

A PARK WITH A PURPOSE: WASHINGTON GLADDEN SOCIAL JUSTICE PARK

COLUMBUS SOCIAL JUSTICE PIONEERS EXHIBIT 2018-2019



Photo by Mark Brown

This temporary exhibition highlights significant events and leaders of the early social justice history in Central Ohio. Many of the issues that faced the region were impacting communities across the country. The diverse interests and issues that challenged the status quo called for a higher standard of social responsibility and ethical public service.

Individuals and organizations highlighted include: Society of American Indians, Rev. James Poindexter, Joseph Schonthal, Frances Watkins Harper, Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden, Florence Allen, Celia Jeffrey, Bishop John Watterson, American Federation of Labor, and United Mine Workers of America.

The legacies of these pioneers for social justice featured in this exhibition, will allow you to witness the beginnings of major societal reforms as they took place in Columbus, Ohio. Consider what surprises you. What else or who else would you include as additional topics and leaders of the Columbus social justice movement since the early stages depicted in this mural?

Join the conversation at SOCIALJUSTICEPARK.ORG.

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SOCIETY OF AMERICAN INDIANS

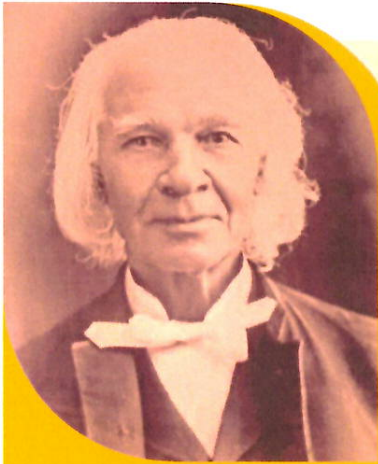
SAI was the first American Indian rights organization run by and for American Indians and was a forerunner to the National Congress of American Indians formed in 1944.

In 1911, the Society of American Indians was formed at a meeting held at The Ohio State University and facilitated by Professor Fayette Avery McKenzie. Society founders included: Laura Cornelius Kellogg (Oneida), Henry Standing Bear

(Oglala Lakota), Dr. Charles Eastman (Santee Dakota), Dr. Carlos Montezuma (Yavapai), and Thomas L. Sloan (Apache). The Society established its headquarters in Washington, D.C. to advocate for the interests of all Native Americans. Membership grew to represent 30 tribes. Today in Columbus, the Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio advocates for the rights and cultural identity of local American Indians and Alaska Natives.



Gladden was invited to speak at the Second Annual Conference of the Society of American Indians held at The Ohio State University in 1912. He spoke of the importance of honoring the heritage of all races including the heritage of American Indians: "Each race has its own contribution to make to the sum total of human values, a contribution that can be made by no other." He was an advocate for the rights of American Indians.



REV. JAMES POINDEXTER

Rev. James Poindexter was the first African-American to serve on city council (1880-1884), and the first to serve on the Columbus school board (1882-1893).

Rev. James Preston Poindexter was an exceptional religious, political, and social justice leader in Columbus during the 19th Century. Poindexter risked imprisonment by breaking state and federal law as an active conductor of the Underground Railroad. He was an abolitionist and advocate for civil and voting rights for African-Americans. He was Pastor of the Anti-Slavery Baptist Church from 1847 until its reunion with the Second Baptist Church that he led until 1898. He also was a trustee at Wilberforce University. In 1940, Columbus' first public housing project opened and was named for Rev. Poindexter. A history museum about Poindexter Village is in the making.



Gladden and Poindexter worked together on major social justice issues of the day. They sued the Columbus School District in the 1880's to advocate for the integration of public schools. The school district settled the case and adopted an integrated school model. Gladden's friendship with Booker T. Washington led to his advocating for worker rights and educational opportunities for African-Americans. After meeting W.E.B. DeBois in 1903, Gladden became a national advocate for voting rights and equality for African-Americans.



JOSEPH SCHONTHAL

Joseph Schonthal was a leading industrialist-turned-philanthropist who devoted his remaining life and fortune to the needs of others after the death of his beloved wife, Hermine.

Joseph Schonthal initially provided a facility for the Jewish Educational Alliance for its mission to new immigrants. In 1918, he underwrote the Hermine Schonthal Community House - an expansive cultural center that provided a medical clinic, vocational classes, a kindergarten, a library, music lessons, and recreation programs. It was the predecessor of today's Jewish Community Center of Greater Columbus. Next to the center, Schonthal built the Jewish Infants Home of Ohio. In 1927, he developed Camp Schonthal, a summer retreat for children and mothers. Schonthal was a board member of the Big Sisters program and help found Federated Jewish Charities. He became known as "Pop" to the children and youth that frequented the social service centers. His focus was to help all children including those he would find at juvenile court that would receive probation under his supervision.



Gladden and Schonthal had a common friend in Rabbi Louis Weiss. Weiss led B'nai Israel Temple Congregation prior to its transition to become Temple Israel. Schonthal served as President of the congregation for 26 years. In 1895, Gladden formed and led the Civic Federation of Columbus with the help of Rabbi Louis Weiss, Bishop John Watterson, James Kilbourne, Joseph Jeffrey and Ralph Lazarus. The federation brought clergy and corporate leaders together to address social concerns of the day.



FRANCES WATKINS HARPER

Frances Watkins Harper advocated for abolition, prohibition, women's suffrage, and against the corrupt convict lease system. She was best known as one of the first African-American females to be published as a poet, author, and journalist.

Frances Watkins Harper came to Columbus in 1850 to teach vocational skills at Union Seminary, the forerunner of Wilberforce University. She was the school's first female instructor. The school was housed at Bethel AME (now St. Paul AME). She left Columbus to become a speaker and activist for the American Anti-Slavery Society and to be a conductor for the Underground Railroad. In 1858, she refused to give up her seat on a segregated trolley car in Philadelphia, 100 years prior to the Rosa Parks incident. Harper was known as the Mother of African-American journalism given her numerous articles for Anti-slavery newspapers. She made Columbus her family home in 1860 until the death of her husband. Harper was co-founder of the National Association of Colored Women and Director of the American Association of Colored Youth.



Washington Gladden was also a journalist, poet, author, and abolitionist during the time of Frances Harper. Gladden was editor of the *New York Independent* and helped to expose the corruption of Tammany Hall and to bring down "Boss" Tweed. At age 13, he joined the abolitionist movement and eventually served as the pastor of the First Congregational Church of Columbus that was a leading abolitionist church in Columbus.

Frances Watkins Harper photo from Library of Congress

BURY ME IN A FREE LAND

Make me a grave where'er you will,
In a lowly plain, or a lofty hill;
Make it among earth's humblest graves,
But not in a land where men are slaves.

I could not rest if around my grave
I heard the steps of a trembling slave;
His shadow above my silent tomb
Would make it a place of fearful gloom.

I could not rest if I heard the tread
Of a coffin gang to the shambles led,
And the mother's shriek of wild despair
Rise like a curse on the trembling air.

I could not sleep if I saw the lash
Drinking her blood at each fearful gash,
And I saw her babes torn from her breast,
Like trembling doves from their parent nest.

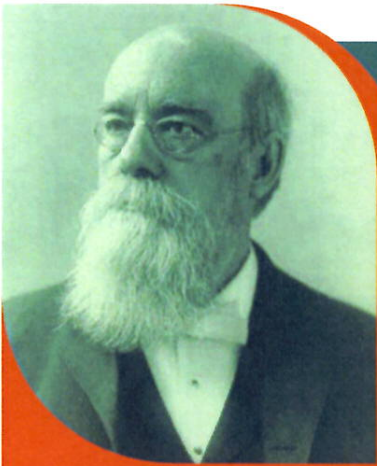
I'd shudder and start if I heard the bay
Of bloodhounds seizing their human prey,
And I heard the captive plead in vain
As they bound afresh his galling chain.

If I saw young girls from their mother's arms
Bartered and sold for their youthful charms,
My eye would flash with a mournful flame,
My death-paled cheek grow red with shame.

I would sleep, dear friends, where bloated might
Can rob no man of his dearest right;
My rest shall be calm in any grave
Where none can call his brother a slave.

I ask no monument, proud and high,
To arrest the gaze of the passers-by;
All that my yearning spirit craves,
Is bury me not in a land of slaves.

- FRANCES HARPER (1825-1911)



WASHINGTON GLADDEN

As an advocate of social justice, The Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden led local and national causes for civil rights, workers' rights, voting rights, religious pluralism, school integration, and the needs of the poor and the oppressed.

The Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden spent his life advocating for social and religious reform, and became known as the Father of the "Social Gospel Movement." Gladden claimed that building a dutiful relationship with one's creator was a beginning, not an end. Each individual was to put his or her faith to work to bring about change in the human condition. He was the Minister of the First Congregational Church of Columbus, Ohio from 1882 to 1918.

He helped found local settlement houses, civic organizations, and inter-faith councils. On the national level, he served as President of the American Missionary Association supporting higher education and voting rights for African-Americans. As Moderator of the National Council of Congregational Churches, he created a national debate when he objected to a \$100,000 gift from John D. Rockefeller as "tainted" money based upon Rockefeller's ruthless business practices. Gladden advocated for municipal government reform and was a member of city council from 1900-1902.

Gladden wrote numerous poems, articles, and forty books in his effort to modernize Christian thought and promote social justice. His poetry often was woven into hymns (O Master Let Me Walk With Thee). He developed a national following that included U.S. Presidents.

ULTIMA VERITAS

In the bitter waves of woe,
Beaten and tossed about
By the sullen winds that blow
From the desolate shores of doubt,—

When the anchors that faith had cast
Are dragging in the gale,
I am quietly holding fast
To the things that cannot fail:

I know that right is right;
That it is not good to lie;
That love is better than spite,
And a neighbor than a spy;

I know that passion needs
The leash of a sober mind;
I know that generous deeds
Some sure reward will find;

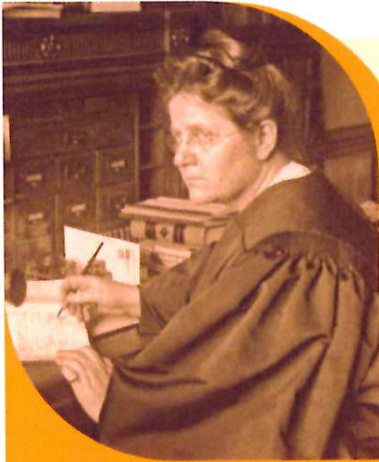
That the rulers must obey;
That the givers shall increase;
That Duty lights the way
For the beautiful feet of Peace;—

In the darkest night of the year,
When the stars have all gone out,
That courage is better than fear,
That faith is truer than doubt;

And fierce though the fiends may fight,
And long though the angels hide,
I know that Truth and Right
Have the universe on their side;

And that somewhere, beyond the stars,
Is a Love that is better than fate;
When the night unlocks her bars
I shall see Him, and I will wait.

- WASHINGTON GLADDEN (1836-1918)



FLORENCE ALLEN

Based upon the tireless work of suffragists, Florence Allen was able to be one of the first female judges elected in the country in 1920 to the Common Pleas Court in Cleveland and in 1922 to the Ohio Supreme Court.

Florence Allen became an attorney in 1914. She successfully argued before the Ohio Supreme Court in 1917 that municipal women's suffrage in East Cleveland was possible through the authority of a home rule charter provision. Following this success, she became an assistant prosecutor of Cuyahoga County. Through the efforts of Elizabeth Greer Coit in Columbus and suffragist leaders throughout Ohio, women eventually gained the right to vote. In 1922, she became the first female to be elected to a state supreme court in the country. For much of the next 12 years, her work took place in Columbus in the Statehouse Annex - then the home of the Ohio Supreme Court. Allen served on the state court until 1934 when President Franklin Roosevelt appointed her to serve as a U.S. Court of Appeals judge - the first woman ever to hold such a position. In 1959, she retired as Chief Judge of the 6th Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals.



In 1912, Gladden was an outspoken advocate for women's suffrage during his service as a delegate to the Ohio Constitutional Convention. He recruited Teddy Roosevelt and Booker T. Washington to support an amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would provide for women's suffrage. The provision made it to the ballot, but was defeated that year. The City of Columbus passed women's suffrage for municipal elections in 1917. In 1919, Ohio became the 6th state to pass the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Women's suffrage became effective in 1920.



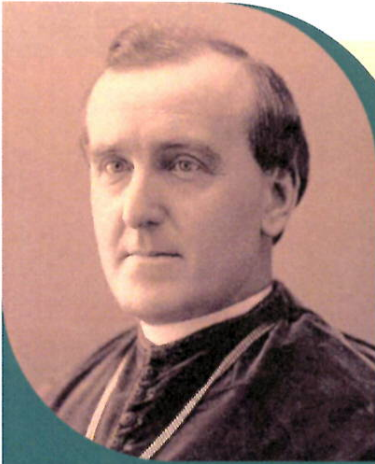
CELIA JEFFREY

Celia Jeffrey was committed to improving the living conditions for the poor, immigrants, and factory workers. “Loving thy neighbor” was her constant guide in serving others.

As a believer in the Social Gospel ideals as taught by Washington Gladden, Celia Jeffrey influenced the progressive hiring and employee benefit practices modeled at the Jeffrey Manufacturing Company. She was a founding member of the First Neighborhood Guild Association that initiated the first settlement house in Columbus in 1898 serving “Flytown.” This mission became known as the Godman Guild. Jeffrey was an early supporter of Children’s Hospital and provided the lead gift for the new campus and building in 1924. She volunteered at the Oak Street Day Nursery, was President of the Bethel Sewing School for children, and served on the board of the Columbus Urban League and supported its programs. Jeffrey left her entire estate to charity including support for a community fund now administered by the Columbus Foundation as the Joseph A. Jeffrey Endowment Fund.



In 1905, Celia Jeffrey and her pastor, Washington Gladden, established the West Side Social Center, a settlement house to serve the Franklinton neighborhood. Now known as the Gladden Community House, it continues its social service mission.



BISHOP JOHN A. WATTERSON

Washington Gladden and Bishop Watterson were close friends who partnered to address major social issues in the Columbus community.

Bishop John Ambrose Watterson helped found Mt. Carmel Hospital and St. Anthony's Hospital (now part of the OSU Health System). He was a major proponent of the Anti-Saloon League. He advocated for prohibition. He joined Washington Gladden to promote city ordinances requiring the mayor and the police board to comply with state laws restricting gambling and alcohol sales. Watterson's leadership help to found the Pontifical College Josephinum.



When the local and national Catholic Church came under attack by the American Protective Association, Washington Gladden denounced the popular APA that had 14 chapters and thousands of members in Columbus. The APA asked all members to pledge to not vote for or hire Catholics. Gladden supported the Catholic Church when most Protestant ministers were silent. He received an honorary degree in 1895 from the University of Notre Dame - the first non-Catholic to win the honor.



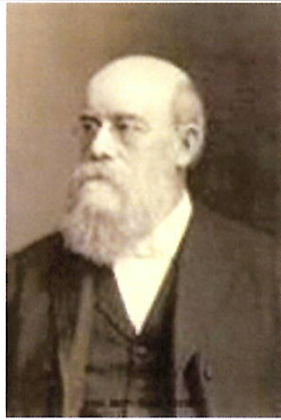
LABOR UNIONS

Columbus, Ohio acted as the midwife to the birth of major labor unions.

The American Federation of Labor was founded in Columbus, Ohio on Dec. 8, 1886 and led the development of craft unions. The AFL created central labor councils of local unions and advocated for better wages and working conditions for its members with a goal to establish an 8-hour workday. The United Mine Workers of America was founded in Columbus, Ohio on Nov. 25, 1890. The founding purpose of the UMWA was: “educating all mine workers in America to realize the necessity of unity of action and purpose, in demanding and securing by lawful means the just fruits of our toil.”



Washington Gladden was an early and steadfast advocate of labor unions to ensure that workers were treated fairly. He was on the national stage in fighting the excesses of monopolies and trusts while advocating for corporate profit-sharing. He helped found the American Economic Association in hopes of developing a better workplace model that would prevent violent strikes and lockouts. Despite strong support for unions, he was critical of those that refused membership based upon race. Respected by both employers and unions, Gladden mediated several strikes throughout Columbus and Ohio.



washington gladden

The park is dedicated to the memory of Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden, a Columbus community leader with a national following. Gladden was viewed as the father of the Social Gospel Movement in the early 1900's. Gladden was a staunch advocate for social justice in terms of civil rights, workers' rights, voting rights, religious pluralism, school integration, and the needs of the poor and oppressed.

The Rev. Dr. Washington Gladden served as the Minister of the First Congregational Church of Columbus, Ohio from 1882 to 1918. During his pastorate in Columbus, Gladden preached two sermons each Sunday. The morning service focused on living the Christian life. The evening service, attended by the wider community, addressed social concerns. Each Monday morning The Ohio State Journal printed his Sunday night sermon on page 1. He believed that the "Social Gospel" was more than charity and altruism. Instead, he was a practical pastor and reformer who pushed for action and solutions.

Gladden wrote numerous articles and forty books in his effort to modernize Christian thought and promote social justice. Gladden became famous when as Moderator of the National Council of Congregational Churches, he objected to a \$100,000 gift from John D. Rockefeller to an affiliated denominational entity. He called the money "tainted" given the ruthless business practices of Rockefeller. Leaders of other charities took note of Gladden's stand against one of the most powerful figures of his time.

In the 1880's, he joined Rev. James Poindexter of Second Baptist Church in suing the Columbus Public Schools to allow for public school integration. As a result, the Columbus board of education voted to integrate schools some 74 years prior to Brown v. Board of Education.

Locally, Gladden, in 1895 formed the Civic Federation of Columbus with the help of Bishop Watterson, Rabbi Louis Weiss, James Kilbourne, Joseph Jeffrey and Ralph Lazarus. Later, he helped form and served as President of the General Council of Churches and Religious Societies of Columbus that brought together religious leaders of 20 Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish congregations to tackle difficult social issues. Its motto was: "The union of all who love, in the service of all who suffer." From 1900-1902, he served on City Council. In 1905, Gladden and Ms. Celia Jeffrey founded a settlement house on the west side that later became known as the Gladden Community House.

Fundraising Goal:

PHASE ONE (2018)	Goal	Commitments
Park Development	1,000,000	790,000
Endowment Development	650,000	100,000
Program Launch	50,000	10,000
Infrastructure Improvements	<u>150,000</u>	<u>150,000*</u>
	1,850,000	1,050,000
PHASE TWO (2019-2022)	Goal	
Capital Improvements	1,200,000	
Endowment Development	<u>500,000</u>	
	1,700,000	

*The City of Columbus has committed \$150,000 in right of way infrastructure improvements via its Creative Campus project to support the park project.

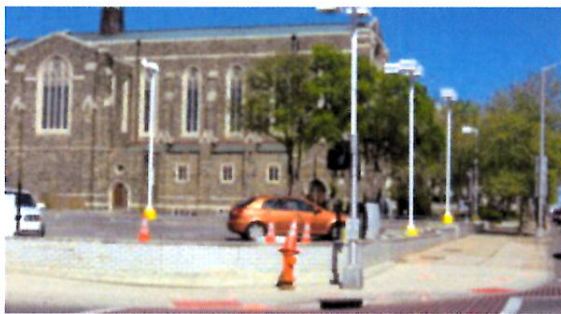
Giving Categories:

Benefactor: 250,000 or greater
 Leader: 100,000 – 249,999
 Developer: 50,000 – 99,999
 Sponsor: 25,000 - 49,999
 Builder: 10,000 – 24,999

Donations can be made to the Columbus Foundation for the Washington Gladden Social Justice Park. Please see the donation page on the park's website: www.socialjusticepark.org or contact Steven Moore at the Columbus Foundation (smoore@columbusfoundation.org).

Your gift invests in the future with an immediate dividend for the community to enjoy.

MAKE THIS



BECOME THIS



Washington Gladden Social Justice Park - bringing Columbus together to build the path to a better future through art, education, and dialogue.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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