Foreword

By Ronn Richard, President and Chief Executive Officer, Cleveland Foundation

“For many of us in the city planning field, [Norm] Krumholz has been that small voice in our heads reminding us of why we entered the field—namely, to help create a better world and to create a better quality of life for those who are sometimes left behind by what others have defined as progress. We could choose to ignore that voice, but we could not deny that we had heard its message.”

—Retired Cleveland Planning Director Robert Brown, “Rebel with a Plan: Norm Krumholz and ‘Equity Planning’ in Cleveland”

This path-breaking book espouses the principles of inclusive planning and attests to the dedication of that framework’s most ardent champion: Norman Krumholz, professor emeritus at Cleveland State University’s Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs. I am honored to have the first word in service to these two aims, because for more than a century, the Cleveland Foundation—the world’s first community foundation—has focused on issues of diversity, inclusion, and equity as embodied in Norm’s work.

In funding this publication, the Cleveland Foundation sustains a long-held commitment to address these deeply rooted, complex issues affecting our community’s most underserved neighborhoods. We view this book as a blueprint to enhance the lives of the disadvantaged in every area our work touches: housing, employment, education, economic development, health and human services, transportation, and recreation, to name a few.

At the core of every initiative that we and our many public, nonprofit, and private partners support is the intent to provide Greater Cleveland’s underserved citizens with one element they consistently lack: access. In this spirit, we have:

- Worked to shape a high-performing school system for Cleveland’s children from their earliest years and to ensure that more students enter college and succeed.
- Recognized the importance of out-of-school time with MyCom (My Commitment, My Community), which connects young people with

caring adults and high-quality, neighborhood-based programs and services in a safe, supportive environment.

- Invested to revitalize all of Cleveland's neighborhoods. Case in point: investment in seven low-income neighborhoods that adjoin the city's institution district of University Circle, where we have pursued inclusive growth and personal well-being for residents via job, housing, transportation, and community health initiatives. Here, we have helped fund the Evergreen Cooperatives: employee-owned businesses that recruit and train local workers.
- Nurtured job creation and economic growth throughout the core city and worked to align our region's education and training programs with viable career opportunities that provide family-sustaining wages for Greater Cleveland residents.
- Established a Mastery Arts Initiative that aims to meaningfully connect every child in every underserved Cleveland neighborhood to the arts, including theater, photography, dance, and music.

This is not tinkering around the edges. The thread that binds all these enterprises is a determination to effect systemic change—a determination to widen access for all those individuals who are not at the table when decisions that impact their lives are made.

This inclusion has been Norm Krumholz's life's work. He has successfully practiced equity planning under three Cleveland mayors, while also trying to encourage all planning professionals not only to plan the physical city, but also to try to move resources, political power, and participation toward lower-income disadvantaged people of the city and region.

Norm earned his master's degree in planning at Cornell University in 1965. Four years later, he came to Cleveland to serve as city planning director—and sparked a national dialogue as he and his staff redefined the planner's role with a focus on social policy that extended well beyond traditional land use and design issues.

After leaving city government in 1979, Norm began his teaching career at Cleveland State University. He served on the Cleveland Planning Commission and was president of the American Planning Association; the APA conferred their National Planning Award for Distinguished Leadership to him in 1990. Among his many other honors, I am proud to note that in 2001 he received the Cleveland Foundation's Homer C. Wadsworth Award, which recognizes creative, visionary local leaders.

In the classroom, Norm continues to inspire future city planners. We hope this book will magnify his reach by:

- Embedding equity planning in the curricula of planning schools nationwide, to encourage the next generation of civic leaders to embrace this approach;
- Fostering changes in national policy, with an eye toward expediting the implementation of equity planning locally; and
- Accelerating these needed changes on a broad scale.

To disseminate these ideas as widely as possible, we are immediately making this book available online via open access, at no cost to readers and researchers. The decision to fund worldwide accessibility to this book is in keeping with the tenet of accessibility that is at the heart of equity planning.

In closing, I would like to salute Clevelander Joseph Keithley, a Cornell engineering graduate with a passion for landscape architecture, who convened the Cleveland-Cornell partnership that made this book possible. Joe is a generous Cleveland Foundation donor who served with distinction for a decade on our board of directors; he has worked tirelessly to strengthen the ties between his alma mater and his community and to enhance equity in Greater Cleveland. He has also been an avid proponent of this project from the start.

I give my thanks as well to the esteemed contributors to this book. They represent a mix of scholars and practitioners with different perspectives, ages, and races. Some are recognized senior scholars, while some are emerging voices with fresh ideas. All are considering how we can shape the environment to create a more just and equitable world. Their insights could not be more timely, as our divided nation wrestles with rampant income disparity, racial injustice, and socioeconomic dislocation. These challenges make a powerful argument for a renewed emphasis on equity planning.