

# Columbus Metropolitan Club

## Franklinton is the next CMC forum topic



“There’s a tenacity to Franklinton, determination that the neighborhood can be better” says Jim Sweeney, director of Franklinton Development Corporation. The CMC forum on Jan. 27, *The Real Franklinton*, will offer insight to the evolving neighborhood just on the other side of the Scioto River from downtown Columbus.

Panelists will be Dana Vallangeon, CEO of Lower Lights Christian Health Center, Nick Stanich, director of Franklinton Gardens, and Trent Smith, executive director of the Franklinton Board of Trade.

Franklinton, founded in 1797, was the site of the original community along the west side of the Scioto River, prior to the decision to make Columbus the state capital. Historic floods in 1913 and 1959, garnered the neighborhood the moniker “The Bottoms” because of the flood plain and also because it was an economically depressed area. The neighborhood deteriorated for almost 50 years until a plan was put in place to rebuild a flood wall that would protect the property owners and offer affordable flood insurance rates.

With assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and federal funds, shoring up a flood wall was the first step in the neighborhood improvement plan which was completed in 2003. This was not a quick fix; violent crime was still a common occurrence. Some mark the turning point of the neighborhood as 2011 when the Riverside-Bradley public housing complex was demolished.

There are plans for new housing developments offering walking distance to downtown including high-rises, townhouses and some rehab projects creating apartments. The goal of Franklinton leaders is also to raise the economic opportunities for current residents, yet challenges of poverty still exist.

Sweeney explained that “rebranding of the neighborhood as a creative, innovative center helped.” Property values are slowly rising and new residents and businesses are moving to Franklinton. The Franklinton Development Corporation is focused on improving housing options by building new and rehabbing old homes for both sale and rent. They welcome new residents but also want current residents to remain.

Several new businesses such as Land Grant Brewing and Franklinton Cycleworks are thriving and other businesses have moved to the area such as the Columbus Idea Foundry and Glass Axis. The Franklinton Arts District has encouraged other creative businesses and artists to move to the neighborhood.

*CMC forums are frequently aired on the Ohio Channel via WOSU digital and Columbus Television at channel 3 on Insight and Time Warner and channel 99 on Warner, WOW and AT&T U-Verse. For schedule details, visit [ctv.columbus.gov](http://ctv.columbus.gov).*

## Calendar of Events

### This Week

*Wednesday, January 20*  
**CMC 40th Best of Columbus: Companies That Will Define Us.**

**Rev1 Ventures Revs up**  
Featuring **Steve White**, CEO and Founder of Clarivoy, **Shaun Young**, Founder and CEO of Ardina, **Tom Walker**, president and CEO Rev1 Ventures  
With Support from 40th Celebration Honorary Founders Dispatch Media Group and WBNS-10TV

### Upcoming

*Wednesday, January 27*  
**The Real Franklinton**

Featuring **Dana Vallangeon**, CEO of Lower Lights Christian Health Center, **Nick Stanich**, director of Franklinton Gardens, **Trent Smith**, executive director of the Franklinton Board of Trade, moderated by **Walker Evans**, founder of Columbus Underground and the Metropreneur

*Wednesday, February 3*  
**Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help**

Featuring **Bob Lupton**, author of *Toxic Charity*, **Chad Jester**, president, Nationwide Insurance Foundation, moderated by **Michelle Heritage**, executive director, Community Shelter Board  
Presented in partnership with Community Shelter Board

*Tuesday, February 9*  
**New Faculty Welcome Party at COSI**  
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
Help CMC welcome new faculty from area universities to Columbus. Enjoy a planetarium presentation, good food and complimentary bar. CMC members and guests welcome; reservations available online.

*Friday, February 12*  
**Columbus Business First Breakfast**  
Hosted by CMC and the Athletic Club of Columbus  
7 – 9 a.m. at the Athletic Club  
Register online at <http://bizj.us/1kv3ma> or call 614.220.5484

CMC forums are held at the Athletic Club of Columbus, 136 East Broad Street, unless otherwise noted.

Check-in for forums at the Athletic Club is at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon. The program concludes at 1:15 p.m. and guests are encouraged to continue the conversation in the lobby with coffee and cookies.

CMC members please note that the early-bird registration deadline has moved. The new deadline is Friday at midnight, prior to the standard Wednesday forum.

Pre-paid reservations are required. The price is \$23 for CMC members; \$33 for CMC members' guests; and \$45 for the general public.

Reservations can be made online at [www.columbusmetroclub.org](http://www.columbusmetroclub.org) or by calling (614) 464-3220. Anyone requesting additional information may contact Jane Scott, President and CEO; Andrew Campbell, Vice President of Programming; Debby Rosenthal, Vice President of Member Relations and Marketing; or Lanie Cuthbert, Event Coordinator.

## CMC chair to receive Pillar Award

Mataryun “Mo” Wright and his company, RAMA Consulting Group, will receive the Pillar Award for Community Service at the Ohio Statehouse on Jan. 28, presented by Smart Business. Mo is the chair of the CMC board of trustees and a lifetime member.

According to Smart Business, “The Medical Mutual Pillar Award for Community Service honors businesses of all types and sizes that make outstanding contributions to their community. Its purpose is to encourage a charitable environment, recognize creative efforts that make a difference and demonstrate the ties between the for-profit and nonprofit worlds.”



Wright

## New cartoon caption contest

Courtesy of Cartoon Crossroads Columbus and specifically Jeff Smith, here's the first CMC cartoon caption contest. Please submit your creative caption to [staff@columbusmetroclub.org](mailto:staff@columbusmetroclub.org). The winning captions will be printed in a future edition.



## Columbus Metropolitan Club's Jan. 13 forum focused on immigrants' impact on central Ohio

The Columbus Metropolitan Club's Jan. 13 program, *Immigration Nation and the Impact of Refugees in Central Ohio*, featured Deborah Rogers, associate director, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Rachel Peric, deputy director of Welcoming America, Angela Plummer, executive director of Community Refugee & Immigrant Services (CRIS),

Jhuma Acharya, refugee from Bhutan, case manager for CRIS and was hosted by Guadalupe Velasquez, assistant director of the Community Relations Commission for the City of Columbus.

The forum was sponsored by WOSU Public Media and in partnership with Greater Columbus Sister Cities International.



Photos by Lucy Wolfe

Participating in the forum were from partner Greater Columbus Sister Cities Tim Sword, CMC CEO Jane Scott, CMC trustee Mindy Wright, speakers Deborah Rogers, Rachel Peric, Angela Plummer, Jhuma Acharya, Guadalupe Velasquez and from sponsor WOSU Public Media Tom Rieland.



David Cook has a question for the panelists.



Marilyn Brown and Dale Heydlauff are happy to reconnect at the CMC forum.

### RE-TWEETS FROM THE JANUARY 13 CMC FORUM – @CMCFORUM



*#cmcforum* “We need to dispel myths of refugees as takers and show how much they give to our community. Tremendous economic contributions.”

*Deborah Rogers* “The question isn't why we allow refugees. The question is why we help people seeking refuge.” Bravo!  
— Dani Robbins

*When we give immigrants the opportunity to contribute socially, civically, economically - we all thrive #cmcforum*  
— Sarah McQuaide

*Rachel Peric: It's not only seeing the past, but reclaiming the American value of opportunity & bringing out the best in people. #cmcforum*  
— Kelly Atkinson

*We can relate: when someone sees us not just for who we are in the moment, but for potential of who we can become. Rachel Peric*  
— Community Research Partners