

WELCOME



Dear Neighbor,

On behalf of the Franklinton Area Commission, welcome to the neighborhood! As you unpack your things and settle into your new home, you will find many opportunities to get to know your neighbors and the surrounding area. We hope this Welcome Packet helps you get engaged with the ongoing work of strengthening our historic community and supporting its diverse constituents.

Franklinton is a deeply rooted community that prides itself on its legacies—both old and new—of hard work, resourcefulness, and collaboration. Since its founding in 1797 through the Great Flood of 1913 and on into the present, Franklinton has been defined by a grit and resilience that have allowed its people to rise to immense challenge and face impossible adversity. Today, members of the Franklinton community honor that history by working together for a truly inclusive and accessible mixed-income community in which compassion and mutual respect dictate that we all belong and have a part to play in supporting each other's health and success.

We're excited that you've joined us.

Sincerely,

Franklinton Area Commission



FRANKLINTON HISTORY

History of Franklinton

Franklinton is the oldest settlement of non-Indigenous settlers in Central Ohio, founded in 1797 by Lucas Sullivant on the west bank of the Scioto River, pre-dating the founding of a new state capital that would come to be known as Columbus. The land we now recognize as Franklinton, has known territory of Indigenous communities of Adena, Hopewell, and Shawandasse Tula, Wyandotte, Delaware, and Seneca.

From its inception, Franklinton has been a resilient community. The town was moved further west just one year after its founding due to what would become an unfortunate theme in Franklinton's history: floodwaters. But the residents persevered, and by the early 20th century, the neighborhood (now annexed by the city of Columbus) had grown to nearly 30,000 residents.

It was at this peak that Franklinton suffered its biggest setback — the Great Flood of 1913, which destroyed the homes of 20,000 people. After this tragedy, investment in the area was restricted by law, which meant that those who stayed were legally barred from repairing and improving their properties. This led to neglect and flight which, in turn, led to poverty for those who remained and further disinvestment for the neighborhood as a whole. Still, residents persevered, and in 2004, a new flood wall was completed to protect the neighborhood and allow for neighborhood rehabilitation and hope for a better future. The low floodplain gave the neighborhood the nickname, "The Bottoms," which is term of endearment many still use today.

Today, Franklinton remains resilient. From its peak of 30,000, the area is now home to around 9,000 people. Many households (which are primarily located in the western half of Franklinton) experience poverty, precarity, and poor health outcomes. As of 2019, median household income in Franklinton is around \$40,000 annually — far less than the median household income of nearly \$54,000 for the city of Columbus and nearly \$57,000 for the state of Ohio.

At the same time, around half a billion dollars have been invested in Franklinton since completion of the flood wall, primarily in the formerly industrial eastern half of the neighborhood nearest Downtown. This area has become home to artist spaces, restaurants, breweries, and one of the largest makerspaces in the world, which in turn has attracted mixed-use development and higher-income residents. This investment is cause for both celebration and caution: as new neighbors move in and visitors and land values increase, existing residents may fall further into poverty and be forced to leave the neighborhood.

Franklinton Historical Society



Franklinton Historical Society was founded March 2, 1993 by Pat Doerman, President of the Franklinton Board of Trade and co-owner of A.D. Farrow, and Carol Stewart, President of the Franklinton Area Commission, Columbus' first neighborhood commission.

The founders believed that a knowledge of local history could instill in residents a sense of pride and rekindle a community's spirit. Back in those days, Franklinton was known as "The Bottoms," a topographical term referring to the floodplain that had become a derogatory nickname, and angered residents. The founders recharged that image into, "Franklinton: the first settlement that founded Columbus."

For more information, visit <https://franklintonhistoricalsociety.org/>.

LOCAL SERVICES

Franklinton Area Commission

The Franklinton Area Commission is the **elected body representing Franklinton and is made up of residents and other individuals whose work is located in the Franklinton Area**. The Commission serves Franklinton primarily by (1) assisting with the creation of plans and policies that guide future development of the neighborhood, (2) bringing the challenges and opportunities of the neighborhood to the attention of appropriate agencies or stakeholders, (3) reviewing zoning and other development related applications and facilitating feedback from residents, and (4) creating space for community announcements and important community conversations. For more information about the Franklinton Area Commission, to join a Committee, or to attend a meeting, visit <https://cbusareacommissions.org/franklinton>.

311 Services

The City of Columbus Service Center is the single point of contact for requesting **all non-emergency City services** and is available to residents, businesses, and visitors. Use 311 to **find your trash, collection day**, schedule a bulk trash pick-up, report a pothole or streetlight that needs repair, or any other non-emergency neighborhood concerns. For more information, call 614-645-3111, email 311@columbus.gov, download *MyColumbus* mobile app, or visit <https://311.columbus.gov>. Call 645-4545 to contact the Police if it is not an emergency.

Westside Pride Center

The Columbus Neighborhood Pride Centers are a **one-stop-shop for city services** and is dedicated to protecting the health, safety and welfare of the families living in the area. Pride Centers house basic city services all in one place: community liaison police officers, code enforcement officers and solid waste inspectors, refuse collection division staff, and your Neighborhood Liaison. The Westside Pride Center is located at 1186 W. Broad St Columbus, OH 43222. For more information or to contact Franklinton's Neighborhood Liaison (Melissa Green), call 614-328-6034 or email megreen@columbus.gov.

Refuse Services

Make sure all trash is **bagged and tied securely in the container** (items outside the container will not be taken). If the container is full, find another container, or if it's outside the container it will be considered **illegal dumping**. **Bulk items must be scheduled** for pick-up by contacting 311, and items must be placed behind your home. Use 311 to figure out what items can be picked up. Consider donating to a charitable organization.

Franklin County Board of Elections

It's important to exercise your right to **vote**. Franklin County provides services to ensure residents have the information and education to exercise their right to vote and have confidence that elections are fair, impartial, and accurate. Before you vote make sure to **review and update your voter registration, find your voting location, and see a sample ballot**. For more information, call 614-525-3100, or visit <https://vote.franklincountyohio.gov>.

Franklinton.org

This website is a **one-stop-shop for available resources and programs in Franklinton** created specifically to serve Franklinton families and residents. Franklinton Development Association (FDA) maintains this resource. For more information, visit <https://franklinton.org>.

Post Office

Nearby Post Office locations include **Central Point** (1499 W Broad St), **West City** (850 Twin Rivers Dr), and **Downtown** (200 N High St). For more information, visit <https://tools.usps.com/find-location.htm>.

LOCAL SERVICES

Dodge Community Center

Residents can access the Dodge Community Center (667 Sullivant Ave) for a wide variety of programming and amenities including: **Boxing Center, Ceramics Room, Fitness Room, Game Room, Gymnasium, Pool, Skate Park**. All available by obtaining a Columbus Recreation and Parks Leisure Card, which costs only \$1.00. For more information, call 614-645-8151.

Parks

Parks located in Franklinton include **Dodge Park** (667 Sullivant Ave), **Cody Park** (106 Brehl Ave), **Dorrian Green** (50 S Belle St), **McKinley Park** (1453 McKinley Avenue), and **West Bank Park** (303 W Main St).

Libraries

The Columbus Metropolitan Library, **Franklinton Branch** is located at 1061 W Town St. For more information, visit <https://columbuslibrary.org>. **Little Free Library** locations scattered around the neighborhood, including on West Park, Princeton, Martin, Guilford, Cypress, Hawkes, and Yale Avenues.

Schools

Franklinton is served by Columbus City Schools. **Avondale Elementary** and **Starling Middle School** are both located in the neighborhood. For more information, call 614-365-5000, or visit <https://ccsoh.us>. For information on private/charter schools, child care centers, and preschools, visit <http://franklinton.org/resources>.

Public Transportation

The **Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA)** is responsible for providing public transportation throughout Columbus and Franklin County. For more information or to plan a route, call 614-228-1776, or visit <https://cota.com>.

There are also **multiple bike trails** to enjoy near Franklinton, including the Olentangy, Scioto, and Camp Chase Trails. For more information, visit <https://www.centralohiogreenways.com>. **CoGo Bike Share** offers short-term bike rentals all across the city. For more information or to locate bike stations, visit <https://www.cogobikeshare.com>.

Mount Carmel Emergency Room

The Mount Carmel Emergency Room is located at 120 S Green St and is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For more information, call 614-234-1862.

Pharmacies

Nearby pharmacies include **CVS Pharmacy** (1515 W Broad St), **Lower Lights Pharmacy** (1160 W Broad St), and **Franklinton Pharmacy** (Inside Basecamp Recovery at 815 W Broad St #200).

Museums

The Center of Science and Industry (COSI) (333 W Broad St) is a hands-on science museum and planetarium with activities for all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Visit cosi.org to learn more. **The National Veterans Memorial and Museum** (300 W Broad St) the only national museum dedicated to honoring all United States military veterans from all eras. Visit nationalvmm.org to learn more. **The Columbus Historical Society** (717 W Town St) operates a museum that covers the history of Central Ohio. For more information, visit <https://columbushistory.org>.

FRANKLINTON NONPROFITS

Franklinton is home to many organizations that serve the neighborhood and broader community. See below for information on neighborhood resources or to volunteer your time.

Columbus Coalition for the Homeless

Provides education, advocacy, and empowerment to fight homelessness. Visit <https://columbushomeless.org>.

Columbus Fashion Alliance

Collective of creatives, passionate about the fashion industry with the goal to support the creation and growth of creatives and fashion based business through multiple facets. Visit <https://columbusfashion.org/>.

Franklinton Arts District (FAD)

Provides leadership related to expanding the acceptance, appreciation, support, and impact of the arts and artists in Franklinton. Visit <https://franklintonartsdistrict.com>.

Franklinton Board of Trade (FBOT)

Serves as a chamber of commerce for Franklinton with a broad focus on advocating for both businesses and residents. FBOT also manages the cleaning and security ambassador services for Franklinton Special Improvement District and can lend equipment to groups and residents for Franklinton Litter League. Visit <https://franklintonbot.org>.

Franklinton Cycle Works (FCW)

Educates Franklinton residents on the benefits of biking and empowers people to service and maintain their own bikes. Visit <https://franklintoncycleworks.org>.

Franklinton Development Association (FDA)

Works to stabilize and positively impact Franklinton through affordable housing and neighborhood advocacy. Visit <https://franklintondevelopment.org>.

Franklinton Farms

Grows and shares food, creates beauty, and builds community! Produce is available at half-price to Franklinton neighbors who need it and at 75% off for SNAP users. Visit <https://franklintonfarms.org>.

Furniture Bank of Central Ohio

Provides furniture for Central Ohio families in need with headquarters in Franklinton. Visit <https://furniturebankcoh.org>.

Gladden Community House

Works to promote the well-being of Franklinton's children, families, and community through preschool education, programming for adults and youth, outreach to seniors, a food pantry, and crisis services. Visit <https://gladdenhouse.org>.

Glass Axis

Non-profit, public access glass art facility and gallery. Studios for all forms of glass art including stained and fused glass, torch and hot glass blowing and sculpting, and neon art. Hands-on classes, demonstrations and public programs each year, including glassblowing and lampworking. Visit <https://glassaxis.org/>.

FRANKLINTON NONPROFITS

Home for Families

Dedicated to holistic, strength-based services celebrating each person's resilience, hopes and dreams for their future, provided through homeless prevention and re-housing, education, and stabilization.

Visit <https://www.homeforfamilies.org/>.

Jubilee Market & Cafe

Provides affordable, nutritious food for the community through their nonprofit grocery store and cafe.

Visit <https://llchc.org/jubilee-market-and-cafe>.

Lower Lights Christian Health Center (LLCHC)

Provides high-quality, affordable health care services to all as a faith-based federally qualified health center. Visit <https://llchc.org>.

Lower Lights Ministries

Works to break cycles of poverty and addiction utilizing a faith-based approach. Visit

<https://lowerlights.org>.

Mount Carmel Healthy Living Center

Provides free community health and wellness programming for all. Visit

www.mountcarmelhealth.com/hlc.

The Refuge

Helps men break free of addiction through a faith-based addiction recovery model. Visit

<https://therefugeohio.org>.

ROYGBIV

The gallery champions emerging artists by presenting thought provoking exhibitions that increase the public's awareness of the artists' work and enhance the cultural diversity of Central Ohio by focusing on artistic merit alone. Visit <https://roygbivgallery.com/>.

Sanctuary Night

Offers a free, safe drop-in center for women caught in cycles of prostitution. Visit

<https://sanctuarynight.com>.

Side Hustle Syndicate

Nonprofit organization connecting artists with money and space for their creative enterprises. Visit

<https://sidehustlesyndicate.org/>.

Wild Goose Creative

Helping to build a vibrant community of people who care about creativity, and to build a creative community at the intersection of art, risk and meaning. Visit <https://wildgoosecreative.com/>.

Learn more about ongoing work in the neighborhood at

<https://franklinton.org>.