

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

2020, what a year! Through all of the setbacks and hurdles, Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp. had a truly remarkable year. While the COVID-19 global pandemic ravaged the world, and long overdue demands for racial and social justice created historic social unrest across the country, Seventy Five North remained committed to our mission to advance the Highlander neighborhood while responding to the unique challenges presented by an unprecedented year.

Like numerous operations around the country, Seventy Five North transitioned its staff to a primarily work-from-home schedule and limited Highlander's traditional in-person program agenda and service offerings. Virtual engagement with Highlander residents, business owners, contractors, donors and stakeholders became the norm as social distancing guidelines and other safety protocols became the first line of defense against COVID-19.

Through 2020's obstacles, we've emerged stronger and more resilient than before. We've passed the test and we welcome all that 2021 will bring.

Cydney Franklin  
President & CEO

## BUILD

### Highlander Accelerator

The Highlander Accelerator continues to be a community resource for those looking to connect with one another over a cup of coffee, a bite to eat, attend a Highlander event, participate in an educational opportunity or to simply gather in a beautiful setting.



### Dining Room

The Dining Room food hall officially opened its doors in January 2020 with Big Mama's Kitchen & Catering, Pico and Highlander Bar & Grill. Through options like catering, takeout and curbside service, each business adjusted their operating models due to COVID-19 restrictions and remained open throughout the year.

### Nobility Point

Highlander's 60-unit, independent senior living housing development neared completion by year-end 2020. Individuals 62+ will move to in Highlander's newest addition by February 2021.

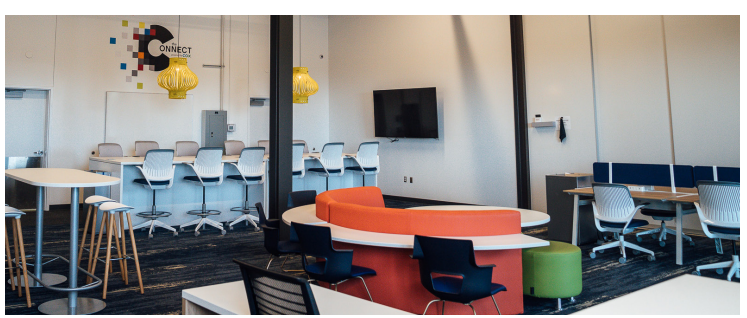
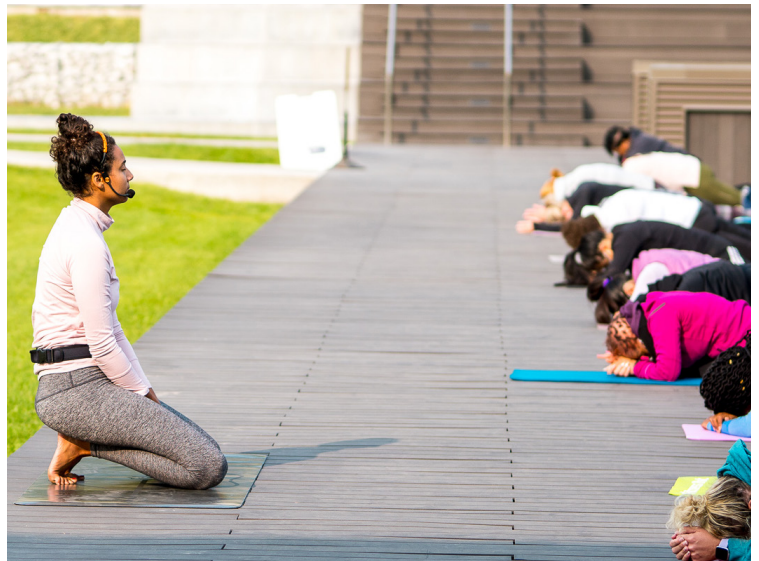


### Saturday Morning Yoga with Lindsay

Yoga with Lindsay, a Highlander neighborhood favorite, took place between July and September. With numerous safety protocols in place, the weekly event drew participants from the neighborhood and across Omaha.

## ENRICH

2020 forced Seventy Five North to reimagine the Highlander neighborhood's traditional health and wellness program agenda. We shifted focus to basic needs support while working alongside new and established partners to advance this priority. Although several programs were cancelled or significantly modified, new program offerings emerged focused on digital access, virtual learning support and online workforce development opportunities.



### The Connect powered by COX

The Highlander Accelerator's technology lab and digital library proved to be an asset in a year with high demand on digital access. The Connect's partnership with Prairie STEM, a local nonprofit with a mission to advance youth access to science and engineering programs. Prairie STEM called The Connect home as they created STEM kits for OPS students to encourage exploration and creativity.

### Do School

In partnership with Howard Kennedy Elementary School and Metropolitan Community College, Do School was created in the Highlander Accelerator to serve the unique needs of North Omaha students dealing with the challenges of virtual learning. The tuition free program offered rotating groups of students access to in-person instruction and tutoring, internet access, breakfast, lunch and camaraderie.

### Drive Through Career Fair

To support North Omaha's urgent workforce development needs, Seventy Five North teamed up with EmployOMA, Metropolitan Community College, Heartland Hope Mission, the Omaha Housing Authority, Catholic Charities and Salem Baptist Church to administer a drive-through career fair. Employment information was provided to attendees in addition to food boxes, candidate information, voter registration packets and COVID-19 safety information.



# EDUCATE

Seventy Five North partnered with Omaha Public Schools in 2015 to strengthen and help support Howard Kennedy Elementary School. At the five year mark, Howard Kennedy has seen steady improvements in state test scores in math, reading and science, an advanced project-based learning curriculum, positive changes to school culture and parent relations, and strong teacher retention rates. The school is led by longtime educator, Tony Gunter, who is a proven instructional leader and Highlander neighborhood advocate.



### ACT Prep at Highlander

In partnership with Aim High Test Prep, Seventy Five North offered a second year of ACT test preparation through a 10-week course for students either living in a North Omaha zip code or attending a nearby high school. 13 students prepared for the December 2020 exam through virtual classes, limited in-person instruction and tutoring.

### Omaha Early Learning Center at Kennedy

The Omaha Early Learning Center at Kennedy officially opened its doors in January 2020. Located just steps from Howard Kennedy Elementary, the center serves over 160 of the neighborhood's youngest learners ages six weeks to pre-kindergarten. The center's second floor is home to the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative, a nonprofit service provider and resource for Omaha's early learning centers.



## ORGANIZATION



Kristin Williams



Bradley Ekwerekwu



Adam Steffen

### Thank you Kristin Williams, The Sherwood Foundation

Seventy Five North thanks founding Board Member Kristin Williams for her 10 years of service and dedication to the organization. Kristin's commitment to Seventy Five North and the revitalization of the Highlander neighborhood will be forever cherished and commended. We owe much to Kristin who will surely be missed.

### New Board Members

Seventy Five North welcomes two new Board Members, Bradley Ekwerekwu, Chief Executive Officer at the Learning Community, and Adam Steffen, Manager at Bland & Associates.



Cydney Franklin



Shaun Ilahi

### New Leadership

Seventy Five North's Board of Directors appoint Cydney Franklin to serve as President & CEO. Cydney joined Seventy Five North in 2015 as a Senior Project Manager and was later promoted to the position of Chief Operating Officer.

### New Team Member

Shaun Ilahi is hired to serve as the Chief Compliance Officer.

### Othello H. Meadows III

Founding President & CEO, Othello H. Meadows III, resigned from Seventy Five North mid-July 2020 to pursue a career in philanthropy. As a North Omaha native, Othello dedicated more than a decade of his life to the advancement of the Highlander neighborhood and its residents, businesses and students by leading an ambitious, groundbreaking redevelopment strategy that has become a coveted addition to Omaha. Othello's strong leadership style produced resounding change in Highlander through targeted investments in housing, commercial development, education access, and most importantly, in people. We are indebted to Othello and eternally grateful for his passion and drive for change. Highlander will always be your home!



## COMING UP IN 2021!

### Highlander Phase IV - Burdette & Wade and The Overlook

Burdette & Wade and The Overlook is an 111-unit residential and commercial development to be located between 29th and 30th Streets, south of Burdette Street. Commencing in late summer 2021, Burdette & Wade and The Overlook will include a mixed-use elevator building with adjacent townhomes and duplexes.

### Homeownership Opportunities

Seventy Five North will pilot its single-family housing program this summer. Through partners like Family Housing Advisory Services, Omaha 100, the City of Omaha and philanthropic groups, Seventy Five North will offer homeownership opportunities to individuals and families from diverse economic backgrounds.

### Highlander Development Co.

A new non-profit subsidiary will be established to further homeownership opportunities in Highlander. Acting as a "CHDO", a Community Housing Development Organization, Highlander Development Co. will utilize diverse funding sources to renovate and construct for-sale homes in and around the Highlander neighborhood.

### Greenhouse

Seventy Five North will formalize partnerships in 2021 to finish and open the Highlander Accelerator's greenhouse. Stay tuned!

### Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant

In its second year, the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation (CNI) grant continues to focus on the revitalization of the North 30th Street Corridor and the redevelopment of Spencer Homes public housing. The CNI grant team provided support to residents through the pandemic with food distribution services, employment and skills development resources, healthcare access and virtual engagement activities. In partnership with the Omaha Housing Authority, Seventy Five North engaged Spencer Homes residents to learn about relocation housing preferences, outdoor recreation interests and youth development resources.

