

Together, we are Creating Stronger Communities.

The programs below are made possible through your generous support.



2022 - Present
Power of One

Created to support small businesses in urban commercial corridors, the Power of One program provides small businesses access to design assistance and funding for exterior improvements. The NDC helps clients explore creative design approaches that can be implemented for a high impact.

“The impact has been unbelievable, both for the business and for our neighbors.”
– Arthur, Power of One Grantee

Improvements increase the business’s visibility and sustainability in the communities, creating opportunities for ownership and authentic placemaking. The projects engage NDC staff, volunteer networks, and the businesses themselves to implement the work.

Partners: City of Columbus, Department of Development



2022 - Present
614 Beautiful

614 Beautiful is a citywide program aimed at sparking responsive, vibrant, neighborhood-driven solutions that help to beautify spaces with the support of grant funding. Eligible improvements include pocket parks, signage, streetscape enhancements, public art, and landscaping. In providing a platform for neighbors to come together to design, implement, and enjoy, the solutions reinforce the character and unique attributes of the community by placing people first.

Partners: City of Columbus, Department of Neighborhoods, Councilmember Lourdes Barroso de Padilla



1982 - Present
Internship Program

The Neighborhood Design Center employs student interns from The Ohio State University to provide real-world experience, where clients and interns work together to meet real budgets, deadlines, and design expectations.

Partners: The Ohio State University, Non-Profit Immersion Program, Federal Work-Study, Urban Arts Space, Knowlton School of Architecture

2023 - Present
Youth CoLab

Youth CoLab invites high school students to discover the exciting world of design, explore their creativity, and gain real-world professional experience.

In 2025, we continued to build momentum by introducing CoLab Engage, an after-school workshop series that engages youth in topics that relate to our built environments, and CoLab Bridge, a network of CoLab alumni, NDC staff, and industry professionals aiming to maximize professional success and development.

“I view the South Side differently now... There’s genuinely good people who you can make really good connections with,” says Ryan Wren, a student at Columbus Fort Hayes High School and South Side resident. Over the course of seven weeks, he and nine other high school students from across Columbus were a part of the 2025 CoLab Studio, the paid Youth CoLab internship that gives our city’s youth the tools to change their communities through design.

The internship, featured in segments on NBC4 and 10TV, mirrors a rigorous studio environment where the team



Partners: All People's Fresh Market, Directions for Youth & Families

must design and implement an urban activation project for a client.

This year, Community Development For All People needed a fresh look for the All People’s Fresh Market. The CoLab Studio stepped up to improve capacity, service, circulation, and visibility of the critical neighborhood resource.

“It went from elegant to opulent. Now, it’s buzzing. People are saying, ‘Look at what they got here! Look at what they got going on.’”

– Aaron Hamilton,
All People’s Fresh Market,
Manager



All People's Fresh Market, the 2025 Youth CoLab site.



Aniya implementing her design ideas.

In the Media
7.23.25 – NBC4
7.25.25 – 10TV
12.30.25 – ABC6

“I learned it’s good to step off of your comfort zone. It’s good to get messy. It’s good to start over, and sometimes you just got to look more closely at things.”
– Aniya, Intern
Age 17

“I’ve learned so much... I learned how to communicate, work together, build communities, interact with others, present in front of others. I’m going to take away a lot.”
– Riahna, Intern
Age 18