

The Cleveland
Heritage Medal
2019



Throughout its history, the City of Cleveland has been fortunate to have had dedicated and committed leadership. Whether in the arena of business, politics, religion; or in cultural, educational or philanthropic circles, the citizens of this city—of this region—have always been eager to share their talents, time and wisdom.

The creation of the Cleveland Heritage Medal in 2015 was intended to be the highest civilian award recognizing the greatest contributions

that an individual has made to the City. It is the ultimate testimony of the selfless devotion to the betterment of Cleveland.

Modeled after the Presidential Medal of Freedom, this award is bestowed upon those individuals who are truly pillars of the community, those individuals who have gone above and beyond the traditional community volunteerism and changed the landscape of Cleveland.

Today we induct four new recipients who, like the previous 13 awardees, have left an indelible mark on Cleveland through their service, volunteerism, bold ideas and actions.

These four were selected by the Cleveland Heritage Medal committee utilizing the established process that focuses on merit, longevity and notable results.

The inaugural class of 2016—Morton L. Mandel; Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr.; Sandra Planalto; Richard W. Pogue; and Senator George V. Voinovich—set the standard for this prestigious recognition.

This year the Cleveland Heritage Medal welcomes its newest honorees: Thomas W. Adler; Art D. Falco; Robert P. Madison, AIA; and Barbara S. Robinson. They represent individuals who have approached their contributions to the City through real estate, architecture and the arts by making an indelible imprint on Cleveland broadly.

Please join us as we celebrate the leadership commitment that enhanced the aesthetic and cultural beauty of our City and region by showing us what is possible when the arts become the pathway to greatness.

The Honorable Frank G. Jackson
Mayor
City of Cleveland

Akram Boutros, MD, FACHE
President and CEO
The MetroHealth System

Jerry Sue Thornton, PhD
President and CEO
DreamCatcher Education Consulting
**2018 Cleveland Heritage
Medal Recipient**



Committee



2019 Cleveland Heritage
Medal Chairs

**The Honorable
Frank G. Jackson**
Mayor, City of Cleveland

Akram Boutros, MD, FACHE
President and CEO,
The MetroHealth System

Jerry Sue Thornton, PhD
President and CEO,
DreamCatcher Education
Consulting

Committee Members

Thomas W. Adler
Playhouse Square Real
Estate Services

Kristen Baird Adams
PNC

Mitchell Balk
The Mt. Sinai Health Care
Foundation

Carrie Carpenter
Huntington National Bank

Rick Chiricosta
Medical Mutual of Ohio

Margot James Copeland

Marianne Crosley
Cleveland Leadership Center

Rev. Dr. Todd C. Davidson
Antioch Baptist Church

Joseph DiRocco
Fifth Third Bank



Robert Glick

Magda Gomez
Cuyahoga Community
College

Don Graves Jr.
KeyBank

Robert D. Gries
Gries Financial LLC

Robert H. Hurwitz
The Coral Company

Rev. Cory Jenkins
South Euclid United Church
of Christ

Randy McShepard
RPM Inc.

Bridget Moreno
Bernie Moreno Companies

Dan Moulthrop
City Club of Cleveland

Augie Napoli
The United Way of Greater
Cleveland

Brian M. O'Neill
Tucker Ellis

Rear Adm. Michael Parks
American Red Cross, Greater
Cleveland Chapter

Gregory Peckham
LAND studio

Jon Pinney
Kohrman Jackson & Krantz,
LLP



Geri Presti
The Music Settlement

Beth Oldenburg Rankin

Enid Rosenberg

Rev. Dr. Stephen Rowan
Bethany Baptist Church

Erika Rudin-Luria
Jewish Federation of
Cleveland

Harlan M. Sands
Cleveland State University

Robyn Minter Smyers
Thompson Hine LLP

Ron Soeder
Boys and Girls Clubs of
Cleveland

Terry Szmagala Jr.
Eaton

Brenda Terrell
Brenda Y. Terrell PhD
& Associates

Ben Vinson III
Case Western Reserve
University

Daniel P. Walsh
Citymark Capital

Vanessa Whiting
A.E.S. Management Corp.

Brian Zimmerman
Cleveland Metroparks



Criteria and Award Description



No city can thrive without them. They are the dedicated community leaders committed to creating and sustaining a city of true greatness—one that provides opportunities for businesses to prosper, for new ideas to flourish, for cultural richness to thrive and for residents to enjoy an exceptional quality of life.

During its 220 years, Cleveland has been a city blessed with accomplished leaders from civic, business, philanthropic and government spheres. Their contributions have created the lasting heritage that makes Cleveland the city it is today.

This year's recipients of the Cleveland Heritage Medal are upholding the legacy of the greatest leaders from our city's long history. These honorees were selected for this award by a 37-person committee made up of other dedicated community and corporate leaders.

These individuals have demonstrated leadership in civic, philanthropic or corporate spheres, or have made an impact in



another private or public endeavor. Their community impact reflects **service to others** marked by compassion and selflessness. They espouse **teamwork** as necessary to making a difference in our community, actively encouraging the contributions of others.

The individuals we honor with the Cleveland Heritage Medal have also demonstrated the **courage and respect** as they take on difficult yet impactful initiatives for the good of Cleveland and its residents. These exceptional leaders are committed to fostering a community of **inclusion and diversity**, where differences are celebrated and all have the opportunity to participate. They are people of the highest character, serving as **role models** for others in the community.

Outstanding leaders are the foundation of a city's heritage. With this honor, we celebrate the individuals who are creating today the great Cleveland of tomorrow.



Making of the Medal



When it came time to create the Cleveland Heritage Medal, it seemed only fitting that it be designed by young people—those whose lives and careers in Cleveland will be shaped by the legacies of the city's great leaders.

So the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA)—known as one of the nation's top art and design schools—created a competition among its graphic design upperclassmen to create a medal that would represent the city's rich heritage. Larry O'Neal, CIA's department chair for graphic design at the time, oversaw the creation of the Cleveland Heritage Medal.

MetroHealth President and CEO Akram Boutros, MD, FACHE, judged the competition and selected the design of the winning student, Euclid native Jessica Sandy.

She created a medal emblazoned with three iconic Cleveland landmarks—the Veterans Memorial Bridge, Terminal Tower and



Lake Erie. Its more subtle elements include five stars, which also adorn the city's seal and symbolize each of the five times Cleveland was named an All-American City by the National Civic League.

The five stars also represent the five characteristics of the Cleveland Heritage Medal recipients:

Service to others

Teamwork

Courage and respect

Inclusion and diversity

Being a role model



Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



2019
Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree

Thomas W. Adler

“What happened to me is what I think most young people need: I was mentored. I had the best of the best mentors and it’s made all the difference.”

— Thomas W. Adler

Thomas W. Adler believes “if you have a vision—if you can see what needs to be done and move collaboratively to fix it—then you can make things happen.”

Named in 2015 as one of the most connected powerbrokers in Northeast Ohio by Crain’s Cleveland Business, Tom retired in the late 1990s from his distinguished real estate career to focus on community service and philanthropy.

Mr. Adler has taken on myriad projects—always in partnership with others—to improve Greater Cleveland. Perhaps most visible is his work with Playhouse Square and Cleveland State University, but he also is heavily involved in the American Jewish Committee (Life Trustee), the Jewish Federation of Cleveland (Trustee Emeritus and recipient of its Eisenman Award), the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio (Life Director and recipient of its Humanitarian Award), United Way of Greater Cleveland (Director and recipient of its Volunteer of the Year Award), University Hospitals (Director), Downtown Cleveland Alliance (Director Emeritus), Shaker Heights and its schools, and more.



“Whatever success I’ve enjoyed is because Cleveland is successful,” he says. “We couldn’t have succeeded at Playhouse Square or do what we’re doing at CSU without the support of a broader community.”

When his family moved to Shaker Heights from Rochester, New York, in 1952, Tom Adler was 12 years old and had suffered from severe early childhood asthma. “I was really sick—in fact, I was a textbook case,” he recalls. His then-physician, a nationally prominent allergist, literally featured him in a chapter of a medical book.

“I couldn’t run or play baseball or do the things other kids did,” Mr. Adler remembers. His illness also caused him to miss a lot of school and fall behind academically. “As a result, I suffered from low self-esteem when I was young.” But that all began to change when he was introduced to swimming at a summer camp and he excelled at it.

Once in high school he set Shaker pool and District records and it gave him confidence and helped him get accepted into the University of Wisconsin. It

was also at Shaker that he met his wife of 57 years, Joanie. They went to their senior prom together, dated through college and married shortly after graduation.

“The rough start as a kid was probably a source of some of the drive I had later,” Mr. Adler says. “I think I had to prove to myself that I could accomplish things on my own.” He also was highly motivated by his parents, particularly his father, “who had been hugely successful at what he did...and highly regarded as a leader in his industry (men’s apparel).”

“Joanie will tell you that I strived to emulate my father, for sure,” he says. By his mid-30s, Mr. Adler was chairman of the Executive Committee of a large Cleveland commercial real estate firm. At age 38, he co-founded his own company, Adler Galvin Rogers, where he specialized in selling investment-grade properties to pension funds. When the firm was bought in 1986 by San Francisco-based Grubb & Ellis, he was invited to serve on the management committee and start a new national division. At age 50, he left and founded a consulting firm, Cleveland Real Estate Partners.

Mr. Adler sold his interest in the consulting company (which ultimately was bought by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited) to his younger partners and became a full-time volunteer and philanthropist by the age of 60.

In 1999, he helped start what is now known as Playhouse Square Real Estate Services. “My role there has always been pro bono,” he says. “But of all the real estate operations I was ever involved in, it’s been by far the best. In 2006, he became board chair of Playhouse Square Foundation and is still very active there.

His work at Playhouse Square led Mr. Adler to get involved with bordering Cleveland State University. “CSU moved its Theatre and Dance program, as well as its School of Film and Media Arts, over and there now are 750 students attending classes at Playhouse Square,” he says. “We also started the Radiance Scholarships program, which provides financial aid to CSU juniors and seniors at risk of dropping out.” Additionally, as a trustee of CSU, Mr. Adler helped lead the school’s first campaign, which raised over \$100 million.

“What really caught my eye at CSU was the fact that they had been in business for almost 50 years and had no philanthropy—and they were getting increasingly less state support. The business community wasn’t paying enough attention, so we began to get their eyes open to the fact that CSU is really creating their workforce. There are 120,000 people who have graduated from CSU and 80% of them still live and work in Northeast Ohio. This is the Cleveland business community’s school. Most major businesses in town are now supporting CSU in one form or another and are collectively working to ensure we appropriately prepare our next generation of leaders.”

While he takes a certain pride in all his endeavors, Mr. Adler says, “there’s a particular project that Joanie and I are involved in that I think may have more impact than all of them. Through the Jewish Federation, we have endowed a Cleveland civic mission to Israel every two years. This is not for business leadership, but rather for leaders in the not-for-profit sector.”

While the intent of the program was simply to expose more people to Israel, the accidental benefits have far exceeded the imagination. “Participants have really bonded with each other and have been finding all kinds of opportunities to work together for the betterment of the city,” he says. “I think with a reducing CEO community, the nonprofit world has become increasingly important. The nonprofit leadership in this town has tremendous influence and are really in a position to shape Cleveland’s future.”

Father of three and grandfather of two, Mr. Adler chairs the Joann and Thomas Adler Family Foundation. And through the American Jewish Committee, he and his family established the Richard H. Adler Community Service Award, which is given in honor of his father annually to Cleveland business leaders.



2019
Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree

Art J. Falco

“It’s all about learning as much as you can and continuing to grow. Complacency is not an option. We have to continually improve.”

— Art J. Falco

In 2010, U.S. Sen. George Voinovich touted Playhouse Square as “the most successful public/private partnership in the United States” and the beginning of the city’s long-awaited renaissance. Four years later, The New York Times praised it as a “thriving theater hub” and the “marquee reason people are moving downtown.”

Cleveland native Art Falco was at the helm of that celebrated partnership for nearly three decades. Before he was named president and CEO of Playhouse Square in 1991, Mr. Falco served as the organization’s vice president of finance and administration. He began his career in the accounting department of the former Diamond Shamrock Corp. in Cleveland, and also worked at Natural Impressions in Painesville.

It was under Mr. Falco’s leadership that Playhouse Square completed the world’s largest theater restoration project and expanded its business model to include real estate development—a move that cinched the long-term viability for the theater district and surrounding neighborhood. It also prompted The Wall Street Journal to hail Playhouse Square as “a model of economic viability in the arts.”

But the crowning achievement for Art Falco was the Dazzle the District—a Broadway-inspired, explosive (à la fireworks) celebration in May 2014 that attracted 25,000 Northeast Ohio residents and culminated in the unveiling of a crystal-clad, Guinness World Record-breaking, 8,500-pound chandelier.

“It was spine-tingling,” Mr. Falco concedes. “That is a night I will never forget. People called it Cleveland’s greatest outdoor party. It was really something special.” He is quick to point out, though, that “it’s never about one person. We do everything as a team.”

With 11 stages and more than 1 million guests annually, Playhouse Square is the largest performing arts center in the U.S. outside of New York and has the largest Broadway-series season ticket holder base in the nation—some 46,000 season subscribers. It also boasts—astonishingly—2,000 volunteers, far surpassing the corps at other arts centers.

“Our success is really due to a combination of strong theater audiences, beautiful theaters, amazing staff, labor, RedCoat and student STARS volunteers, a very

strong relationship with producers in New York...and then I think, at the end of the day, it’s been knowing what customers want and satisfying their needs. There’s no one silver bullet. It’s a combination of everything.”

Through its Real Estate Services arm, Playhouse Square owns most of its theaters—as well as more than 1 million square feet of real estate. It manages another 1.5 million square feet of space on top of that. This unique business model allows Playhouse Square to earn more than 90% of its operating budget—the highest percentage nationally in the performing arts industry. It has been operating in the black for 30 consecutive years.

Mr. Falco remembers being offered the position as finance director of Playhouse Square in 1985. (He admits his experience with theater to that point was rather limited; he’d played the role of a silent tree in a fourth grade play.)

“I saw an organization where there was a vision beyond the renovation of some theaters...It was more about being a catalyst for the development

of the neighborhood.” The goals were lofty, but no one thought then that Playhouse Square would become a leading developer in downtown Cleveland.

“I had an incredible mentor in Larry Wilker (prior Playhouse Square president and CEO) who taught me the theater business,” he recalls. “As we moved through each step of renovating three theaters, Larry reminded me that the culture depends on knowing that, while we are legally a not-for-profit organization, zero profit is not a management objective.”

Opportunities to generate surpluses are wonderful, he says, “because they allow us then to subsidize other types of programming. It’s that balancing act that is unique to Playhouse Square.”

Mr. Falco is particularly proud of the student programming—like the Dazzle Awards, which honors talented high school performers and productions in Northeast Ohio. Not only does it inspire excellence in high school musical theater, it recognizes the importance of musical theater and arts education within the community.

“What I’ve learned is the performing arts—all art—can change lives. And it’s not just quality of life; theater increases confidence and self-awareness, exposes the participant and the audience member to myriad subjects they might not otherwise discover, and it just helps create a better, well-rounded person.”

One example: “A young boy in our Disney Musicals in Schools program, which is for third to fifth graders, was disruptive in class and warned he could lose his part in the musical as a result,” Mr. Falco shares. “That motivated him to change his behavior and he became an incredible lead. His life clearly changed for the better because of our program.”

Also important to Mr. Falco and Playhouse Square are its many productive, long-lasting partnerships.

“One of Playhouse Square’s strengths is how we collaborate with other organizations, (including) local restaurants, ideastream, Cleveland State University’s theater and dance program, Baldwin Wallace University’s Music



Theatre Program, the Tri-C JazzFest...really too many to name.” Mr. Falco believes the future of Playhouse Square will be about more partnerships and programmatic initiatives. “There’s so much talent in this area. That’s what I appreciate.”

In his retirement, Mr. Falco serves as senior advisor for special projects to Playhouse Square through its completion of The Lumen, a 34-story, 318-unit apartment tower (with 550-car garage and amenities) at Euclid Avenue and East 17th Street. It is expected to sell out before its completion in 2020.

He also continues to serve as an adviser and in board roles for the Cleveland Restoration Society, Destination Cleveland, Downtown Cleveland Alliance and Playhouse Square District Development Corporation.

For the moment, he intends to return his evenings and weekends to his family—notably his wife, Maryann, who is his “great support” and was “so understanding of the time commitment required of the job.”



2019
Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree

Robert P. Madison, AIA

“Positive changes have come about in Cleveland because of the ability of Clevelanders to accept the fact that America is a place for immigrants of all colors. Racial integration in a society is important, and Cleveland has done that very well.”

— Robert P. Madison, AIA

Frank Lloyd Wright once observed, “Every great architect is — necessarily—a great poet. He must be a great original interpreter of his time, his day, his age.” Robert P. Madison is the quintessential poet-architect; his favorite tool is the grade 4B pencil. And within easy reach: incredible patience, tenacity and an unwavering faith in the good of humanity.

And by the way, at 96 years old, he is still sartorially resplendent.

The great-grandson of slaves, Mr. Madison’s understanding of racism and poverty comes from his own poignant experiences, including a terrifying close-up view at age 8 of Ku Klux Klan members in full regalia. His parents, as African Americans in recessionary times, were summarily rejected for employment in their chosen fields, despite having college degrees and tremendous resolve.

“Not all violence and hatred happens within the boundaries of war,” the highly decorated World War II veteran notes in his memoir, *Designing Victory* (Act 3 Publishing, 2019). He is the recipient of the Purple Heart and five

combat ribbons. He nearly lost his life several times fighting for the Allies in Italy. But, arguably, his toughest battles were right here at home ... in the classroom...in the workplace...in social settings and public places. Like too many others, he faced a relentless barrage of racism-driven barriers and taunts throughout his career and personal life.

As his parents before him, Mr. Madison is an out-of-necessity trailblazer, graduating from the Cleveland School of Architecture at what is now Case Western Reserve University—and ultimately lecturing there, despite initially being turned away for being “colored.” He answered the rejection with a visit to the office of the dean of admissions—in full dress military uniform. He ultimately completed his Master of Architecture degree at Harvard University. Later, while teaching at Howard University, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship at L'École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. In 1974, he was inducted into the prestigious College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

“My father had an engineering degree, but no one would hire him to work as an engineer,” Mr. Madison well remembers. “My mother’s view was

that one day we would have our own firm [foreseeing his founding of RPMI International with his two brothers in 1954] and we’d never have to ask anybody for a job again. She suggested architecture because she was tremendously impressed with a drawing I completed in the first grade. I couldn’t even spell ‘architecture’ at the time, but I knew that’s what I had to do. It’s all I’ve ever done.”

Mr. Madison has designed hundreds of lasting, purposeful spaces around the globe—including, ironically, the U.S. Embassy in Dakar, Senegal, a former slave port—and he helped shape our own Greater Cleveland community with his award-winning designs.

Designing medical spaces, schools and churches, particularly in African-American communities, has been especially gratifying for Mr. Madison. “Medical buildings were always very compelling because designing them meant creating spaces where doctors could (save) people’s lives,” he says in his memoir. Early in his career, African-American doctors had nowhere else to practice. Churches also held special meaning for him. “The AME



(African Methodist Episcopal) church was the first African-American religious organization established after slavery in this country, so it was an honor to be designated as that church's official architect."

His true community building, however, is perhaps best exhibited in the 'how' and 'why' behind his work. He's known for working collaboratively, respectfully and with the "long game" in mind. "I would like to believe that if you can understand the true purpose of a space, not in terms of bricks and stone, but in terms of the social and psychological impact upon the human being, you can create a better environment and a better society," he says. "I think that when you get into really understanding the dynamics of city planning and urban design, you realize how architecture really shapes society and shapes the behavior of people. Architecture becomes the backbone, the fundamental way, for people to exist."

Mr. Madison's design contributions can be seen in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the Cleveland Museum of Art, Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, the FirstEnergy Stadium, the Gill and Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts

at Cuyahoga Community College, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority HealthLine, the Great Lakes Science Center, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel and the Cleveland Public Library.

His community service includes board positions with the Cleveland Opera (“I’ve been a devoted fan of opera since the war years”) The Cleveland Orchestra, Case Western Reserve University, and the Cleveland Museum of Art, among others. He was involved in the NAACP, Urban League, Cleveland State University and Boys & Girls Clubs. And he founded the Robert P. Madison Scholarship for Architecture, which provides financial support to African Americans who want to study architecture.

In addition to his many tribulations and triumphs, Mr. Madison has “known the sweetest, most personal love.” He acknowledges his happiness and much of his success are due to his wife of 63 years, Leatrice (who died in 2012), their two daughters, other family members, close friends and colleagues.





2019
Cleveland Heritage Medal Honoree

Barbara S. Robinson

“The arts enrich life. They contribute to the enhancement of education, to job development, to community building, to growth in tourism. But they also develop personal values. They encourage your participation in civic discourse. They widen your circle of thought and activity. They turn what you think of as yourself into ‘us.’”

— Barbara S. Robinson

When asked to highlight the most meaningful accomplishments of her life, Barbara S. Robinson impossibly homes in on four events: 1) at age 20, performing as a piano soloist with the Boston Pops Orchestra; 2) motherhood; 3) serving as chair of the Ohio Arts Council; and 4) being elected to the Harvard Board of Overseers.

But before unpacking these—and a few other of her myriad gifts and involvements in public affairs and philanthropy—it’s important to know something of Ms. Robinson’s childhood.

Her parents, both native Clevelanders, were highly engaged citizens, as well as music and art aficionados. Her father, an accountant by profession, was a violinist and violist. “I went along and sat for my father’s rehearsals with the Cleveland Philharmonic,” Ms. Robinson says. “And he used to have many of his friends gather at our house to play chamber music. Music was just part of my life. I started doing Dalcroze (an experiential method of learning music) when I was 4 years old and my parents would take me to the orchestra with



them. Then I went through the preparatory department at Cleveland Institute of Music.”

While she primarily studied piano, she also took violin lessons “until my father couldn’t stand listening to me screech. Then, I switched to flute.” Her parents also enrolled her in summer programs at the Cleveland Museum of Art and at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

“The community was very important to my parents,” she recalls. Her mother was director at a neighborhood community center and ran its summer camp. But she also found time to start volunteer departments at two hospitals. Her father volunteered at the center and organized a boys’ basketball league. Together, her parents ran a lending library for the homebound.

“Getting to know different generations and demographics, different neighborhoods...feeling comfortable with people that were not me...I just grew up with that. It was sort of like osmosis,” she says. “I was never told

that I had to do anything, but I was an only child, so I went along as my parents delivered books. I went to the camps. Being just the three of us, there was a lot of dinner-table discussion about the needs my parents saw in the community, about the importance of getting involved in certain things.”

She recognizes now how fortunate she was to be included in those discussions. “My parents taught me at an early age that my ideas could be accepted.” She credits them for her reputation as a conversation leader, consensus builder and activist.

Ultimately deciding against the conservatory and a career as a professional musician—“I was interested in too many things back then”—Ms. Robinson graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wellesley College. While there, she performed as piano soloist with the orchestras of the Boston Pops and New England Conservatory of Music. She went on to complete her post-graduate education at Radcliffe College, where she was part of a small group of women invited to participate in the Harvard Program in Business Administration.

After college, she met and married Larry Robinson and started a family in Chicago. (The two were married for 50 years until Larry’s death in 2003.) Ms. Robinson was a business consultant to new ventures and a piano recitalist until “motherhood presented another transformative experience.” So that she could be more available to her family when they returned to Cleveland, she left her full-time consulting work behind and began her full-time-plus volunteer career. “The advantage of being a volunteer is that you can sort of pick and choose.”

Reflecting on her decades of public and community service, Ms. Robinson explains, “I like to find things that have a need; consider a gestalt or a piece of fabric in which there is something that is so wonderful—like Cleveland, which has a great tradition of civic involvement, community activity and philanthropy—but there’s always something that could be a little bit better or needs a little help.”

She gives the example of returning to Cleveland after living in Chicago and becoming aware that “there wasn’t much music education available to

young children in the public schools.” She knew of groups in Philadelphia and New York forming something called Young Audiences. “I thought, OK, maybe we could work on something like that coming to Cleveland. You get people to talk about the possibility, find others who share the same vision that this is something important and then you make it happen. It’s like if you find something that needs fixing, you fix it.”

She helped bring in funding and organizing the Cleveland Ballet in similar fashion. And as chair of the Ohio Arts Council, she accompanied two governors to 14 countries, where she established relationships based on the sharing of art and culture. She served as chair of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and testified before Congress to prevent the National Endowment for the Arts from being abolished. She also co-chaired the Cuyahoga County Arts & Culture Action Committee to promote passage of Issue 18, aka the “cigarette tax,” in 2016 renewed as Issue 8. Her volunteer service also includes leadership positions with the Musical Arts Association (the Cleveland Orchestra’s governing board), Cleveland Chamber Music Society, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland Museum of Art, Arts

Midwest, Leadership Cleveland, University Hospitals, the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, and more.

In 1999, she was nominated and subsequently elected to sit on the Harvard Board of Overseers, which would be involved in bringing in a new president of the university. “That was a very interesting experience because the overseers are a fantastic group of people—many of notoriety and eminence and just extraordinary intellects.”

Barbara Robinson now faces the daunting job of finding people to replace her in her civic involvements. “I really believe it’s time for me to step aside. Succession is a hard job, but I have hopes.”

Ms. Robinson has three children and six grandchildren.



2018 Cleveland Heritage Medal Honorees



2018 Honoree
Toby Cosgrove, MD

"I never really thought of myself as a leader in Cleveland when I started as CEO. I concentrated hard on the institution and how the institution could benefit the community."



2018 Honoree
Robert D. Gries

“The ancient Jewish prophet, Hillel, said it all in two sentences: ‘If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I?’”

2018 Honoree
Steven A. Minter

“You have to think about what it is you’re interested in doing and where you want to try to make a difference, where you want to have some impact in the long run. And you have to step forward to figure out what more you can do to really make a difference.”



2018 Honoree
Jerry Sue Thornton, PhD

“In Cleveland, if you raise your hand, you’ve just volunteered. You can be a part of this wonderful community without having to have lived here your entire life. You’re rewarded for wanting to be involved and wanting to use your talents by being allowed to use them. There’s a place at the table.”





2017
Cleveland Heritage
Medal Honorees



2017 Honoree
Carole F. Hoover

“God has blessed me to open some doors that I never thought I’d open, meet people who I never thought I’d meet. I owe whatever I can give to other people, opening any doors of opportunity for others that I can open.”



2017 Honoree
Samuel H. Miller

“In order to be a leader, you have to be a servant first. Learning to be a good servant gives you a foundation for great leadership.”

2017 Honoree
Albert B. Ratner

“There’s a Jewish tradition that you stand on the shoulders of giants. It’s what comes before you that allows you to take the next step. Part of life is learning the lessons of the people who came before you and adding what you can.”



2017 Honoree
Michael R. White

“What creates a heritage is neighborhood commitment, respect for people, being willing to challenge the status quo, being willing to risk what you’ve developed and an abiding belief in the people of Cleveland.”





2016
Cleveland Heritage
Medal Honorees



2016 Honoree
Morton L. "Mort" Mandel

"Think of the world as a million candles. If God made a million candles since the beginning of time, and there have been about 200,000 candles lit, there's still an awful lot of darkness. I've lit a few candles myself, and I'm going to go on and light as many candles as I can."



2016 Honoree
Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr.

“Some of the greatest assignments we receive in life as a servant are the leadership responsibilities thrust upon us that we were not seeking. If you do what you have to do and you do it well, you will be given more than you can handle. Service is what is greatness. You can get fame from other means.”

2016 Honoree
Sandra Pianalto

"I didn't take on any assignment or agree to be a part of an organization or cause where they just wanted to use my name and my position. I'm a person who if I commit to doing something, I am all in. I'm not an 'in name only' type of individual. The only way you can be all in is if you are passionate about the cause and about the impact the organization can make."



2016 Honoree
Richard W. "Dick" Pogue

"The key to getting things done in this community is number one, know the facts. If you know the facts and are willing to work hard and are collaborative, you're going to get things done."



2016 Honoree
The Honorable
George V. Voinovich

“My parents were first-generation Americans who struggled hard. They underscored that as citizens of the United States, we had an obligation to give back to our community.”



CONGRATULATIONS

Thomas W. Adler • Art J. Falco
Robert P. Madison • Barbara S. Robinson

Your stellar contributions to Northeast Ohio
make you deserving of this high award.
Your advocacy for social justice has been interwoven
in all your work.
Your committed leadership is a cherished gift.
With pride and gratitude, I congratulate you.

Carole F. Hoover
Recipient
2017 Cleveland Heritage Medal

CONGRATULATIONS

For your outstanding contributions to the
Cleveland community
United Way Board Trustee, Thomas W. Adler
Art J. Falco
Robert P. Madison
Barbara S. Robinson



The Cleveland Orchestra
congratulates trustees

Robert P. Madison, FAIA
and **Barbara S. Robinson**

on receiving the
2019 Cleveland Heritage Medal.
Their selfless dedication and leadership is a
shining beacon for our community.



Dad/Bebop Adler,
You have shown us what leadership, service,
and love of community is all about, and we
could not be more grateful. Your relentless
desire to strengthen Cleveland, bring
different people together, and enrich
everyone's lives has inspired us all.

Congratulations!

We love you more than words can say.
Peggy, Gilad, Sally, Bill, Sheryl,
Rachel & Ellie

Describe our mother in this
small space? Really?
Who can describe their mother so
succinctly, especially when it is
Barbara Robinson!
We love you and are so proud to be
your children.

Lisa, John, and James.

Thomas W. Adler

Art J. Falco

Robert P. Madison

Barbara S. Robinson

“Creativity takes courage.”

Henri Matisse

This city shaped each of you from childhood.
In turn, you’ve given it — and us — your very best.
We have all benefited from your fierce courageousness.
To this year’s Cleveland Heritage Medal recipients,
Thank You.

The MetroHealth System



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2019 CLEVELAND HERITAGE MEDAL