



2021 FALL RESIDENCY PROGRAM student reflections

MIAMI UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT • 1300 VINE STREET • CINCINNATI, OHIO

LYDIA NOLL (ARC)

This experience has been the most impactful one of my life, to say the least. It has been the most overwhelming one as well. When first coming here, the number of stories and hardships I heard about was almost unbearable. I came home every night with an incredible feeling of rage and anger. I didn't know how so many people could suffer and still be looked over and walked over. I wanted to help in some way, any way that I could, but I never knew where to turn or how to do it.

But I have a starting point now. Before the Residency Program, I had no idea what my future looked like or where I would end up in my professional career. I never felt like I had a passion, nor anything I felt fulfilled doing. Throughout my time here, I have only learned more and more about myself. I am so much more confident in myself, my future, and the world around me.

My experiences within my courses are what influenced me the most. Firstly, in our course 'Power, Policy, and Service', taught by Jenn Summers and Pat Youngblood, we were introduced each week to community members who shared their personal experiences with us about different issues and policies including but not limited to: housing, labor, childcare and caregiving, women's rights, race, and education. Throughout each of these dialogues, an overwhelming sense of emotion ran through my body, hearing the hardships and difficult experiences each person has gone through. It has opened my eyes to our unjust

system, and how it has and will continue to affect such a large number of individuals, especially those who are low-income. These interactions have taught me to listen with an open heart and an open mind.

In my studio course, facilitated by John Blake, we students worked with our community partner Over-the-Rhine Community Housing (OTRCH) for a semester-long project redesigning their maintenance warehouse. We started by interviewing each staff member who works in the building to get a clear and direct depiction of what they wanted within their space. In my past four years at Miami University, I had never been able to start a design project that offered such a deep and rich connection with the community and people who would be using the space. Design felt so much simpler after this. Being able to hear from tenants personally gave me the insight and ability to effectively and efficiently design, but not *for* the residents, but *by* the residents. And when the end came in sight, I felt proud and accomplished in what I had created, a feeling that I had never felt within design.

In another course 'American Cities Since the 1940s', taught by Jeff Kruth, I learned how to research communities and movements in a correct and respectful way. This felt incredibly important to me because of the rising tensions around how our nation's history has and is being told in education. It is vital to share, teach, and learn about history as a fact, not how one person decides to describe it. People of color and their history have been continuously ignored, creating an entirely different and wrong narrative for which their stories are told, and things need to change. During this course, we worked in groups

to dive deeper into the histories and narratives of different movements around Over-the-Rhine. Ours was the Peaslee Neighborhood Center. The story about this space was incredibly motivating and eye-opening. A women-led movement worked in so many creative ways to take back their neighborhood school and turn it into something the community could use as a resource. Their story and drive inspire me not only to fight for my community spaces but to dive deeper into my community's history and educate myself on the efforts and experiences that took place in a space.

With my future career, I have never felt more inspired and confident in the direction I need to take. I am currently searching for jobs within the affordable housing industry. I can no longer sit back and waste my power, privilege, and time. I need to be helping others for the greater good. As a result of this experience, I am taking with me an open heart, a better understanding of the world, kindness, empathy, and power. I have the power to help. I have the power to push others' voices to the front lines. I have the power to push others above me. I have the power to create change for a more equitable system. And I will never forget that.

JAX BARNGROVER (ARC)

My experience in Over-the-Rhine has been nothing short of life-changing. Growing up just outside downtown Cincinnati, I often visited Over-the-Rhine. I thought I knew the area well. After one week of being immersed in this cohort I quickly realized this was far

from the truth. I learned that you don't know a city at all until you get to know the people who call it home. You don't know someone's home until you learn about their history tied that home. You can't fully appreciate a city until you learn to respect the history of the people who have been there for generations. Within the first week of moving to the community, I realized I needed to stop and listen to everything and everyone around me. Absorb as much of the history around me and walk through the streets with the respect a guest would have walking through your home.

Becoming familiar with the community and the residents was one of the first things we were told to do. This was a daunting task to ask an outsider attempting to come into a new community. A simple "Hi, how is your day?" quickly showed me how silly I was to be nervous. Stopping to have a simple meaningful conversation to strangers who quickly grew to be my friends became so easy.

I will never forget walking home from class to see our neighbor, Reggie, sitting outside on the stoop with his friends, greeting us with the biggest smile and shouting to us, "WHATS UP, COLLEGE!?" Often times he would call us over and engage us in whatever debate he would be having at the time with his friends. He even watched out for us when we would forget to lock up our doors, providing us with an extra sense of security and even more so, making us feel welcome.

Feeling this welcomed to the community only motivated my peers and I more in our studies. We wanted our projects and our time in the community to

mean something. During our residency, 3CDC had just finished up their renovations on Imagination Alley. Prior to 3CDC's renovations, Imagination Alley was a community gathering space for those who lived in apartment buildings in the area. After the renovations the community members felt unwelcome. Few of their expressed wants and needs for the park were reflected in the new renovation. The community felt ignored and therefore they felt unwelcome. This had already happened in Over-the-Rhine in areas like Ziegler Park and Washington Park. The community was feeling like their home was being taken away from them. We wanted to organize an event for the residents of Over-the-Rhine, to reclaim the space and make them feel like it was theirs again. Our intent was to keep it small and intimate. We invited the band "Mwenso & The Shakes" to come and join our community. They didn't perform but instead interacted with the community members. They played music and danced and allowed everyone to come up to the mic and sing. It was so amazing to see people fill the space again and feel comfortable in their home.

We wanted to keep the residents engaged in Imagination Alley. We wanted to help them permanently reclaim the space by engaging the kids in the community. We started by recruiting the help of Tony Drummond, a resident of *buddy's place* and a beloved member of the community. We began bouncing ideas off of him asking what the residents were saying about the space and what they wanted to see happen. He took our ideas and helped us connect with residents. Later in the month we had a "hopscotch-like" installment as a test run on

Halloween. Tony, being the generous man he was, offered to sit by the installment and pass out candy we had packaged for the kids. He was able to share so much with us and he was the reason we had so much success with our events.

My semester living in Over-the-Rhine allowed me to build so many new relationships with a community I grew up being so close to. I will never forget my walks with my peers to the Peaslee Neighborhood Center to see Jennifer Summers every Thursday morning. Or our midday coffee runs to 1215, stopping to talk to Joe Bailey about his new artwork. Or working in buddy's place and hearing James Browns familiar voice pop in to ask if we need a StreetVibes newspaper. When you open your mind and try to see things through an open lens, you rediscover the familiar in a way that you never thought was possible

ANNA PAGE (EDT)

Being part of the Residency Program has been an incredibly impactful experience, both with my student teaching and just being in the community. Going into this experience, I was very on-edge and was constantly worried about where I was and what I needed to do next. The day that I moved in I was really stressed out about everything that needed to be done before I started student teaching and I was so in my head that when our neighbors said hello to my parents and I, I didn't say hello back. This experience has taught me how to live in the

moment, or, at the very least, to enjoy the community around me. I've always felt really bad about not saying hello to our neighbors that first night. But every day after that I absolutely loved seeing them outside on a warm day and being able to talk to them when I was getting home from school. It always felt like an informal "welcome home".

In our very first journaling session I wrote about how there were a lot of biases within myself that I needed to address while being in the city. I think that one of the biggest things that I realized while being a member of the Residency Program was just how much I have internalized that idea of urban spaces being dangerous. I have never been one to casually start a conversation with a stranger, but in the past 4 months I've probably had more conversations with strangers than in my whole life. With everything you hear in the news, it's easy to forget that people are good, kind, and friendly. I've absolutely loved talking with people living in the community, whether it be waiting for the streetcar or even just in passing as I'm walking to my car in the morning. Some of my favorite days were when I would be walking back to the apartment after school and Ron, one of the community members, would be sitting on the stoop by Holtman's. Donuts. He was always just fun to talk to and always made me smile. One of those days he sang "You are so beautiful" as I was walking down the street and it's probably one of my favorite memories. I think that my biggest regret is that I never asked the name of the woman who is often outside of Holtman's who uses a wheelchair. She was also there many days when I was

coming home from school and she was always just so kind and delightful to talk to. I wish that I would have stayed and talked with her more instead of just rushing home.

Being a student teacher at Walnut Hills and living in Over-the-Rhine were two experiences that were contradictory to each other, but I learned a lot about the inequity in public education. Walnut Hills is a very privileged school that, despite being a magnet school, is not reflective of the Cincinnati Public Schools student population. Sometimes as I was going through my day, it was easy to forget the privileges at my school, so it was extremely beneficial to have Shannon and Holly (Berens) to debrief with after school and help me recognize how unequal schools are in CPS. I've been thinking a lot about what I can do to help schools be more equitable. How can I use my privilege to give the same educational opportunities that my students have to other students? I struggle a lot with the idea of wanting to teach in a high needs school because I can use my privilege to get educational opportunities for my students, but is having another white woman as a teacher really going to help them? I feel as though I am educated about the inequity and injustice in schools and want to do what is best for all students, but what if I end up doing more harm than good? I just don't know what the answer is.

With all of that being said, I have to remember the role that intersectionality plays in my students' lives. Students at my school are going through a lot and are having a difficult time readjusting to life after quarantine. My students are struggling a lot with their mental health,

which obviously affects how they behave at school. During my student teaching experience, I've learned that I want to be a teacher who is empathetic and understanding above all else. Electron configurations are only so important to life—but knowing that you have a support system at school and people in your life who are willing to give you love and grace will go a long way, especially for teenagers. It's a fine line to walk between being an authority figure who is required to teach students about science and an empathetic teacher who knows how much students go through, but it's one that I'm going to learn to balance. Teaching science is important but making sure my students feel safe and cared for is even more important to me.

BEN KOLLMANN (ARC)

I remember hearing about this program and being particularly excited for the design-build aspect of what we would be doing down in Over-the-Rhine. The rest of the program wasn't on my mind at that moment, I just wanted to see our design work come to life. However, while the design-build was an important part of the program for me, it made up a small portion of everything that I ended up taking away.

I come from a suburb in Cincinnati that is predominantly white. Going to Miami, it felt like I was going to a larger version of my high school. Circles remained tight and diversity was few and far. Before coming down for the semester, I had heard so many stereotypes about the community, people would tell me

“it's an up-and-coming area” or “be careful, there's a lot of crime in that neighborhood”, yet those were not my experiences when I arrived here.

Moving down to Over-the-Rhine for the semester, I was exposed to a way of living that was totally foreign to me. I had never lived in a city before, my neighbors were always white, and walking anywhere would have taken all day. Down in Over-the-Rhine it's a whole different experience in terms of living. People are always out on the street having conversations or enjoying the day. I saw no malicious intentions, only protection, and many people are happy to be your friend and neighbor. The interactions that I had and witnessed within the community hold so much power and meaning. I learned what it means to listen, speak up, and have confidence in what I believe in. Having conversations with residents and speaking my mind helped me grow in my understanding of who I am.

While I was wary of it at first, the writing circle we went to every Wednesday night has pushed me to use my voice and express my thoughts and emotions to those around me. I grew to enjoy using the writing circle as a way to put forth my thoughts and feelings each week, leaving every time with a feeling of relief and rejuvenation.

The disparity that is going on within the neighborhood of Over-the-Rhine is shocking to witness and is something I wouldn't have fully recognized had I not been a part of this program. A whole group of people, longtime residents in this community, have been pushed aside to make way for a tourist economy. The people

who live here deserve to have their voices heard and this is something that we personally witnessed at the ribbon cutting ceremony in Imagination Alley in September. My classes and the community events that I have been a part of have taught the importance of a public space in a neighborhood and educational resources for residents.

Being able to listen and speak to residents and community organizations first-hand helped open my mind to new perspectives on many issues. I grew to understand my privilege and how fortunate I am to have access to a good education and a supportive family. This program and the conversations we had throughout it put those things into perspective for me.

I will never forget this semester and the influence it has had on my perspective of the world. I have learned the value of a community and how important it is to respect the culture and residents of a place. I will miss waking up every morning to a view of Music Hall out my window, my bike rides down Race St, the friendliness of Reggie every time I see him, seeing a new art piece by Joe Bailey every time I walk into 1215 Coffee, the morning visits from James Brown at the Center, John's daily greeting of "thank you for coming to class", and Bonnie's cheerful laugh and love of sunflowers. This program and the people I've met will forever live in my heart and I am truly grateful for the time that I've had here.

HOLLY BERRENS (EDT)

"Your job is not to judge. Your job is not to figure out if someone deserves something. Your job is to lift the fallen, to restore the broken, and to heal the hurting."

-Joel Osteen

This was a quote that was said to us on the Residency Program cohort's visit to the Center for Respite Care. This quote stuck with me the entirety of this semester in Over-the-Rhine as I was learning about what has happened in Over-the-Rhine and the different ways we can help a person by listening to them and not by judging and determining if they deserve it. This quote also impacted my teaching. My job as a teacher is to help these children further their education and grow as a person. I am not to judge any of my students based on their home situations or their behavior in class and determine if they deserve to learn because every child, every person deserves a quality education and a place where they feel safe and are able to grow.

I have lived my entire life in Cincinnati, only 15 minutes away from Over-the-Rhine where I am living now. For the past 10 years, my dad has worked in Over-the-Rhine at Crossroad Health Center and I would come down to visit him at work or volunteer/work at the health center. I always loved when I got to come down to Over-the-Rhine and walk around further than just the block around where my dad worked because I loved seeing all of the murals and graffiti artworks on the buildings and I

loved seeing the people all sitting out on their front steps talking to each other. Being able to come and live in Over-the-Rhine and be a part of this Residency Program has only deepened my love for this neighborhood. I have been able to learn more about the whole history of Cincinnati and Over-the-Rhine, both the good and the bad parts. I specifically really enjoyed going on the learning walk in August learning about the neighborhood and history south of Liberty St. I learned a lot about gentrification, redlining, and housing policies that affect homelessness through this learning walk and Jeff Kruth's ARC 427 class about the American cities. I have also been able to see and understand the culture and see that this neighborhood is one big community where everybody knows each other and will greet everybody whether they know them or not. I have loved being able to come out of my shell and talk to or greet the people sitting on their stoops or just as I am walking by. One of my favorite parts of my morning walk to school, was stopping and talking to the man with the Lakers hat at the top of Race Street who sat in the same window ledge every morning. Seeing him and talking to him always brought a smile to both of our faces. I would find myself always looking further down the street to see if he was there that morning until one day he was not there anymore. I talked to one of his friends who I would see him talking to some mornings and he told me that he thought he was sick and was in the hospital. After that week, I never saw him there or in the city and I changed my walking path because it made me sad walking past

the window ledge and not seeing him there in the morning to talk to.

This program has really helped my time student teaching in this neighborhood to be able to better support the students. I have been able to create deeper and meaningful connections and memories with my students. While I have been living down in the community, I have seen some of my students as they are walking to-and-from school, to the park, or at the stores. They were always so excited to see me and learn that I live near them. At school the next day, they are always quick to run up and tell me that they saw me and tell their friends that they saw me. I also loved seeing the surprise in their eyes when I told them that I live by Washington Park, and they would get excited because that is right where they live too.

Being placed at Rothenberg in my kindergarten classroom I have been exposed to a lot of happy, sad, and scary situations. It is always so nice to see the joy and laughter in the students' face and smiles when I understand a reference to a song or show that they like. These students are always so full of love and are constantly showing myself and my cooperating teacher that love, as well as showing it to the other students. They love to give others hugs throughout the day just because or if they think that student or teacher needs a hug. As soon as someone drops their pencil pouch and it spills everywhere, there are always five or more students there trying to help the student pick up everything that they dropped. I have seen and heard some of the many sad stories about my students

homelife and how that situation affects their behavior at school. There are students living in foster homes, a student whose father is in prison, a student whose stepfather treats her different than her other siblings simply because she is not his biological child, a student who lost a grandfather who was one of his primary guardians who he lived with, a child who has suffered with PTSD for years and is only five years old. Some of these children have gone through trauma that no five-year-old should have to have dealt with. I have seen the fear in my students' face when one of their classmates gets mad or upset and begins flipping desks and throwing chairs and other objects around the room. All of these many situations the good and the bad have helped me to learn and show empathy and understanding to these students to help them calm down and smile again and offer a hug when needed. Being placed in the Cincinnati Public School District these past two semesters has impacted my future career as a teacher and placed a desire in me to stay in this district when I get a job and continue to work with these students. Each student I have had in my class or interacted with has a place in my heart and make me want to stay in this district and teach these students and help them continue to grow and develop.

KAYLA SKURSKI (ARC)

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime." -Mark Twain

My mother displays this quote in our dining room. It is something I have come to make my mantra and its meaning is ever-more apparent going through this Residency Program. The more I involved myself in this community and learned about Over-the-Rhine's rich culture the more I wanted to listen and admire it. The vast majority of community members here have experienced a multitude of hardships. It's their persistence that I admire. No matter what comes their way, at the end of the day their strength is in each other. One thing I have come to recognize is the community's friendliness. The suburbs now feel cold and reclusive. Almost every time I pass a stranger on the street I get a "hi" or "good morning" at least, if not a whole conversation. This is surprisingly rare. Normally, you bow your head down low, avoid eye contact, and don't peep a word. It may be a small detail, but it can mean the world to others. I for one can say it made my day a few times when I was down. If I were to give a piece of advice to future Residency Program participants I'd say, "Don't be afraid to start the conversation, you will most likely be welcomed with open arms". Some of my most impactful experiences here did

not occur in the classroom but with residents. You learn the most when you listen.

We were told as freshmen at Miami University of the power we hold as architects. We guide the way people connect with each other through the spaces we design. Holding that power as a designer creates endless possibilities. One of the topics I decided to delve into this semester was preventative architecture within Over-the-Rhine. I truly believe that people's actions are impacted and guided by their environment. Instead of creating a place of connection and growth, recent redevelopment tends to prevent it. Something as simple as putting up a pointy railing so individuals cannot sit and rest, or preventing people from using public spaces if they don't pay a fee of some sort to enter the space, or installing an extra plain railing placed in the middle of a park bench, deterring people from laying down or being close with one another—as an aspiring architect these moves seem ridiculous. Why would I prevent interactions amongst users of the space? With little public spaces left, I think they should welcome all.

My experience as a student in this Residency Program has given me new light and guidance in where I see myself within the profession. I want my effort and work to mean something. I no longer want to spend my time as an architect drafting my life away. The projects I'm interested in should give back to the space. I'd like the typical design process to change as well. Your typical firm designs *for you* while I'd like to design *with you*. It would benefit both parties. I could have a successful design outcome while the community has a say in what

ways and how the design affects their space. This seems like common sense, but it is a step that is often overlooked in the design process. Though it shouldn't be optional—it should be one of the most important aspects.

One of the biggest takeaways from this experience would be my new sense of self-awareness. I now know in what ways I am privileged and have been biased. Though I'm comfortable with being uncomfortable, this heightened awareness has helped me become a better ally. I understand the importance of being an anti-racist. Real change happens when we disrupt the “normal”. It's not okay to degrade others and speak evil, I now have the confidence to call these individuals out. Whether it be an injustice I see or hear, I will choose what is right and fight for justice.

ALYSSA FERNBACH (ARC)

I didn't learn what I thought I was going to learn in this program, I learned so much more. In this program I learned about the hard work it takes to fight for a community, privilege of people displacing the community and housing disparities created by the gentrification in Over-the-Rhine. The media has also informed my opinion of Over-the-Rhine—and boy was it wrong. I was led to believe that the progress in Over-the-Rhine was having a positive impact on an underserved community and that 3CDC was doing great things by building things like

Washington Park, when really it's all part of the tourist attraction.

While immersed in this unique opportunity I met some wonderful people; Delesa, Pat, Dorothy, Georgia, George, Mark, and the most impactful, Tony. Tony sat outside buddy's place every day the weather was nice. He greeted me with a smile and joyous welcome. He taught me how important it was to listen, not just hear something. "3CDC hears us but they aren't listening." This was probably the most impactful sentence I heard all semester. Tony was listening to his community every day and trying to help, participating in the Storefronts group and teaching the Miami University students.

It was hard to watch the residents struggle when the opening of Imagination Alley didn't turn out the way everyone had hoped, especially after so much effort was put into community input. I was fortunate enough to participate in the process of creating the display in IA in 2020 with the Storefronts group and was aware of what the community wanted to see happen to their beloved park. Imagination Alley isn't just a park, it's a community space, it has history and people want to belong. Belonging was another word I became very familiar with this semester. I thought this was odd when I first heard it and questioned why the residents felt they didn't belong in their own community, especially residents that have been here for decades. Ms. Delesa said, "They are building all this new stuff but this isn't for us, we don't eat \$40 meals." She was right. The shops were overpriced boutique shops and the restaurants are geared towards tourists coming into the city. I'm left with more questions

than answers. Why isn't anyone considering the needs of the residents? Is this another tactic to get them out of the way of their idea of progress? If they don't "belong" will they leave? I hope they don't leave. I also don't think they should have to fight so hard for a place they've called home for years.

Over-The-Rhine has shaped me into a person I barely recognize—for the better, I hope. I am unsure of my path now. I'm not sure if architecture will ever be as fulfilling as this experience. Designing means so much more than buildings after seeing the impact that design has on a community. While I will take away many things from this program, being able to talk about inequities and injustices in communities is what I value most. Talking to the community and "LISTENING" to what they want and need. I think in many cases it's easy for an architect to look at maps, walk the streets, take a few pictures and come up with a design. That is not my definition of designing anymore. It takes candid conversations and a deeper understanding of how the community functions. 3CDC missed a critical design element that brought this community together: grilling. I wasn't someone who sought out friendship with Black people, I was awkward and afraid. I was aware of the injustices but I wasn't sure how to talk about it. Jenn (Summers') class helped to break down the mental barriers that I let control my interactions previously. Participating in this program opened my eyes to too many aspects of life that I failed to acknowledge before, I knew that I had privilege, but I didn't know how to use it to benefit those that have been treated unjustly for decades. Ms. Pat (Youngblood) told

us one day in class, “If you see something, say something or just go stand in the way.” Being present will affect the way interactions happen. My experience in Over the Rhine has left me shattered, I am unwilling to accept that this is the best that we can do in our community.

SHANNON SULLIVAN (EDT)

I had many thoughts about how the Residency Program impacted me personally. I wanted, though, to ask others how they saw the impact the program had on me. For this reason, I decided to ask my dad. He had two thoughts for how the student teaching experience impacted me. First, he said that he knows my eyes were opened to issues that arise from teaching in an inner-city school. He gave a few anecdotes, things I had told him over the course of the semester, but I decided not to include them out of respect for the privacy of my students. Second, he said my eyes were also opened to the issues that arise with teaching the year after school was severely altered by a pandemic. The COVID pandemic affected students far more than anyone ever expected.

I was thrust into solo teaching unexpectedly one day when my host teacher left having lost her sense of taste and smell. That day was November 4th. After texting me later that night that her test turned up positive, I taught solo for over a week until her return on November 15th. This, I can easily say, was the hardest week of my college career. While I tried to keep the

classroom as normal as possible for the kids, the behaviors that happened due to my host teacher being gone made this extremely difficult. I realized during this time how little I knew about classroom management, and how much I wish I knew, and how much I needed to know. A question I wrestled with this semester was whether I am ready to be a full teacher. I still am searching for the answer to this question.

My dad also had a thought on how the Residency Program impacted me personally. He said that we now know I can live and thrive in an environment outside of my bubbles of Oxford and Kings Mills. Moving in down to Over-the-Rhine in August, I was nervous but excited for a new adventure. It felt like I was bursting the bubble I had lived in my whole life in both Kings Mills and Oxford. While I had the nerves, knowing that John and Bonnie were close by and that I was going through the same thing as seven other Miami students made it easier. What helped the most was living with one of my first friends in college, Anna Page.

On my second day in Over-the-Rhine during the family dinner, I met Mr. Tony. We sat across from each other as we ate. I don’t remember specifics of the conversation, but I just remember connecting with him and getting to know him a little better. I remember how awesome it felt getting to talk to someone who lives down in Over-the-Rhine and their experiences as opposed to someone who came down to Over-the-Rhine from Kings Mills just to do the touristy things.

Something happened to me while living in Over-the-Rhine that busted the stereotypes and biases that the

media had tried to push on me. It was the afternoon, I had just walked about seven blocks from where the bus dropped me off after school, and I get to the apartment to find that the front door was wide open. I had left the front door wide open. I walked to the Over-the-Rhine Community Housing office and one of the kind workers (whose name I completely forgot to ask) walked back with me to the apartment. He went through the entire apartment with me and opened every door to ensure that there was no one there. I to this day do not know how the door opened up but it was unlocked for about nine hours while Anna and I were at school. And yet, nothing had been touched. My iPad and headphones were still sitting on the front desk just as I left them. How? Why? I learned how and why. Our neighbor Reggie kept an eye out and watched over our apartment while we were gone. And he made sure that no one broke in. So, bring on the stereotypes and the biases. I don't buy into them anymore because I know there are plenty of people like Reggie in Over-the-Rhine.

There are so many things I want to remember about my time in Over-the-Rhine. I want to remember my favorite place to get food, Gomez, and the coffee from 1215 Vine and Coffee Emporium. I want to remember the dings of the streetcar and the number of times I would unconsciously repeat them. I want to remember the business of Washington Park on the weekends. I want to remember the number of people who were so excited to visit me and explore the city with me. Finally, I want to remember the kindness of everyone I met in Over-the-Rhine. I hope these are things I never forget.