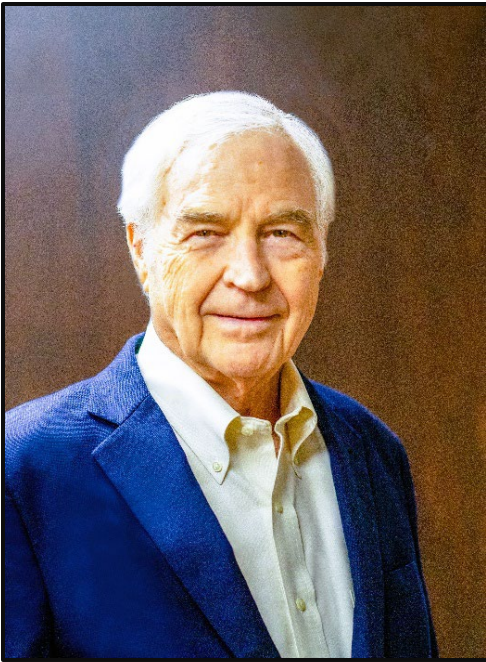


2025 Walks of Life Honoree

John J. Carney



John J. Carney got his start along his path in life by following in the footsteps of his father and uncle, the brothers John and Jim Carney. The senior Carneys were excavators and builders, real estate investors and developers, politicians and political operators.

While growing up, the son John, the oldest of four children of John Carney and Virginia Dreisig, tagged along with his father and uncle to excavation sites, sheriff's property sales, and Democratic Party clambakes, absorbing lessons in real estate, politics, family, and life.

Formal schooling came while attending Gilmour Academy and Williams College in Massachusetts. He obtained his law degree in 1969 from Columbia University Law School in New York. Returning to Cleveland, he pursued law, real estate development, and civic engagement.

With Landmark Companies partner Bob Rains, Carney began in the early 1990s to pioneer the redevelopment of historic buildings into residential and mixed-use facilities in downtown Cleveland, including The Shoreline, the Colonial and Euclid Arcades, and the Grand Arcade at the corner of West 4th Street and St. Clair. In addition, along with other partners, Rains and Carney rehabilitated the Otis Terminals Buildings at West 9th and St. Clair into 247 apartment units with commercial space and indoor parking, accomplished a major rehab to the common areas of Moreland Court Condominiums near Shaker Square, and renovated the Cort Shoe Building on West 6th Street.

Particularly noteworthy was their renovation of the Perry Payne building, which was built on Superior Avenue in 1888-89 by railroad executive Henry B. Payne and is one of three surviving Cleveland buildings designed by Frank Cudell and John N. Richardson to rely on interior iron columns for structural support.

Landmark's redevelopment work received recognition both locally and nationally, ranging from the Cleveland Restoration Society's Award of Excellence to the American Institute of Architects' Award for Exceptional Accomplishment.

Carney's civic leadership roles have included chair and member of the Board of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority from 1998 to 2010; chair of the Downtown Cleveland Alliance; and first chairman of the Downtown Cleveland Improvement Corporation. He has also served on the Boards of the Downtown Cleveland Partnership, the Playhouse Square Foundation, and Metro Health System, and on the visiting committee of the Cleveland State University Levin School of Urban Affairs.

He and his wife, the former Tana Nintcheff, live in Rocky River. They have two sons, John and Michael. Their son John and his wife Leah have two children, Xavier Finn and Molly Julie. Travel, hiking, and skiing are shared family activities. Carney, an avid reader and book collector, is also a member of the Rowfant Club.