



THE NEW ALBANY  
*Community Foundation*

*presents*

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THE  
NEW ALBANY LECTURE  
SERIES

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AMERICA FERRERA

Interviewed by  
MADALIT DEL BARCO

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Mental Health

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*October 10, 2024*

*Inspire. Enrich. Impact.*



# Powering Forward Together

Enriching and inspiring communities through compelling conversations.

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## THE NEW ALBANY LECTURE SERIES

7:00 p.m.

WELCOME BY

SARA AND RICK MERSHAD

PROGRAM

AMERICA FERRERA

*Award-Winning Actor, Director, and Producer*

*Interviewed by*

MANDALIT DEL BARCO

*Correspondent, Arts Desk, NPR West*

Thank you to our supporters of this evening's New Albany Lecture Series program

*Special Program Underwriter*



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FAMILY FOUNDATION

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A limited number of listening devices for the hearing impaired are available for tonight's New Albany Lecture Series program. Devices can be used with headphones or the option of a neck loop to be used with hearing aids. Devices can be retrieved from the box office in exchange for a driver's license or similar form of ID and must be returned to the box office at the end of the program. Please see an usher or visit the box office if you have any questions.



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## Dear Friends, Donors and Sponsors:

It's hard to believe that tonight we are launching the 12th season of The New Albany Lecture Series.

The New Albany Lecture Series and Student Lecture Series are regarded as one of the best in the country thanks in great part to our many donors and sponsors.

We are so proud of the series and the caliber of speakers we have been able to bring to New Albany and central Ohio.



We also are proud that more than 35,000 students representing 50 area schools have interacted with some of the most influential thought leaders of our time.

Through the years we have hosted Nobel Prize winners, Pulitzer Prize winners, respected diplomats, military leaders, economists, mental health advocates and more.

They have helped us fulfill our mission to promote lifelong learning and to provide a platform for civil discourse and community dialogue on important issues facing our society.

Perhaps never has this mission been more important than now.

Tonight we welcome actress, director and television producer America Ferrera. She has received numerous accolades, including a Primetime Emmy Award, a Golden Globe Award, and a Screen Actors Guild Award, in addition to a nomination for an Academy Award.

The star of the popular *Barbie* movie also is a mental health and wellness advocate.

Earlier today, Ferrera met with New Albany and central Ohio students who had the unique opportunity to ask questions and engage an enriching discussion. We particularly are proud to have engaged students with Youth Leadership & Workforce Development Mentors and Mentees of The Columbus Urban League and Femergy.

The Foundation is grateful to all of the sponsors and donors whose generosity makes this all possible.

We look forward to seeing all of you again at the remaining programs as part of the 2024-2025 season.

With appreciation,

Craig Mohre, President  
The New Albany Community Foundation



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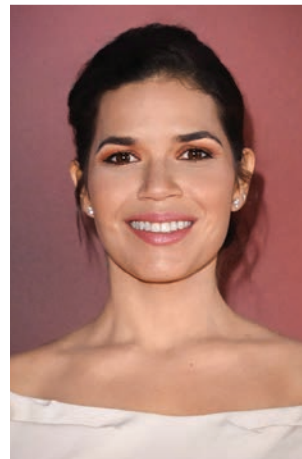
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## AMERICA FERRERA

*Award-Winning Actor, Director, and Producer*

AMERICA FERRERA is an award-winning actor, director, producer and activist who most recently starred as 'Gloria' in the record-breaking *BARBIE*, for which she garnered an Academy Award nomination. In addition to being nominated for an Oscar for her powerful performance as 'Gloria,' she was nominated for a Critics Choice Award for "Best Supporting Actress," and was honored with the 8th Annual SeeHer Award by the same group. Ferrera first won audiences with her breakout roles in *Ugly Betty*, *Real Women Have Curves*, *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, and *Superstore*. For her breakthrough performance in *Ugly Betty*, Ferrera was awarded an Emmy®, a Screen Actors Guild Award® and a Golden Globe®, as well as ALMA and Imagen Awards.



Upcoming, Ferrera will star as 'Mary Ludwig' opposite Matthew McConaughey's 'Kevin McKay' in Apple TV+'s *The Lost Bus*, based on Lizzie Johnson's novel, *Paradise: One Town's Struggle to Survive an American Wildfire*. Directed by Paul Greengrass and produced by Jamie Lee Curtis and Jason Blum, the storyline explores what went wrong in California's Camp Fire in 2018, the nation's deadliest wildfire

in history. The film follows bus driver Kevin McKay and teacher Mary Ludwig as they help lead a school bus full of students through the wildfire that destroyed the town of Paradise.

Subsequently, Ferrera will make her feature directorial debut with an adaptation of Erika Sánchez's *New York Times* bestselling novel, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, which is currently in development at MGM/Orion Pictures. The film, written by Linda Yvette-Chavez tells the story of Julia Reyes, a sharp tongued teen with dreams of becoming a famous writer somewhere far away from Chicago and her traditional Mexican immigrant parents who wish she was more like Olga, her sister, now eternally perfect since her tragic death. As Julia seeks to break free of her oppressive home, she tries to uncover her sister's truth, and in the process gains a deep understanding of the wounds her family carries.

Ferrera is also set to executive produce and star in *Naked by the Window*, a series adaptation of the book by Robert Katz. Currently in development at MGM Studios, the series tells the true story of the groundbreaking Cuban artist, Ana Mendieta, her formidable impact on the New York art scene, and the controversial trial of her husband, Carl Andre, for her sudden and tragic death. Ferrera will executive produce alongside Plan B.

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Released in theaters on July 21, 2023, Ferrera most recently starred as 'Gloria' in *Barbie*, which has broken countless box office records, with a domestic opening of over \$214M and over \$470M worldwide. The film, since its opening, has recorded a \$1.5 billion dollar box office and was the highest grossing film of 2023.

Ferrera can also be seen in *Dumb Money*, a 2023 Sony and Black Bear Pictures' dramedy directed by Craig Gillespie, based on Ben Mezrich's book *The Antisocial Network*, also starring Seth Rogen, Sebastian Stan, Paul Dano, Pete Davidson, Shailene Woodley, Anthony Ramos, Dane DeHaan, and Vincent D'Onofrio. The film premiered at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival and had a wide release on September 29, 2023.

In January 2022, Ferrera was announced as the face of Covergirl's "Fresh Clean Skincare" collection, the company's first clean, vegan skincare line.

Ferrera recently guest-starred in the Apple TV+ series, *WeCrashed* opposite Jared Leto and Anne Hathaway. In the series, Ferrera plays Elishia Kennedy, a successful CEO and entrepreneur who is conned into leaving her own company and joining WeWork but is eventually pushed out.

Ferrera executive produced and directed episodes for 2 seasons of NETFLIX's hit Dramedy, *Gentefied*, nominated for a Peabody Award in 2021. The series follows three Mexican American cousins and their struggle to chase the American Dream.

She also executive produced, directed and starred in NBC's beloved workplace comedy, *Superstore*, which ended its six-season run on March 25, 2021.

In July of 2020, Ferrera was announced as a Founding Investor of Angel City Football Club, a National Women's Soccer League team representing her hometown, Los Angeles, California.

A longtime activist, Ferrera launched Poderistas in 2020 alongside 9 other prominent activist, leaders and business women, including Eva Longoria Bastón and Christy Haubegger. Poderistas is a digital lifestyle community and non-profit built to inform, affirm, and inspire Latinas to leverage their power and transform their lives, their community and their nation.

In May 2024, Ferrera was appointed as a Global Goodwill Ambassador for the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM), through which she will continue championing issues including migration, women's rights, amplifying underrepresented voices, and community engagement.

Ferrera is also a prolific speaker having spoken at major events such as TED Conference and the Democratic National Convention. She was also opening speaker and chair of the Artists' Committee for the Women's March on Washington in 2017.

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Her activism has extended on screen in several television documentaries including *Not Done: Women Remaking America* for PBS, the EPIX TV mini-series, *America Divided*, Showtime's groundbreaking documentary, *The Years of Living Dangerously*, and Nicholas Kristof's series for PBS *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*.

In 2016, Ferrera co-founded HARNESS, with her husband Ryan Piers Williams and friend Wilmer Valderrama. HARNESS is a community of artists, influencers and grassroots leaders leveraging art and storytelling to power change and create a more equitable world.

In 2018, Ferrera released her first book landing on the *New York Times* best-seller list. *American Like Me* is a vibrant and varied collection of first-person accounts from prominent figures about the experience of growing up between cultures in America. Curated and edited by Ferrera, the anthology includes essays that share her own perspective of growing up as the daughter of Honduran immigrants in Los Angeles. Contributors to the book include Lin-Manuel Miranda, Roxane Gay, Issa Rae, Kumail Nanjiani, Congressman Joaquin Castro, Kal Penn, Uzo Aduba, Jenny Zhang, Michelle Kwan, Padma Lakshmi and many others.

Some of Ferrera's television and film credits include *Real Women Have Curves*; *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (parts 1 and 2)*; Diego Luna's biopic, *Cesar Chavez*, (ALMA Award Special achievement in Film); Ryan Piers Williams' *The Dry Land*, (Best International Film Edinburgh Film Festival); Ryan Piers Williams' drama *X/Y*, which she co-produced and starred in; David Ayer's crime thriller *End of Watch*; Ricky Gervais' *Special Correspondents*; *It's a Disaster*; *Lords of Dogtown*; and *How the Garcia Girls Spent Their Summer*, among many others. She lends her vocal talents to the Oscar® nominated franchise films *How to Train Your Dragon* as Astrid.

On stage, she has appeared off-Broadway in Terrence McNally's *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart*; Laura Marks' *Bethany*; and *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*, directed by Trip Cullman. She graced the stage as Roxie Hart in the West End production of the hit musical, *Chicago*.

In 2006, Ferrera founded her own television and film production company, Take Fountain.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Ferrera is the youngest of six children. As a graduate of the University of Southern California, Ferrera studied International Relations while pursuing her film and television career. She currently resides in New York City with her husband and two children. ~



# MERSHAD

## FAMILY FOUNDATION

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF  
THE NEW ALBANY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.

### *Dear Friends,*

Welcome to the first program of the New Albany Lecture Series 2024-2025 season, a celebration of community, connection, and the power of shared experiences. We are delighted to introduce America Ferrera, a remarkable advocate for mental health and a beacon of resilience, who will share her insights on the importance of connection in our lives.

For many years, our family has been deeply involved in the New Albany community, driven by our commitment to fostering wellbeing, mental health, and the arts. We believe that these areas are fundamental to building a thriving, resilient community where every individual feels a sense of belonging and purpose. Our dedication to these causes is rooted in the understanding that connection—whether through meaningful conversations, shared artistic experiences, or simply being present for one another—is essential to both physical and mental health.

In a world where technology often distances us from ourselves, nature, and others, it is more important than ever to prioritize real, human connections. We must take the time to pause, engage with one another, and support each other. This sense of connection is not just a luxury; it is crucial to our self-esteem, our resilience, and our ability to navigate the challenges life presents.

Tonight, as we gather to hear from America Ferrera, let us celebrate our community and the power of coming together. Let us appreciate the beauty of the arts as a means to connect, inspire, and transform. The Mershad family is proud to support initiatives that foster this sense of belonging and contribute to the vibrant tapestry of life here in New Albany.

We applaud The New Albany Community Foundation for its efforts to cultivate a strong community through programming that brings people together for lifelong learning and cultural experiences.

Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.

Sara and Rick Mershad and Family





# CONNECTING KNOWLEDGE. INSPIRING BREAKTHROUGHS. IMPROVING LIVES.

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We advocate for the organizations and causes that mirror the values of our company mission, associates, agents and policyholders. Encova proudly supports The New Albany Community Foundation for their commitment to educate youth, encouragement to share knowledge and engagement with our community. Programs like The New Albany Lecture Series advance a shared collective responsibility to create something greater than ourselves.

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# MANDALIT DEL BARCO

*Correspondent, Arts Desk, NPR West*

**MANDALIT DEL BARCO** As an arts correspondent based at NPR West, Mandalit del Barco reports and produces stories about film, television, music, visual arts, dance and other topics. Over the years, she has also covered everything from street gangs to Hollywood, police and prisons, marijuana, immigration, race relations, natural disasters, Latino arts and urban street culture (including hip hop dance, music, and art). Every year, she covers the Oscars and the Grammy awards for NPR, as well as the Sundance Film Festival and other events. Her news reports, feature stories and photos, filed from Los Angeles and abroad, can be heard on *All Things Considered*, *Morning Edition*, *Weekend Edition*, *Alt.latino*, and [npr.org](http://npr.org).



del Barco's reporting has taken her throughout the United States, including Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco and Miami. Reporting further afield as well, del Barco traveled to Haiti to report on the aftermath of the devastating earthquake. She has chronicled street gangs exported from the U.S. to El Salvador and Honduras, and

in Mexico, she reported about immigrant smugglers, musicians, filmmakers and artists. In Argentina, del Barco profiled tango legend Carlos Gardel, and in the Philippines, she reported a feature on balikbayan boxes. From China, del Barco contributed to NPR's coverage of the United Nations' Women's Conference. She also spent a year in her birthplace, Peru, working on a documentary and teaching radio journalism as a Fulbright Fellow and on a fellowship with the Knight International Center For Journalists.

In addition to reporting daily stories, del Barco produced half-hour radio documentaries about gangs in Central America, Latino hip hop, L.A. Homegirls, artist Frida Kahlo, New York's Palladium ballroom and Puerto Rican "Casitas."

Before moving to Los Angeles, del Barco was a reporter for NPR Member station WNYC in New York City. She started her radio career on the production staff of NPR's *Weekend Edition Saturday* with Scott Simon. However her first taste for radio came as a teenager, when she and her brother won an award for an NPR children's radio contest.

del Barco's reporting experience extends into newspaper and magazines. She served on the staffs of *The Miami Herald* and *The Village Voice*, and has done freelance reporting. She has written articles for *Latina* magazine and reported for the weekly radio show *Latino USA*.

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Stories written by del Barco have appeared in several books including *Las Christmas: Favorite Latino Authors Share their Holiday Memories* (Vintage Books) and *Las Mamis: Favorite Latino Authors Remember their Mothers* (Vintage Books). del Barco contributed to an anthology on rap music and hip hop culture in the book, *Droppin' Science* (Temple University Press).

Peruvian writer Julio Villanueva Chang profiled del Barco's life and career for the book *Se Habla Espanol: Voces Latinas en USA* (Alfaguara Press).

She mentors young journalists through NPR's "Next Generation", Global Girl, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and on her own, throughout the U.S. and Latin America.

A fourth generation journalist, del Barco was born in Lima, Peru, to a Peruvian father and Mexican-American mother. She grew up in Baldwin, Kansas, and in Oakland, California, and has lived in Manhattan, Madrid, Miami, Lima and Los Angeles. She began her journalism career as a reporter, columnist and editor for the *Daily Californian* while studying anthropology and rhetoric at the University of California, Berkeley. She earned a Master's degree in journalism from Columbia University with her thesis, "Breakdancers: Who are they, and why are they spinning on their heads?"

For those who are curious where her name comes from, "Mandalit" is the name of a woman in a song from *Carmina Burana*, a musical work from the 13th century put to music in the 20th century by composer Carl Orff. ~



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See what drives us at [SafeliteFoundation.org](https://www.safelitefoundation.org)

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transform our communities.



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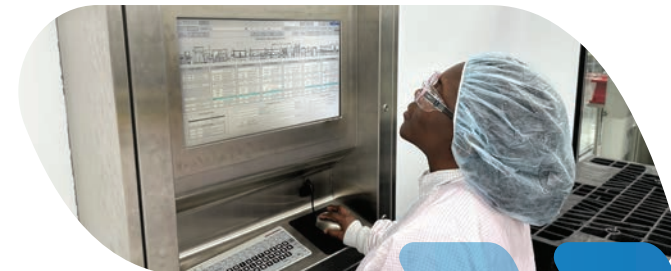
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“Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.”

– THEODORE ROOSEVELT

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How you can support  
THE  
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SERIES

A priority for the Foundation moving forward is to endow The New Albany Lecture Series. This will enable the Foundation to continue to present high-quality speakers while keeping lectures accessible to the entire community, including students, senior citizens and veterans. Additionally, endowing The New Albany Lecture Series would allow the Foundation to continue to invest in other transformative projects and initiatives in the community. Already, several families have established endowment funds to support the series.

If you are interested in establishing a fund or simply making a contribution to The New Albany Lecture Series Endowment Fund, please contact Craig Mohre at 614-939-8150 or [craigmohre@newalbanyfoundation.org](mailto:craigmohre@newalbanyfoundation.org) to support The New Albany Community Foundation's programming.







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To improve, you have to try."**

- Thomas Jefferson

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# THE STUDENT LECTURE SERIES

In response to its donors' desire to support The Student Lecture Series, The New Albany Community Foundation established The Lifelong Learning Circle. Visit [newalbanyfoundation.org](http://newalbanyfoundation.org) to become a member of The Lifelong Learning Circle and help the Foundation underwrite the cost of the series so that central Ohio students can benefit from these programs.

**Thank you to the members of the 2024-2025 Lifelong Learning Circle who help provide student access to inspiring speakers:**

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Linda & Don Barger  
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HAVE INTERACTED WITH INFLUENTIAL THOUGHT LEADERS  
AS PART OF THE NEW ALBANY LECTURE SERIES.**

Today the Foundation hosted students at a lecture featuring Award-Winning Actor, Director and Producer America Ferrera interviewed by New Albany High School students Juan Alvarez and Evelyn Mejia.

Thank you to the following schools and organizations who participated:  
Briggs High School  
Columbus School For Girls  
Youth Leadership & Workforce Development Mentors and Mentees of The Columbus Urban League  
Femergy  
Johnstown-Monroe High School  
KIPP Columbus  
Marburn Academy  
The Wellington School

*As of October 1, 2024*

The lecture was live streamed allowing hundreds of additional central Ohio students to participate virtually from their schools. This year students from central Ohio will also have the opportunity to interact with speakers on the topics of Artificial Intelligence, Civil Discourse & Debate and Environmental Stability.







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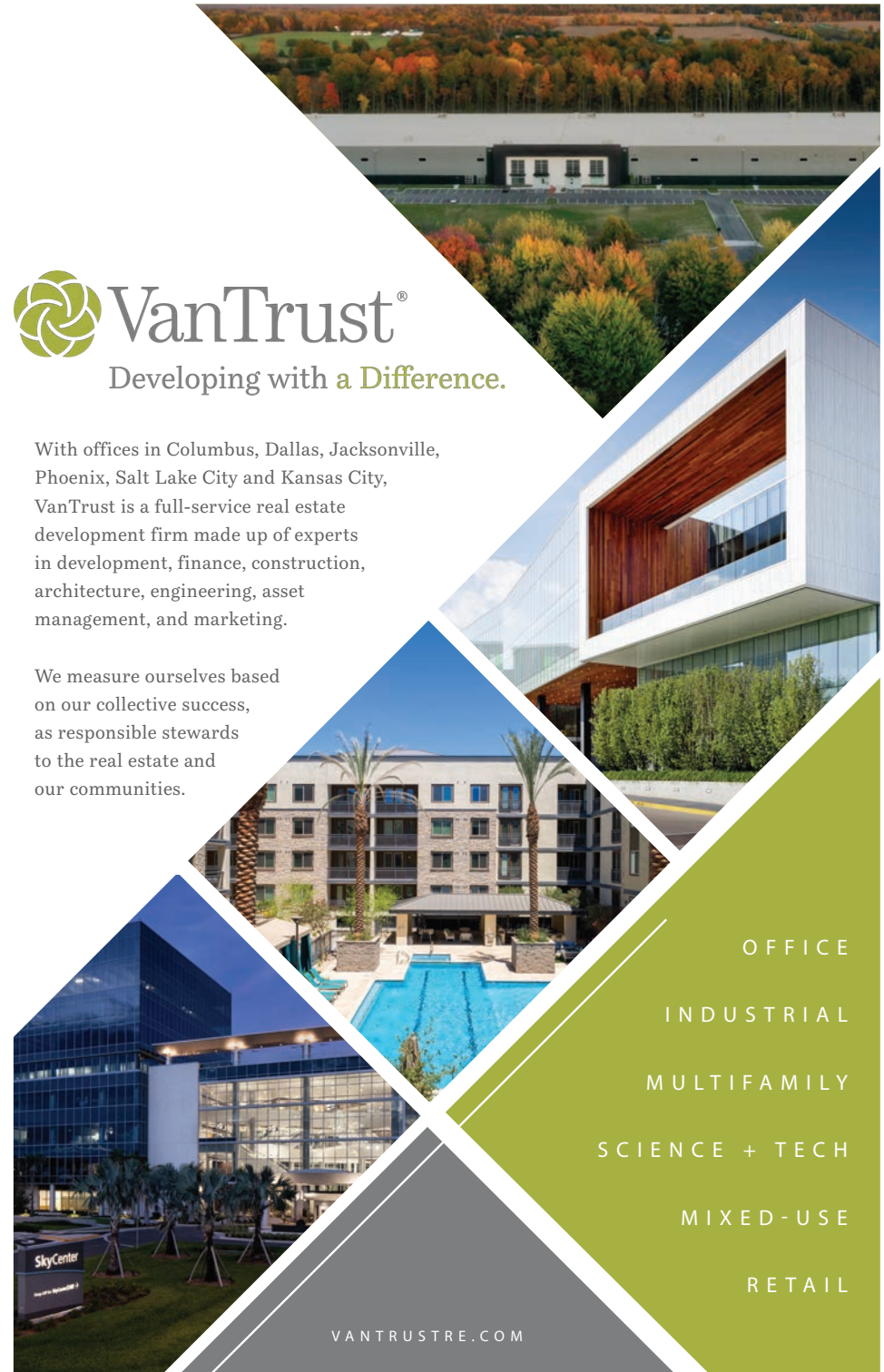


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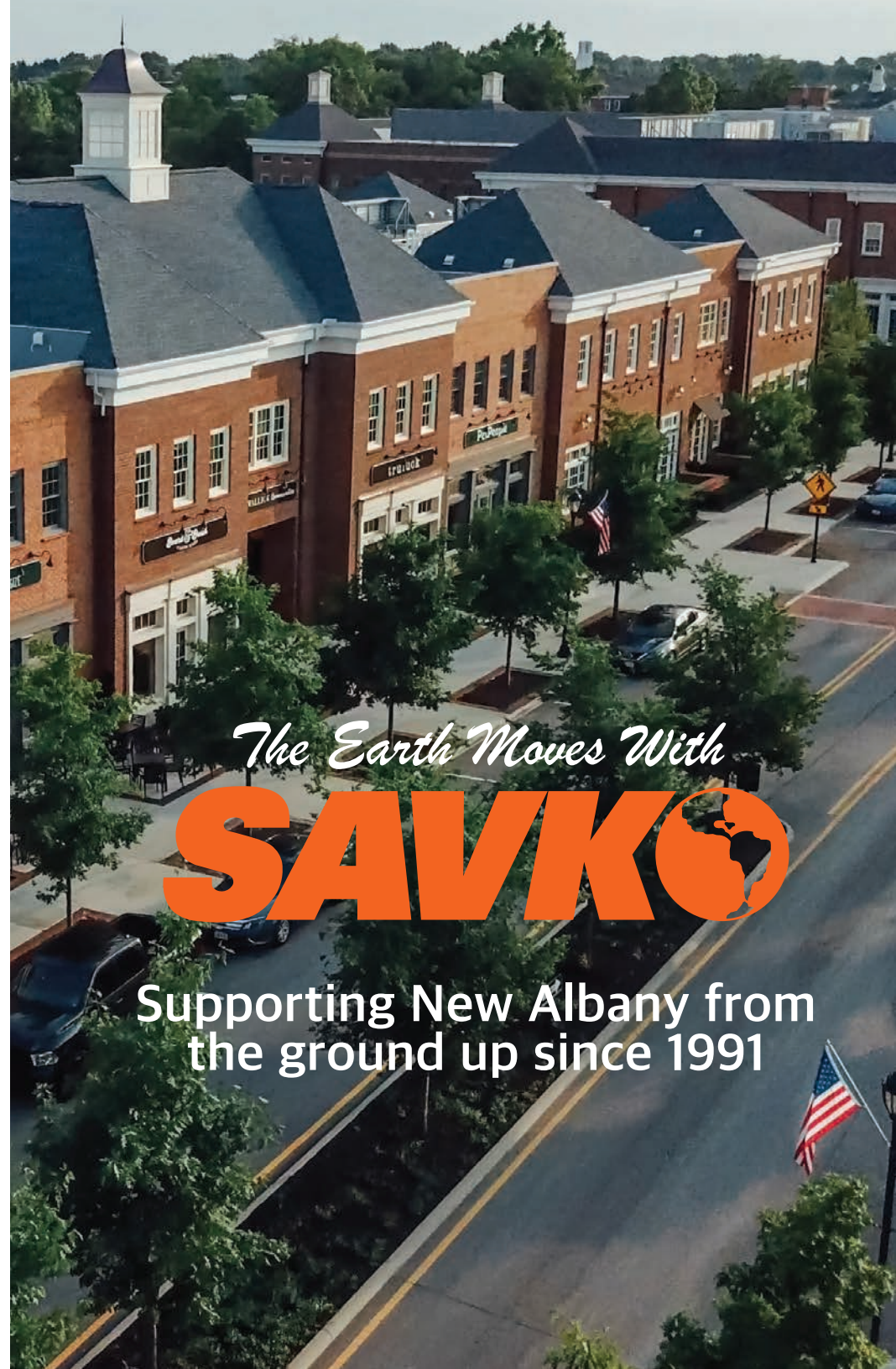
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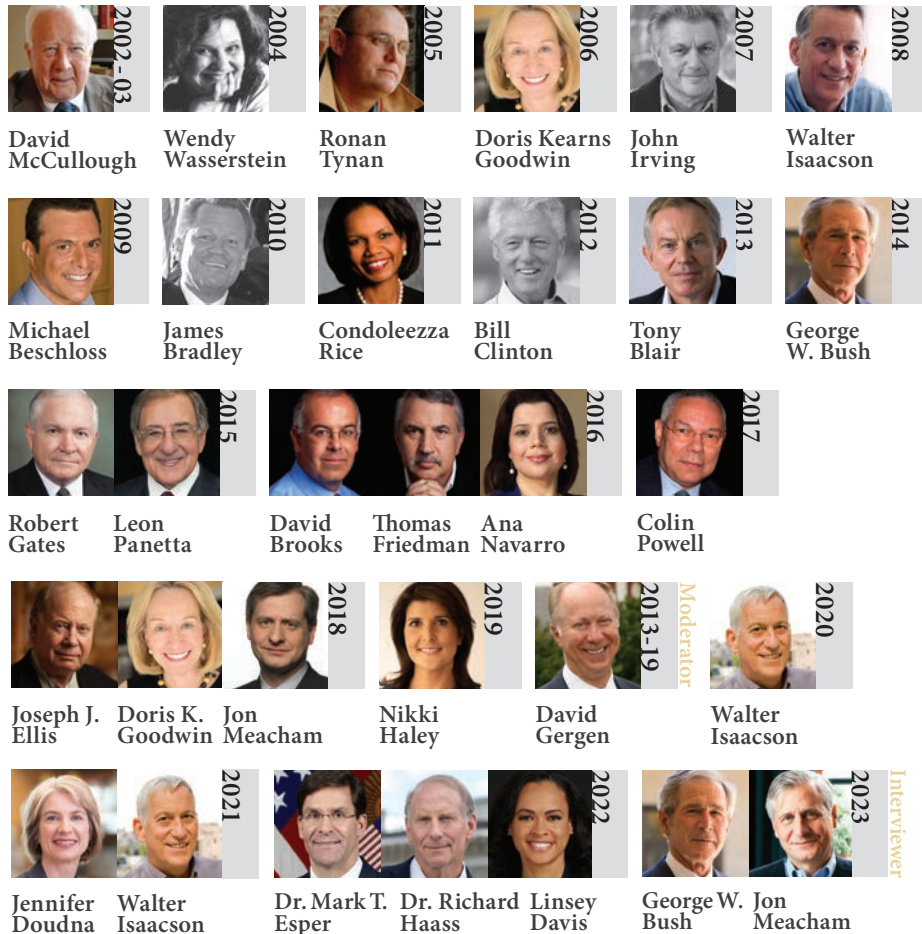
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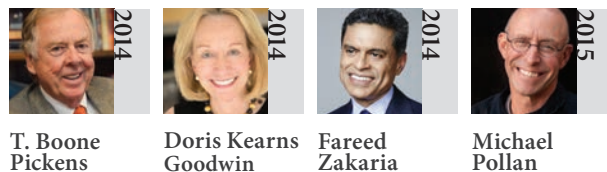
# NEW ALBANY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INSPIRING SPEAKERS

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## REMARKABLE EVENING SPEAKERS



## THE NEW ALBANY LECTURE SERIES SPEAKERS



*Continued next page*



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*Continued next page*





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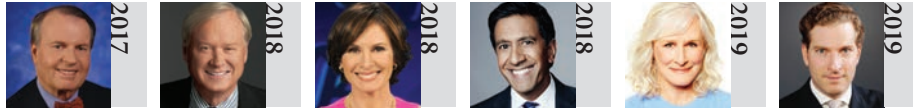
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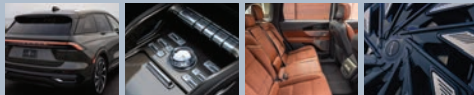
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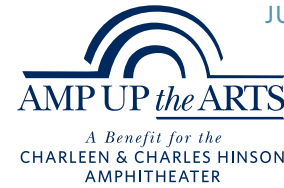
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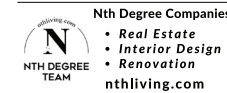


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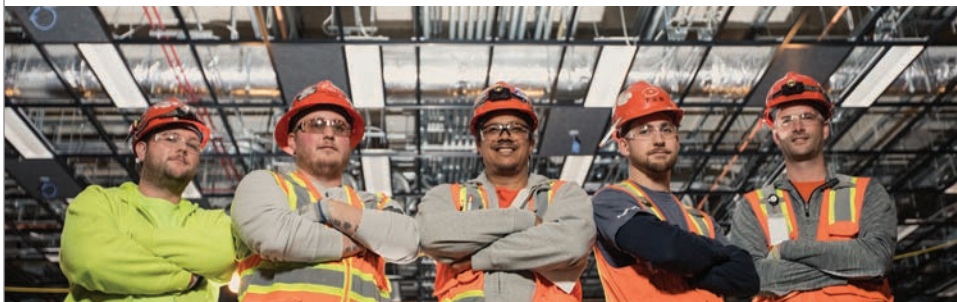
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