludwig Mies van der Rohe’s unbuilt entry to the Friedrichstrasse Skyscraper competition, the type is often closely linked to ideas of industrialization and progress.

“Skyscrapers will probably always hold symbolic meaning,” noted UK Green Building Council chief executive Smith Mordak. “For some they denote wealth and achievement, for others they signify inequality and misuse of resources.”

“The best we can hope is that those contemplating building one are thinking about all these meanings when assessing feasibility in the round,” they added.

The Gap Between Architects and Developers:

Within its earliest examples were the seeds of glass curtain walling’s problems. Glare and overheating in Paxton’s Crystal Palace made its internal conditions notoriously unstable – to the point where sections had to be covered with canvas.



Above: Sherwin-Williams HQ; Pickard-Chilton Architects; 2025
Below: Eaton Center/ 1111 Chester; SOM; 1983



Mies van der Rohe’s Seagram Building in New York – in many respects the original model for glass skyscrapers – made headlines in 2012 when it was revealed its energy-star rating was just 3 out of 100: the worst score of any building in the city.

But with glass curtain walls being so cheap to produce, install and maintain as well as offering an open interior with maximum daylight and views of the surrounding city, they became a no-brainer for developers wanting the best possible return on their sites.

Speaking in 2020 about his research into the

Too Many Glass Skyscrapers, cont'd:



Above: Gherkin; London; Foster & Partners; 2004
Below: 520 Fifth Ave.; New York; KPF Architects; 2025



carbon impacts of tall, often glazed buildings in London, UCL emeritus professor Phillip Steadman noted that developers “are much harder to convince” about the need for alternatives. Now, a widening gap exists between some architects and their clients. For example, Robert Greenwood, a director at Snøhetta, is unequivocal about the Norwegian architecture studio’s view.

“For our part, we do declare once again that the all-glass skyscraper is finally dead,” he told *Dezeen*. “Commercially driven, this objectification of architecture seeks to celebrate what the building is, rather than what it does.”

“Most locations will demand more of the building than that it stands alone as a reflective tower, glazed equally on all facades.”

Nevertheless, Snøhetta still works on skyscraper projects that are predominantly glass, as do Morphosis and KPF.

New Materials and Technologies:

New technologies that improve the thermal efficiency of glass curtain walls are continuously emerging, and proponents argue they seeing fewer of the worst criticisms about unsustainability.

Indeed, Mies van der Rohe himself predicted the necessity of these developments, saying of his modernist glass boxes that it was “up to the engineers to find some way to stop the heat from coming in or going out.”

“Technologically, recent improvements in glass systems have greatly reduced energy use, through an optimized approach to heating and cooling,” Pelli Clarke & Partners partner Darin Cook told *Dezeen*.

The US, Pelli’s architecture studio continues to build numerous all-glass skyscrapers worldwide, recently completing the Salesforce Tower in Chicago, but now tends to incorporate special coatings in the facade that reduce heat gain or integrate solar panels.

Zaha Hadid Architects’ The Henderson Skyscraper in Hong Kong uses four-ply, double-laminated, double-curved insulated glass panels on what is reportedly the world’s most expensive plot in Hong Kong, featuring four-ply, double-laminated, double-curved insulated glass panels.

But Oldfield has his doubts about this technical solutionism. “My big criticism is we seem to be adding more materials and technologies to solve a problem that could easily be solved by simply using less glass,” he said.

Additionally, while the advancement of glass panel systems helps to reduce carbon impact during the building’s operational lifespan, these benefits can be outweighed by being far more carbon-intensive to create and more difficult to recycle.

“In practice, the recycling and re-use of complex flat-glass facade components is notoriously difficult,” said Greenwood. “Today almost all glass materials removed from glazed cladding systems are typically downcycled or landfilled.”

Continued Next Page



Above & Below: Crystal Palace; London; Joseph Paxton; 1851



Below: Seagram Building; Mies van der Rohe & Philip Johnson; New York; 1958
Bottom: One Angel Square; Manchester, England; 3DReid Architects



Too Many Glass Skyscrapers, cont'd



Above: Henderson Bldg.; Zaha Hadid Architects; Hong Kong; 2024
Below: 425 Park Ave.; New York; Foster & Partners; 2022



Mordak echoes these concerns. “To create buildings according to circular economy principles, things need to be made with reclaimed and recycled materials as much as possible, be repairable, and also be demountable and recyclable at the end of their lives,” they explained.

“This can be more challenging when tall buildings need to be so highly engineered as to require very high-performance materials.” While glass itself is considered to have a service life of 60 years and up, the insulated panels common in curtain walling are thought to last between 25 and 35 years.

Upgrading these systems is possible. In the refurbishment of 1 Triton Square in London, for example, facade suppliers Scheldebouw removed the original glass curtain wall panels, refurbished and reinstalled them.

But as hundreds of tall glazed buildings reach “retrofit age”, Oldfield is doubtful about whether this will be most developers’ preferred option.

“Around the world there are some 944 office buildings more than 100 metres tall that were completed between 1953 and 1983, and are probably in danger of demolition,” he said. “That’s millions of tons of embodied carbon at risk.”

Some projects, such as KPF’s under-construction 520 Fifth Avenue, are moving back to the more solid facades that defined the earliest skyscrapers.

Some architects do appear to be having success in convincing developers to go for a more contextual alternative to the all-glazed facade.

In particular, the US has seen a recent shift back towards the more solid facades that defined the earliest high-rises.

And even long-time designers of glass skyscrapers such as Pelli Clarke & Partners acknowledge the role of better suiting climates and conditions.

“While glass-clad towers will likely remain a staple of architectural design, designers are increasingly leveraging new materials and systems to better suit local climates and conditions, and in many cases, reducing the surface amount of glass and incorporating alternative materials,” said Cook.

Detractors of the glazed curtain wall may view that as a small but hopeful sign of progress – but while the glass skyscraper might be dead in the minds of architects, for the many others who shape our cities it remains alive and well.



Above: Salesforce HQ; Chicago; Pelli Clarke Pelli; 2024
Below: 1 Triton Square; London; Arup
Bottom: The Spiral; New York; Bjarke Ingels Group = BIG



The Cleveland Police have been out of control.

It got so bad that the US Justice Department had to come in and conduct a 21-month investigation. What they found was deplorable. They issued a 400-paragraph report that was essentially an indictment of the department and the personnel. And they required the city to enter into a Consent Decree to effect changes to remedy the situation. That was ten years ago.

And last year, the Cleveland police union voted to refuse to comply with the Consent Decree's requirements for training on community policing!

Living in Cleveland has meant that you have to view the police as an adversarial mercenary force that too often endeavors to function as judge, jury and executioner. And it is not just the audacious injustice of the murders of Timothy Russell and Malissa Williams. It is also compounded by the subsequent acquittal of Michael Brelo who jumped on the hood of Russell's car and emptied three clips – 49 shots – into the two unarmed victims thanks to Judge John P. O'Donnell.

O'Donnell somehow managed to reason that Brelo was entitled to feel fear from Russell and Williams because words over the police radio during pursuit falsely alleged that the couple had a weapon. Whatever Brelo was feeling when he jumped onto the hood of the car – a violation of CPD policy – it was most certainly not fear. If he thought for one second that the two had a gun and was afraid, he would not have jumped on the hood of the car and opened fire.

Judge O'Donnell said prosecutors failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that bullets fired by Brelo were the cause of death of Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell, or that Brelo had no fear for his own life during the volley of gunfire that ended a high-speed car chase on 29 November 2012.

In other words, because the police fired so many shots at the couple – 137! – that made it impossible to conclusively determine which shots that killed the couple came from who, so no one could be convicted of killing the two. You read that right. O'Donnell ran for the Ohio Supreme Court in 2014 and 2016 and was defeated handily. His term on the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court thankfully ends in 2025.

After the shooting, the US Department of Justice conducted a sweeping investigation into the Cleveland police department. The investigation found Cleveland police officers frequently used excessive force, including shootings and head strikes with impact weapons; unnecessary, excessive, and retaliatory force, including Tasers, chemical sprays, and their fists; and excessive

Cleveland Consent Decree Conversation Zeroes In On Transparency And Accountability

By Drew Maziarz

Published March 12, 2021 at 4:45 PM EST



force against people with mental illness or in crisis, including one situation in which officers were called exclusively to check up on someone's well-being.

Police officers also used "poor and dangerous tactics" that often put them "in situations where avoidable force becomes inevitable and places officers and civilians at unnecessary risk," according to the report. The Justice Department attributed many of these problems to inadequate training and supervision. "Supervisors tolerate this behavior and, in some cases, endorse it," the report said. **"Officers report that they receive little supervision, guidance, and support from the Division, essentially leaving them to determine for themselves how to perform their difficult and dangerous jobs."**

Subsequent news reports consistently indicate that the CPD has failed to satisfy the Justice Department on the required reforms and training. What a surprise. The report requires the CPD to rehabilitate their culture and behaviors. Don't hold your breath.

It seems to not matter what community you live in – the police will overstep their authority and lie – because they get away with it.

Mayor Jackson did nothing. No surprise. Mayor Bibb has also done nothing apparent to address this except to brag about giving his police force a 25% raise!

And now we have our new Senator Bernie Moreno (!) sticking his Republican nose in the mess, writing a letter to US Attorney General Pam Bondi, asking her to reconsider dismissing certain consent decrees with state and federal governments – including Cleveland's – saying, "Law enforcement offices need to be able to do their jobs and enforce the law without politicians holding them back." Bernie apparently believes that citizens are not entitled to accountability and the security of a national standard of conduct from our law enforcement community.

In one of many executive orders attempted on January 20, Donald Trump requested recommendations that would "advance the policy that Federal public buildings... be visually identifiable as civic buildings and respect regional, traditional and classical architectural heritage in order to uplift and beautify public spaces and enable the United States and our system of government." The GSA is charged to come up with a road map to promote "beautiful federal civic architecture."

This is Trump's second bite at the Style Apple which he also attempted in his first tour of the White House. President Biden revoked Trump's first attempt when he took office. From *Dezeen* on January 25, the AIA is "extremely concerned" about Trump's executive order mandating classical architecture. *Dezeen* reported that the American Institute of Architects has denounced an executive order signed by president Donald Trump that aims

Continued Next Page

The Opposition Rolls In

The AIA comes out swinging against Trump's modern architecture-shunning federal building mandate

By Matt Hickman • December 22, 2020 • Architecture, National, News



The United States Department of the Treasury building in Washington, D.C. (Richard Gidycz/Hickory Creek by AIA 2/20)

Above: AIA First Response to Trump in *The Architects Newsletter*, December 2020

Below: AIA Opposed Trump's 2020 Executive Order

de
zeen

Magazine
Architecture
Interiors
Design
Technology

Series
Interviews
Opinion
Talks
Videos
Newsletters

Awards
Jobs
Events
Gul
Showroom
School
She
Courses
Competit



AIA opposes President Trump's draft rules for Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn

Eleonor Gilman | 5 February 2020 | 320 comments

The American Institute of Architects has called on members to sign an open letter to the Trump Administration after a plan to introduce an order that all federal buildings should be built in the "classical architectural style" was discovered.

The AIA released the statement and online petition for the White House yesterday, shortly

TRUMP TRIES TO DICTATE DESIGN

dezeen Next story



AIA opposes President Trump's draft rules for Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn

Eleanor Gibson | 5 February 2020 | 320 comments

The American Institute of Architects has called on members to sign an open letter to the Trump Administration after a plan to introduce an order that all federal buildings should be built in the "classical architectural style" was discovered.

The AIA released the statement and online petition for the White House yesterday, shortly after the Architectural Record revealed it had obtained a draft of the order, called Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again.

If approved, it would update the 1962 Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture to make classical architecture the required style for any US federal courthouse.

The AIA said that it "strongly and unequivocally" opposed the change, which would also

Above: AIA Opposed Trump's Draft Rules in 2020

to promote classical architecture, saying it would "stifle innovation".

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) issued a press release decrying the president's Promoting Beautiful Federal Civic Architecture executive order, which aims to make federal buildings "respect regional, traditional and classical architectural heritage".

"AIA is extremely concerned about any revisions that remove control from local communities; mandate official federal design preferences; or otherwise hinder design freedom; and add bureaucratic hurdles for federal buildings," said the AIA.

Below: AIA Pledged to Undo Trump's "Beautiful" Order in 2020

dezeen

Magazine
Architecture
Interiors
Design
Technology

Series
Interviews
Opinion
Talks
Videos
Newsletters

Awards
Jobs
Events
Guides
Showroom
School Site
Courses
Competitions



The Capitol in Washington DC is an example of neoclassical architecture

AIA pledges to undo Trump's "beautiful" architecture order after he leaves

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn

India Block | 22 December 2020 | 39 comments

The American Institute of Architects says it "unequivocally opposes" new architecture rules signed by outgoing US president Donald Trump and vows to undo them as soon as his successor takes office.

dezeen Next story

Follow: Facebook Twitter LinkedIn



Biden revokes Trump's "beautiful" architecture executive order

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn

India Block | 25 February 2021 | 29 comments

US president Joe Biden has officially undone Donald Trump's executive order requiring new federal buildings to be built in the classical style, 49 days after it was signed.

Biden announced a batch of rescissions on 24 February 2021 including executive order 13957, titled Promoting Beautiful Federal Civic Architecture.

The controversial order requiring all new government buildings to be "beautiful" and ideally built in a "traditional" style was signed on 18 December 2020 by the outgoing president after he lost the election.

Biden returns "freedom of design choice"

"By overturning this order, the Biden administration has restored communities with the freedom of design choice that is essential to designing federal buildings that best serve the public," said American Institute of Architects (AIA) president Peter Eisen.

"This is fundamental to an architect's process and to achieving the highest quality buildings possible. We look forward to continuing to work with the administration towards developing policies that create healthy, just and equitable communities."

Above: Biden revokes trump's "Beautiful" Order, 2021

"We support freedom in design," it continued. "AIA's members believe the design of federal buildings must first be responsive to the people and communities who will use those buildings."

Released among dozens of orders, memoranda and rescissions issued in the president's first 24 hours in office, the Promoting Beautiful Federal Civic Architecture executive order is a resumption of a policy Trump put forward near the end of his first term.

Trump's previous order stipulated that federal buildings should be "beautiful", with priority given to classical and traditional styles that are "visual embodiment[s] of America's ideals". It was later rescinded by former president Biden.

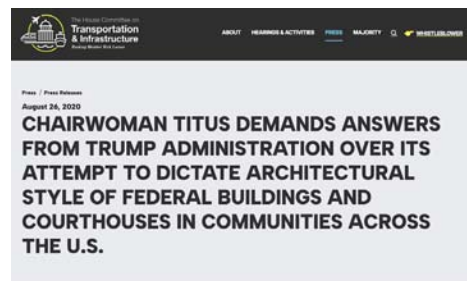
In the recent executive order, a provision mandates agency heads come up with recommendations within 60 days to make changes to the 1962 guiding principles for federal architecture.

Strong Concerns from AIA

The AIA believes that any federally issues measures to limit choice would be detrimental to regional architecture, and innovation – and that it would harm locals who directly use these buildings.

"Our federal buildings across the country must reflect America's wealth of culture, rich traditions, and unique geographic regions," said the AIA.

"AIA has strong concerns that mandating architecture styles stifles innovation and harms local communities."



CHAIRWOMAN TITUS DEMANDS ANSWERS FROM TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OVER ITS ATTEMPT TO DICTATE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE OF FEDERAL BUILDINGS AND COURTHOUSES IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE U.S.

Photo: / Press Release

August 26, 2020

Washington, DC — Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Dina Titus (D-NV) is demanding answers from the head of the General Services Administration (GSA) about newly released criteria for construction, which call for new courthouses—in Florida and Alabama—to be built in the "classical architectural style" while the plan may be appropriate in these two instances, GSA newly stated where again that the Trump administration is moving ahead with plans to dictate architectural style across the country, taking away long-standing principles of local control and community input as outlined in GSA's own Design Excellence Program.

In her letter to GSA Administrator Emily Murphy, Chairwoman Titus wrote: "The recent solicitations for services represent a troubling emerging pattern of attempts to dictate architectural style directly from the federal government. Last year, a draft Executive Order circulated by the Trump Administration entitled 'Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again' would have imposed the same preference for the classical architectural style on federal buildings and courthouses. It was met with overwhelming opposition from architects, over 11,000 of whom expressed their dismay in writing to the White House."

Chairwoman Titus continued: "...imposing a preferred architectural style for federal facilities runs counter to our nation's democratic traditions. Attempting to implement this misguided mandate from Washington, D.C. by circumventing Congress and gutting decades of GSA policy and practice without any public notice or hearing is even worse. GSA should be forthright and transparent about its intentions and authorities."

Above: US House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure home page, August 2020

Prior Strong Concerns from USHOR:

In 2020, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Dina Titus (D-NV) demanded answers from the head of the General Services Administration (GSA) about newly-released criteria for construction, which call for two new courthouses—in Florida and Alabama—to be built in the "classic architectural style."

While the style may have been appropriate in these two instances, GSA's newly-stated criteria signal that the Trump administration attempted to move ahead with plans to dictate architectural style across the country, taking away long-standing principles of local control and community input as outlined in GSA's own Design Excellence Program.

In her letter to GSA Administrator Emily Murphy, Chairwoman Titus wrote: "The recent solicitations for services represent a troubling emerging pattern of attempts to dictate architectural style directly from the federal government. Last year, a draft Executive Order circulated by the Trump Administration entitled 'Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again' would have imposed the same preference for the classical architectural style on federal buildings and courthouses. It was met with overwhelming opposition from architects, over 11,000 of whom expressed their dismay in writing to the White House."

Chairwoman Titus continued: "...imposing a preferred architectural style for federal facilities runs counter to our nation's democratic traditions. Attempting to implement this misguided mandate from Washington, D.C. by circumventing Congress and gutting decades of GSA policy and practice without any public notice or hearing is even worse. GSA should be forthright and transparent about its intentions and authorities."

TRUMP TRIES TO DICTATE DESIGN

Doubt from Preservationists

This comes at a time when the GSA has announced plans to offload underutilized federal buildings due to falling capacity, though it's unclear how this will be affected by Trump's other mandate requiring federal employees to return to the office full-time.

Preservationists have cast doubt on how effective the orders will be.

"The Moynihan provision that guides the General Service Administration calls for a diversity of building types across the federal government spectrum," archival organization USModernist founder George Smart told Dezeen.

"That's a standard that has been used for going on 65 years or so now. It's been very effective."

Smart noted that the lobby group National Civic Art Society, led by architecture critic Justin Shubow, has been very vocal in pushing forward this agenda.

He conceded that there are "very practical" reasons why people could take issue with some modernist and Brutalist federal buildings, citing insulation and circulation.

"However, the arguments put forth by Justin Shubow and others are about the philosophy that America should be the things that are just old," said Smart, adding that he would be happy to see some neo-classical buildings akin to the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in DC.

"I don't think we should necessarily enact policy that says all of it should be classical."

Shubow led the agency that guides aesthetics in Washington DC, the US Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), during Trump's first term, and was the first person ever to be released from the position when Biden dismissed him in 2021. The CFA is currently led by noted American architect Billie Tsien.

From *The Architects' Newspaper*, Dec. 22, 2020:

"Just like it did following the circulation of a leaked draft in early February of this year, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) has released a strong denunciation of a new executive order—finalized and signed within the final 30 days of the Trump administration—that falls short of outright prohibiting modern architecture in the design of new federal buildings but decrees that "classical architecture shall be the preferred and default architecture for federal public buildings absent exceptional factors necessitating another kind of architecture."

In an interview with *Dezeen*, Shubow said that the architects were over-reacting to the order. He described architects' responses as "hysterical" and claimed that the American Institute of Architects is "arguing in bad faith".

"The modernist architects have to understand the world is not coming to an end," said Shubow. "I mean, would it be so bad if there's special regard for classical, traditional architecture?"

On his first day in office in 2025, Trump issued the latest version of his Promoting Beautiful Federal Civic Architecture executive order, which aims to promote classical and traditional architecture in Federal public buildings.

The AIA immediately denounced the order, as it did in 2020 when the draft bill was made public, before declaring that it would undo the order after Trump left office. But Shubow argued the order would only impact a very small number of buildings as it is focused on the construction of new buildings costing over \$50 million.

"We're not talking about a huge building programme," he said. "But from the AIA perspective, you would think that American architecture – the entire thing – is being changed and turned in a new direction."

"We're only arguing about a relatively small number of buildings, but admittedly, they are of great symbolic importance," Shubow added.

Rather than setting a new direction for US civic architecture, Shubow argues that the executive order merely signals a return to classical styles after an interruption of modernism. "We believe that traditional architecture is unparalleled in its beauty, its legibility and its appreciation by the common man," he said. "Essentially, classical architecture is the architecture of American democracy, going back to the founding fathers."

"What are the buildings you think of when you think of the US government?" he continued. "It's the White House, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Federal Triangle. These are all classical buildings."

Although Shubow argues that those across the ideological spectrum appreciate and prefer classical architecture, he concedes that the issue has become politicised. "Admittedly, since Trump touched the issue, it polarised it," he said.

"Some of our opponents like to say, 'classical architecture is the architecture of white supremacy', or that it's fascist since [Adolf] Hitler liked



Above: Trump "Beautification" Executive Order, January 21, 2025

it, but when you look at ordinary Americans, that's not how they see these buildings at all," he claimed. "I don't think when African Americans look at the US Supreme Court, they see a racist building. This is America. We're not Germany. Our history is completely different when it comes to government buildings."

The AIA's statement in full:

"The American Institute of Architects (AIA) unequivocally opposes the executive order, 'Promoting Beautiful Federal Civic Architecture,' signed by President Trump.

The executive order dictates an architectural style preference for federal courthouses and certain other federal buildings to be mandated by government agencies. The order attempts to promote 'classical' and 'traditional' architecture above other design styles. The order also incorrectly vilifies the General Service Administration's (GSA) Design Excellence Program.

'Communities should have the right and responsibility to decide for themselves what architectural design best fits their needs, and we look forward to working with President-Elect Biden to ensure that,' said EVP/Chief Executive Officer Robert Ivy, FAIA. 'Though we are appalled with the administration's decision to move forward with the design mandate, we are happy the order isn't as far reaching as previously thought.'

The AIA does not, and never will, prioritize any type of architectural design over another. In February, AIA members sent over 11,000 letters to the White House condemning the mandated designation of 'classical' architecture as the preferred style of all federal courthouses, all federal public buildings in the Capital region, and all other federal public buildings whose cost exceeds \$50 million.

Communities should continue to have the right and responsibility to decide for themselves what architectural design best fits their needs. The

Continued Next Page

TRUMP TRIES TO DICTATE DESIGN

executive order requires extensive justification to use anything other than the preferred design style. While the executive order makes mention of incorporating regional design traditions, in practice it would still cut local voices out of a critical part of the design process. It inappropriately elevates the design tastes of a few federal appointees over the communities in which the buildings will be placed.

The AIA will continue to support The Design Excellence Program, which maintains a style-neutral approach that focuses on community-centered decision-making, demonstrated architectural skill, and public input. The diversity of American architectural achievement is a national treasure that must be continued.

Architecture and design organizations have been quick to rally behind the AIA. Some—and likely many more—have also issued their own statements of rejection to the Trump administration’s dismissal of non-classical architecture styles. This includes the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), whose CEO, Torey Carter-Conneen, issued a brief statement urging the Biden administration to “rescind this order upon assuming office.”

“Civic spaces, whether they be federal buildings, parks, or national monuments, should reflect the values of equality, diversity, and inclusion to which we as a nation aspire. Designers of these spaces should not be mandated by federal law to follow any specific style,” said Carter-Conneen.

Naturally, Architecture Twitter (particularly Brutalist Twitter) has also been quick to react to news of the order, which has been re-titled from “Make Federal Buildings Beautiful Again” to “Promoting Beautiful Federal Civic Architecture.”

“President George Washington and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson consciously modeled the most important buildings in Washington, D.C., on the classical architecture of ancient Athens and Rome,” reads the order. “They sought to use classical architecture to visually connect our contemporary Republic with the antecedents of democracy in classical antiquity, reminding citizens not only of their rights but also their responsibilities in maintaining and perpetuating its institutions.”

Per the order, “classical” architectural styles include Greek Revival, Art Deco, Beaux-Arts, Georgian, Federal, and Neoclassical. The order also calls for the establishment of a so-called Council for Improving Federal Civic Architecture, which would be composed of all members of the powerful U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, leaders from the General Services Administration (GSA), and up to 20 other individuals from outside the sphere of the federal government, all



Above & Below: D'Amato Federal Courthouse; Central Islip, NY; Richard Meier & Partners; 2000



of them appointed by the Trump administration.

The executive order, in both of its versions, largely mirrors the views of the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit National Civic Art Society.

The group’s president, Justin Shubow (also a Trump-appointed member of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts) applauded Trump for signing the executive order and decried the “Modernist

mandarins controlling government architecture” who he believes have been “forcing ugly designs upon us” since the mid-20th century.”

The notion that contemporary architecture fails to deliver civic buildings of significance and beauty that symbolize society’s values and aspirations is absurd. But then Mr. Trump has never been characterized as aesthetically enlightened - to the contrary, nor has he been accepted by cultured society.

Richard Meier’s D’Amato Federal Courthouse in Islip, NY is a conspicuous example.

A Contemporary Expression Of Civic Architecture

The United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Central Islip, Long Island, New York, is already a landmark. The elegant, 12-story white rectangle and rotunda dominate the skyline. But it is more than large. Its prominence and unique profile recall images of civic architecture from the past. The connection is intentional.

Without mimicking history, this building is meant, in a landscape of small cities and towns, to impress and inspire those who see it. The building strikes a balance between expressing its stateliness with a certain formality and expressing an openness with a public plaza and interiors

that welcome visitors and let them know that the justice system represented within is open and accessible to all.

Its stately quality is evident in the careful arrangement of public spaces. Creating a sense of place for the courthouse, two flights of stairs lead to a broad plaza. This paved, open area is more than 600 feet long and 150 wide. Within this space, low walls, stairs, ramps, and a grove of paper bark maple trees delineate subspaces, adding interest but not distracting from the impact and grandeur of the plaza.

A dramatic rotunda continues the entry sequence. It is a tall freestanding volume that sits in front of the courthouse block. Conceptually, it is not unlike the towers that dignified public buildings in previous periods. Its design, however, is uncompromisingly modern. Clad in white metal panels, it is an opaque cone that rises 190 feet, with walls that angle inward toward the top.

Careful details enrich the pure simple form. On the exterior, a row of vertical fins crowns the flat roof, and a balcony-like element of intersecting planes emerges near the top of the cylinder. To the side, a canopy is cantilevered to reinforce the axis with the plaza stairs and celebrate the four-story portal cut into the rotunda wall. On the interior, the procession moves from a low, confined area

TRUMP TRIES TO DICTATE DESIGN

to a stunning vista up the cone where a skylight directs the path of the moving sun across the rotunda walls.

Beyond the rotunda lies the atrium. It is airy and open, filled with natural light. Its edges are defined by windows, balconies, and bridges, elements repeated for nine floors to create a great rectangular hall. The atrium is an orientation space, a place where the building's organization with bankruptcy courts on one side, magistrate and district courts on the other side, is easily understood. It is a ceremonial space.

People can assemble on the ground floor and on an expansive second story balcony. It is also the public entrance to the second floor Special Proceedings Courtroom. An open staircase leads to the large balcony that provides access to this court—a court used for ceremonies and special multi-defendant cases.

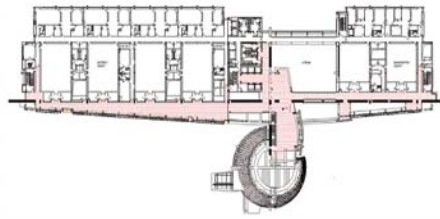
To signify the important events that take place in the Special Proceedings Courtroom, it-like the rotunda—is designed as a freestanding volume. In this case, it is a cube set behind, rather than in front of, the court-house block. The interior is over 30 feet high and is paneled in richly grained beech wood. The well and judge's bench are illuminated with skylights, and the jury sits in a tall alcove that has a window to one side.

The corridors on each of the courtroom floors are also designed as public spaces. They are wide galleries that gradually narrow to reflect the gentle curve of the south façade. Their exterior walls are floor-to-ceiling glass offering expansive vistas to the Atlantic Ocean. Their interior walls are finished in light gray granite and are detailed with fins that mark courtroom vestibules. The vestibules are welcoming and comfortable spaces that provide quiet waiting areas.

Order And Design

A hallmark of this United States Courthouse and Federal Building is its clear, elegant order. This is a significant design achievement. The building is home to a complex array of functions that, in addition to courtrooms and judges' chambers, includes prisoner handling facilities, jury assembly rooms, a library, cafeteria, and several floors of office space.

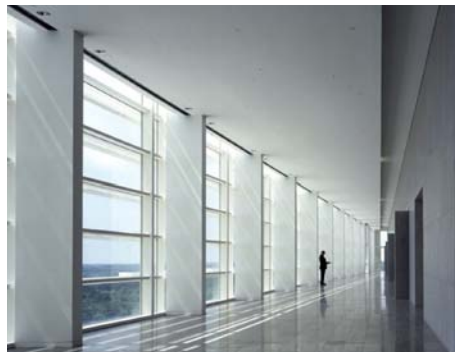
It is a large facility, 735,000 square feet. There are 23 courtrooms and more than 2000 parking spaces. The building welcomes the public and stands as a symbol of the integrity and openness of the American judicial system. At the same time, it provides appropriate security for judges, staff, prisoners, users, and visitors. The architect has addressed a litany of detailed requirements without losing sight of his concept



Above: D'Amato Federal Courthouse Floor Plan; Meier; 20000



Above: D'Amato Federal Courthouse Atrium
Below: D'Amato Federal Courthouse Hall/ Waiting Area
Bottom: D'Amato Federal Courthouse Courtroom



for the design. Functions are layered in rows, an order evident in the building's linear form and symbolized by a granite wall that runs the entire length of the structure. The wall, a large plane that projects out, frames the building at each end and is visible

through the front glass façade. Within the building, the wall is the threshold to the courtrooms, a boundary fabricated of a durable and distinguished material that emphasizes the building's solemn purpose.

The two main façades reflect the dual nature of the design's order, the public and private sides of the building. The public, south-facing plaza wall is glass and offers panoramic views to the ocean. The north façade is a solid plane, the private edge of the courthouse highlighted with a rhythmic pattern of strip windows to articulate offices and judges' chambers.

Geometric systems and repeated patterns further order the design. In plan, the dimension and layout of spaces is refined as a composition of squares and proportional rectangles. On the south façade, floor levels are visible in the repetition of major horizontal beams, and court floors have projected sunscreens. On the north façade, judges' chambers have a tall grid of windows set over a line of smaller openings.

Panels on the exterior of the building and Special Proceedings Courtroom are square, while panels on the exterior of the rotunda are vertical rectangles. Interior spaces and finish materials, including the division of windows, also juxtapose square and rectangular grids, a strategy that, throughout the building, generates a dynamic blend of consistency and richness.

Form And Light

Compelling design is generally grounded in a strong philosophy. This is certainly true of Richard Meier's work whose theory of space is uniquely expressed in the handling of architectural volumes and light. The striking juxtaposition of forms is one of the great strengths of this courthouse. On a large scale, there is the contrast between the long rectangular block and the rotunda, and on the opposite side of the building, the long rectangular block and the cube of the Special Proceedings Courtroom.

A similarly exciting visual tension is found in the canopy and portal as they cut into the base of the rotunda and in the balcony as it emerges from the top of the rotunda. On the south façade, certain areas are enclosed in "frames" to break the rhythm of the horizontal sunscreens.

In the atrium, bridges and balconies move into

Continued Next Page

TRUMP TRIES TO DICTATE DESIGN

and across the space. More subtly, the glass wall facing the plaza is gently curved while the other walls of the courthouse block are rectilinear.

These and other similar compositions create an architecture that is successful because it balances strong its order with equally strong features.

The modulation of light is another critical element in Meier's design philosophy. This appears in the interaction of sunlight with the building forms, in the overlapping volumes of the courthouse, in the shadows cast by sunscreens and window frames, and in the layering of façade materials.

General Facts About The Courthouse

The United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Central Islip, New York, is located on a 29-acre site at the intersection of Carleton Avenue and North Spur Drive. It is one of the tallest structures on Long Island rising 235 feet. The 12-story, 735,000 square foot facility includes 23 courtrooms: one Special Proceedings Courtroom, 13 District, four Magistrate, and five Bankruptcy courtrooms.

There are also 25 judges' chambers, a law library, office space for several federal agencies, and a cafeteria. As the needs of the courts grow, spaces in the building can be converted to accommodate up to 39 courtrooms and 42 judges' chambers.

The building is organized linearly. Within the long rectangular main space, an atrium divides District and Magistrate Courts on the west from Bankruptcy Courts on the east. The three court types have been designed elegantly but simply. They are paneled with cherry wood and have ceilings more than 15 feet high.

Their layout is traditional yet flexible with moveable witness boxes and attorneys' tables. The bench is elevated and on axis with the entrance. The jury box is to the side opposite the witness box, and the spectator area is at the back. Perhaps the most modern element is the lighting, which is articulated with a large square or circular recess in the ceiling. The courtrooms integrate the latest audiovisual and digital technologies.

The exterior of the building is clad in white coated aluminum panels. In the interior, courtroom entrances are granite, and the same material is used for the floors of the public spaces. There is extensive parking - 1,251 spaces for users and visitors, 426 spaces for staff, and 366 secure spaces.

The public and employees enter through two security checkpoints. Inside, there are three separate circulation systems: one for the public; one



Above & Below: D'Amato Federal Courthouse; Central Islip, NY; Richard Meier & Partners; 2000



Meritocracy After DEI?

At a time when the Federal government is dismantling Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs, perhaps we should remind ourselves of the alternative - meritocracy.

Meritocracy excludes most of society from meaningful access to advantage.

In the US, meritocracy is different than in the United Kingdom.

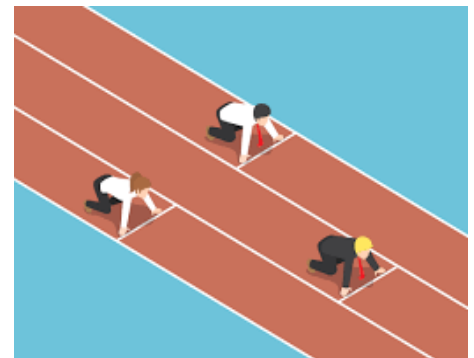
In a recent address at Oxford University, Yale Law Professor Dr. Daniel Markovits observed that you can buy your way into Yale, but not Oxford in England. At Oxford, 40% of the students are privately educated in a country where 7% of students are privately educated. In the UK, 80% of Oxford students come from socially and economically privileged backgrounds.

Yale's admissions process is corrupt. Meritocracy in America is corrupt. You cannot buy a place at Oxford.

Meritocracy supposedly means that advantage turns on effort and talent. In fact, it turns on effort, talent - and investment. In a meritocratic society, the amount of effort a student gets varies greatly.

In the US, the richest private schools spend over \$75k per year educating their children when public

Continued Next Page



Above & Below: Meritocracy



Meritocracy After DEI?

schools spend an average of \$12k per year. In the UK, the richest private schools spend an average of 30k Euros educating their children. These massively different investments produce massively different levels of achievement because when you get trained, you get good at things.

Meritocracy works best when its parents have the resources, energy and skills to invest in the development of their children.

When Michael Young invented the term ‘meritocracy,’ the richest in England had only half the share of the nation’s income that they have today. The richest 10% of earners made twice as much as the lowest 10%. Today, they make four times as much.

An Oxford graduate will make 50% more her first year out of college than a graduate of York University, which is why meritocratic children are also rich children. Meritocracy therefore excludes most of society from meaningful advantage.

“It’s not actually fun to have that much invested in you as a kid.” You are prodded and tested. You graduate and you get a job at McKinsey or Goldman Saks and you work 80 hours a week. And you become a parent and you repeat the exercise.

Exam Anxiety has overtaken Body Image as the largest source of stress in wealthy children the UK. You will be wealthy but you will not be well and your children will not be well. So while meritocracy excludes many, it will ensnare its elites and it does not mean that it serves society’s interest.

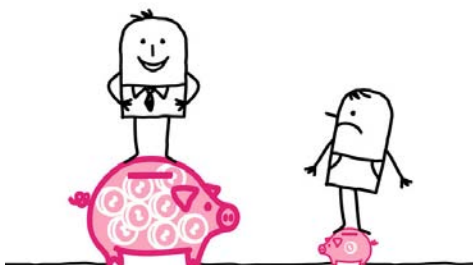
“Meritocracy creates an indifference to the common good and believes in its own entitlements. And it tells the rest of society that it’s their fault that they are not at Oxford or Yale for this form of structural exclusion. Meritocracy makes the elites smug and the rest naked in their rejection.”

It is an axiom of American life that advantage should be earned through ability and effort. Even as the country divides itself at every turn, the meritocratic ideal – that social and economic rewards should follow achievement rather than breeding – reigns supreme. Both Democrats and Republicans incessantly repeat meritocratic notions. Meritocracy cuts to the heart of who we are. It sustains the American dream.

But what if, both up and down the social ladder, meritocracy is a sham? Today, meritocracy in America has become exactly what it was conceived to resist: a mechanism for the



Above & Below: DEI Protests & Dismantling DEI
Below: Meritocracy



concentration and dynastic transmission of wealth and privilege across generations. Upward mobility has become a fantasy, and the embattled middle classes are now more likely to sink into the working poor than to rise into the professional elite.

At the same time, meritocracy now ensnares even those who manage to claw their way to the top, requiring rich adults to work with crushing intensity, exploiting their expensive educations in order to extract a return. All this is not the result of deviations or retreats from meritocracy but rather stems directly from meritocracy’s successes.

This is the radical argument that Daniel Markovits prosecutes with rare force. Markovits is well

placed to expose the sham of meritocracy. Having spent his life at elite universities, he knows from the inside the corrosive system we are trapped within. Markovits also knows that if we understand that meritocratic inequality produces near-universal harm, we can cure it. When *The Meritocracy Trap* reveals the inner workings of the meritocratic machine, it also illuminates the first steps outward, towards a new world that might once again afford dignity and prosperity to the American people.

The social costs of the American meritocratic system are explored in Markovits’ *Trap* book. GDP per capita in the US today is three times what it was in 1960. Poverty is 80% lower than 1960, yet five times as many people identify as being ‘unhappy’ compared to 1960. So the US is richer, much less poor and much more unhappy today.

Today the US suffers from increases in the forms of despair – obesity, suicide, drug addiction/overdoses and alcoholism. Speculation by Markovits on why this has occurred – Adam Smith – the only purpose of production is to support consumption. MSNBC’s Chris Hayes compelling book, *America After Meritocracy: Twilights of the Elites*, makes the point that our ruling class has failed us Americans. In each case, a cadre of Very Important People succumbed to some combination of blinkered groupthink, deception, self-dealing, fraud, smugness, and self-delusion.

And in virtually every case, they escaped accountability. As Hayes puts it: “All the smart people fucked up, and no one seems willing to take responsibility.”

But why did the smart people fuck up, again and again? Because, Hayes argues, America’s mechanism for sorting the gifted and talented from the rest of us – what we proudly call our meritocracy – has broken down, to the point where it “isn’t very meritocratic at all.”

And the consequence is that we’re “led” by a grasping, status-obsessed elite class that’s increasingly socially and economically distant and prone to rigging the game for its own benefit, the public good be damned.

Meritocracy – indeed, the vision of the American Dream – says that everyone, regardless of their family name, gender, creed, or geographical origin will compete on an even playing field, and then there’ll be this intense funneling process that gets us down to the most talented and the brightest, who will helm our institutions and comprise the governing elite or the 1%, although those two things are increasingly the same thing.

Continued Next Page

Meritocracy After DEI?

The mechanisms of mobility and of equal opportunity are inevitably subverted by unequal power and wealth. We want to make a neat division between equality of opportunity and equality of outcome, but in practice, we cannot.

Hayes uses the example of his high school, Hunter College in New York City. It is a public school, free, open to students from all five boroughs, but it is highly selective. When Hayes went there in the 1990s, you took one test in sixth grade to get in. If you scored high enough you got in, if not, not. And if you were the mayor's kid and you didn't score high enough, you didn't get in. That is the kind of democratizing promise of legitimate meritocracy.

Hayes: "The pathology of ceaseless competition is inculcated early and creates this kind of constant status obsession upwards. You're habituated early on to think of life as winning a set of competitions toward some small set of scarce resources. You have to jump through these hoops, make your way, show everyone, by the amount of money you make and the status you've acquired, that you belong there."

"That is very different from the idea of noblesse oblige -- which is not to be nostalgic for the previous ruling establishment, which was also morally bankrupt in all sorts of ways - but it is a very different vision: You are bred to rule, and you must rule with grace and wisdom."

"What's insidious about meritocracy is that it countenances and tells a story that justifies the extreme inequality. Which is why you see these extreme payouts at the top. And those extreme payouts create tremendous corrupting influences."

And the reason that Hayes talks about Major League Baseball in his book and connects it to Enron and Wall Street is that if you have this vision of an institutional arrangement with huge rewards for performance, it is trickier than it looks to design a system that does not also have big rewards for cheating. And right now, the size of the payouts at the top are so big that you can get a lot of cheating.

There are two different ways you can think about meritocracy. One is this idea of finding the natural aristocrats, and that is an extremely dangerous one -- it is almost like a Calvinist vision, of people that are the elect, the saved. That idea underlies a lot of the problem here.

Another one is just the idea of constant assessment, like in, say, professional sports. It is not like, you are great and you'll be great forever; it is as soon as Derek Jeter has a crappy few months, he's getting killed in the New York press, and people are saying he shouldn't get a new contract.

That is a very different model than the one that locates some central feature of somebody that makes them the best decision maker. There's confusion between the two models: We like to think we have the latter, but we actually have the former.

"The underlying premise in all of this is the idea that there is this scarce, small set of good jobs and fulfilling lives to be had, and everyone is going to compete for those. One alternative is a vision of society where everyone who's willing to work can have a good job and a fulfilling life, which is what it should be. That's a far superior social model. And it's also in stark contrast to the one we have now."

Hayes' examples of the overwhelming failure of US institutions and the absence of accountability that prove his thesis includes:

- Enron/ Arthur Anderson
- Climate Change Inaction
- The Supreme Court's Citizen United Decision - 9/11
- The Catholic Church's Inability to Remove Its Predators from Its Ranks
- The Iraq War
- Abu Ghraib
- Hurricane Katrina's (Non)Response
- 2004 Flu Vaccine Shortage
- Bernie Madoff
- Gulf Oil Spill

Since his book was released, Hayes' list could be rightfully expanded to include:

- 2008 Financial Crisis
- Gun Violence/ Congress Inaction
- Health Care Costs
- Opioid Crisis
- Police Violence
- White House Lies
- Racism
- Russia
- Environmental Indifference
- Gerrymandering

There has been no accountability for the elites are the helm of the institutions that have produced the crises. And we have accepted the inequality of accountability in the US.

Change requires faith in social institutions and it requires the institutions to behave properly as they were designed and charged to perform. The elites and common man must be held to the same standards.

How have we reached an era in which foul play is the unpleasant but accepted standard? According to Sarah Chayes, an anti-corruption crusader who has waged her fight from the Middle East to the U.S., the culture of corruption is

highly contagious and has spread from undemocratic nations to ostensibly enlightened ones. As a reporter for NPR who covered the Kosovo War and the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Chayes was unsatisfied with merely describing other people's misfortunes.

Instead, she started working at an NGO run by the brother of the then-newly elected President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, whom Chayes and many others viewed as a bastion of hope for a new era. But Chayes's hopes were soon dashed: She observed the family as it pocketed workers' salaries and raised aid money for a so-called affordable housing project that was in fact a gated community engineered for personal profit. "It was incredibly heartbreaking," she recalls.

Disillusioned, Chayes returned to the U.S. to work as a special adviser to Admiral Mike Mullen, then the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, helping to craft policy for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Arab Spring. She hoped to make government agencies see that in order to quash the growing extremism in Afghanistan and in the surrounding areas, they first needed to extinguish institutional corruption in those regions.

Her message fell on deaf ears at the Pentagon; her colleagues were more interested in singling out insurgents than addressing the broken state that gave them cause. Again, Chayes resigned and found another way to spread her message by publishing *Thieves of State*, a book laying out her theory: When societies tolerate foul play in their chambers of power, economies go bust, societies lose morale, and insurgencies balloon.

In a speech on ethics at Chautauqua in 2005, the late Dr. Rev. Martin Marty, head of the Divinity School at the University of Chicago who passed away in February, author of over 50 books and recipient of over 70 honorary doctorate degrees, observed that at a religious conference the prior year, he and nine other colleagues found themselves in a room after the day's formal activities.

One of the group handed a slip of paper from the phone pad to each person and asked them to write down what in 100 years, their descendants would be surprised and disappointed that their generation had allowed to take place.

While worded differently, each person wrote that their grandchildren would be appalled that we lived contentedly in a culture that created the world's first permanent rural/ urban underclass. Thanks to the inability to capably address climate change and the lack of social consensus to restore competence and accountability to America's key institutions, these observations and predictions seem increasingly on point.

Cincinnati's Green Leadership

Former Mayor Frank Jackson's Cleveland Leadership Summits were a joke. The annual lip service day spouting known facts lead to no policies or acts of responsible approaches to climate change.

Carla Walker, in the new book *The Case For Cities* observes that Cincinnati "has aggressively addressed climate change while balancing nature, equity and sustainable development."

Three of the authors of *The Case for Cities* recently spoke at the City Club, moderated by the new president of Baldwin-Wallace College Lee Fisher. In 2006, then-mayor Mark Mallory signed on to the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement – a pledge to create jobs by promoting smart energy solutions to global warming and reducing the risks of toxins in the workplace and community. Participating communities had to:

- Strive to meet or beat Kyoto Protocol targets in their community;
- Urge State and Federal governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat greenhouse gas emission reduction targets suggested for the US in the Kyoto Protocol;
- Urge Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, establishing a national emission trading system.

Cincinnati started with a substantial stakeholder engagement process in 2007. That effort involved over 150 subject matter experts and representatives of scores of community groups and businesses as well as interested citizens. Cincinnati's Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES) launched the city's first climate action strategy in 2008, which was hailed as the first municipal climate strategy in the tri-state area of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. The strategy incorporated 80 recommendations designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. Since its inception, the city updates the Plan every five years.

The 2013 update incorporated climate resilience. The 2018 revision – a ten-month community-driven process that involved 30 community meetings - incorporated concepts of equity to respond to the impact of climate change on Cincinnati's vulnerable communities and population.

The Green Cincinnati Plan (GCP) has helped establish Cincinnati as a national leader in sustainability and an attractive destination for businesses and individuals. The 2023 GCP presents eight Focus Areas: Buildings and Energy, City Operations, Community Activation, Food, Mobility, Natural Environment, Resilience and Climate Adaptation, and Zero Waste, that include a comprehensive set of 30 goals, 40 strategies and 130 actions to advance the sustainability, equity, and resilience of our city. Cincinnati City Council adopted the 2023 Green Cincinnati Plan on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.



Above: Cincinnati's Green Plan = Green Jobs
Below: Cincinnati Green Plan Themes

Important Themes & Supporting Documents

Co-creation of a community vision requires listening, collaboration, and consensus. With more than 3,000 resident recommendations, the focus area subcommittees synthesized the input from multiple sources.

From the thousands of voices that contributed to this planning process, several cross-cutting themes repeatedly emerged as key community priorities across multiple focus areas of the Plan.

Key Community Priorities

- ✓ Preparing green workforce
- ✓ Prioritizing equity
- ✓ Leveraging the landmark federal funding opportunities
- ✓ Emphasizing and building social cohesion

Climate Change

Why is Climate Change Happening?

The use of fossil fuels for industrialization has spurred human prosperity and economic growth for many, but not all, over the last 100 years. Burning fossil fuels to power our lives has led to increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which are causing changes in our climate.

The local impacts of climate change in Cincinnati—rising heat, increased storm intensity and frequency, worsening impacts on health and agriculture, increased costs to municipal government—are significant and inequitably experienced.

While addressing carbon emissions takes a global effort, with 70% of emissions coming from urban areas, Cincinnati recognizes that cities play a unique role. Focused efforts to decarbonize locally will improve the quality of life, economic well-being, and long-term sustainability of our City and region.

Climate Change is an Equity Issue and a Risk-Multiplier

The climate crisis acts as a risk-multiplier, making existing problems worse. Residents who are poor, homeless, or living with chronic health conditions are at greater risk. Neighborhoods with fewer trees and more impervious surfaces (such as parking lots and roads) experience greater temperature increases and more frequent flooding than other neighborhoods. Such vulnerable populations and neighborhoods are often predominantly low-income communities of color where residents have been systematically denied a

Above: Cincinnati's Green Plan on Climate Change
Below: Cincinnati Riverfront Park Award

USA Today readers vote Smale Park second best riverwalk



Copyright 2023 Focus Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system.



Rep. Patrick Jordan

CINCINNATI – USA Today's Reader's Choice Awards, 108th, announced the list of top 10 riverwalks, voted best in 2022. Anyone who's ever taken a stroll along Cincinnati's riverfront or played with their families at the park on a beautiful day won't be surprised to learn that Smale Park was voted second best.



The team that helps you save so you don't Waste Your Money



Spotlight:



Above: Fairview Park High School; Fulton & Taylor; 1929

Fairview High School opened in January 1929. Prior to its opening all Fairview Park high school students attended West High School or West Tech High School in Cleveland, and later Rocky River High School. When Fairview High School was first constructed it contained 21 rooms and could accommodate 450 students.

The first addition to the high school was built in 1948 to accommodate a growing enrollment and an expanding curriculum. The addition included new industrial arts facilities, a 1,000-seat gymnasium and various assembly rooms. The original shop area was remodeled as a cafeteria.

Between 1952 and 1954, ten new classrooms were added as well as an art room, a music suite with practice rooms, a business education complex and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 844. The new facilities made for a structure almost as large as the original building. The library was doubled in size, the cafeteria was enlarged and the home economics wing, which was part of the original building, was modernized. The dedication of the auditorium was combined with the 25th anniversary celebration of the opening of the original section.

The high school swimming pool opened in June 1961. It was the largest pool of any Cuyahoga County school at the time. In 1964, the science wing saw expansion with the addition of seven classrooms and a planetarium. An auto mechanics building, located by the athletic practice fields, opened on the high school grounds in October 1970.

Most recently, the Gemini Project brought changes to the high school complex, which included a large recreation center to be used by both the school system and the community. Major changes were also implemented at the other buildings in the district. The Gilles-Sweet facility is a brand new K-6 building and the only elementary school in the district. The Parkview facility is now the seat of the Board of Education offices, a day-care center, a pre-school and kindergarten.

FLW Oberlin Repairs:

Oberlin's Frank Lloyd Wright house to close this summer for repairs

Published May 01, 2020, 7:55 a.m.



The Welzheimer/Johnson House in Oberlin was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in the late 1940s in Wright's Usonian style. Photo courtesy Andrew Pielage.



The Welzheimer/Johnson House, one of Wright's popular Usonian homes, is likely to be shuttered for most of the summer, starting in early June. Officials hope the house will reopen in the fall.

The four-bedroom home was completed in 1949 for Margaret and Charles Welzheimer, who moved to Oberlin from Summit County after they acquired a farm business in nearby Wellington. The couple bought a large lot of former farmland on Morgan Street, just west of downtown, and commissioned Wright to design the house.

The house features natural materials, low ceilings and angular rooflines. It was the first Usonian house built in Ohio. The Usonian style – which stands for United States of North America – was developed by Wright starting in the 1930s, an effort to bring a uniquely American style of architecture to the middle class.

His Oberlin design is L-shaped, with four bedrooms along a narrow hallway lined with shelves. The main living space features Wright-designed built-in furniture, floor-to-ceiling windows, brick walls and red concrete floors. It features a handsome geometric redwood ceiling and brick columns that separate the living room and kitchen.

The living room in the Welzheimer/Johnson House in Oberlin features brick walls and columns, floor-to-ceiling windows and a gorgeous wood ceiling. Photo courtesy Andrew Pielage

The roof fascia features 2,000 decorative wood balls. After the Welzheimers divorced, Margaret Welzheimer sold the house in the early 1960s.

It passed through several owners and was substantially altered in the years leading up to 1968, when Ellen Johnson, an art history professor at Oberlin College, purchased the home.

Johnson worked to return elements of the home back to their Wright-designed intent, including removing paint, replacing windows and restoring landscaping. She donated the home to the college when she died in 1992.

SPOTLIGHT: WELLINGTON TOWN HALL

Wellington is a village of 4500 in Lorain County and is known for being the home of Archibald Willard, artist of the three "Spirit of '76" paintings, one of which is displayed in the town.

Designed by the architect Oscar Cobb of Chicago at a cost of \$40,000 in 1885, the Town Hall originally housed the bulk of Wellington's public functions as well as a community Opera House. This structure features an unusual but attractive blend of Byzantine, Gothic, Greek and Spanish architecture.

The building is clad in red brick with a hipped roof, Arabesque gable parapets, arched windows with Moorish motifs, Queen Anne-style stained glass block double-hung windows, an open belfry with an arabesque-shaped roof and clock faces, large semi-circular feature windows at the central bays of the front facade, flanked by thick colonnettes at the third floor, a decorative pressed metal cornice, and a barrel vaulted rear wing, which originally contained the opera house, but today serves as a gymnasium.

The building is a contributing structure in the Wellington Center Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, and the Wellington Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The building today remains in use as the municipal building for the village of Wellington, as well as a community center.

After public debate in 1950 concerning the potential demolition of the building to enable its replacement with a modern facility, the township elected to retain the historic structure. Through a levy, the Town Hall was returned to service and received brick work restoration and a major remodeling and update in 1983. The township has also maintained the surrounding village green that provides the community a governmental, social and architectural centerpiece of significance.

The structure standing today is actually the township's third town hall. A small "Town House" was erected in 1829, built originally by both the township and the First Congregational Church of Wellington which included two school rooms on the first floor and a large auditorium "for meetings" on the second floor.

In 1846, the original brick building was dismantled due to a weak foundation and published reports that it was too small for the many meetings and funerals. The replacement was constructed on the same site in 1847 and is shown in the Village of Wellington painting by Archibald M. Willard ("The Spirit of '76") in 1857. This is referred to as "The Old White Church" which was abandoned in 1879.



Top: Wellington Town Hall; Oscar Cobb; 1885
Second: Wellington Town Hall; Oscar Cobb; 1885
Third: Spirit of '76; Archibald Willard

