

Welcome!

- By default Zoom has muted your microphone. Please turn on your video and wait patiently for the meeting to start.
- How to engage: Go to the bottom of your screen and click on "Chat" or "Mute/Unmute". You can also indicate you need to ask a question or like a conversation by clicking "Reactions" and choosing an option.



- We appreciate your patience as we learn how to conduct online meetings together.
- **While you're waiting, please introduce yourself in the chat! (Name, organization, neighborhood, if you were at the October meeting, and why you're interested in this work)**





Community Action Team Meeting #2

Sophia Robison (Department of City Planning)

Josiah Gilliam (Pittsburgh Mayor's Office/Citiparks)

Alyssa P. Lyon (Green Building Alliance)

November 2, 2020

Land Acknowledgement

"A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes the unique and enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories"

- Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group, Ontario, Canada
(<http://www.lspirg.org/knowtheland/>)

We encourage each of you to learn about the Native territories, languages, and treaties relative to where you and your family originate or currently live, and discuss our role as allies.

- <https://native-land.ca/>
- Ally Bill of Responsibilities written by Dr. Lynn Gehl, Aloginguin Anishinaabe-kwe: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UBTEg72RP6gjJa5bwfnKvswn-VOzPTv/view>

More information about Pittsburgh's Native American history:

- <https://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/blog/fort-pitt-museum/delaware-treaty-1778>
- <https://www.wesa.fm/post/who-lived-here-first-look-pittsburgh-s-native-american-history#stream/0>



Agenda (1.5 hours)

- 5 min: Welcome & introductions
- 15 min: Review EngagePGH outcomes
- 10 min: Overview program for Community Action Team
- 30 min: Break out groups discuss issues & opportunities for all topics
- 20 min: Open discussion
- 10 min: Next steps & homework for Equity Workshop

PLEASE INTRODUCE
YOURSELF IN THE CHAT!

- What is your name?
- What neighborhood do you live in?
- What organization are you affiliated with (if applicable)?
- Why are you interested in this work?



Our Expectations for Your Participation

Action Team members are expected to participate in good faith. The following rules of participation apply to all members:

1. Prepare for and attend all meetings;
2. Participate fully and honestly, commenting constructively;
3. Treat fellow members with respect, particularly when there are differences of opinion;
4. Allow others to say what they believe is true without fear of reprisal;
5. Abide by the rule that only one person can talk at a time; and
6. Only represent your views when speaking with others about the planning process.

Those who routinely break these rules will no longer receive invites to meetings and will be removed from mailing lists.



Major Themes from the October Community Action Team discussion

1. Community programming and livability

- Employment should be equitably available with living wage for residents
- Basic quality of life concerns: can you get what you need, are you safe on the street, can you get around, etc..

2. Nuisance & enforcement issues

- Looking the other way on overcrowding, especially with students

3. Public Safety

- Many concerns related to traffic safety/crossing streets and using the streets

4. Other Topics

- More could be done to support and foster small businesses and business districts and the effects of transience
- There is no feeder pattern public school
- Acknowledging and engaging the role of faith-based institutions in neighborhood life



Outcomes from EngagePGH



Livability in Oakland

- **Please rank these different measures of livability by those that you think should be tackled first in Oakland. Note: Improving livability outcomes is a multi-faceted challenge and tackling one of these topics is not exclusive to tackling others.**
 - **Opportunity (Inclusion and Possibility)**
 - **Transportation (Safe and Convenient Options)**
 - **Health (Prevention, Access, and Quality)**
 - **Housing (Affordability and Access)**
 - **Environment (Clean Air and Water)**
 - **Engagement (Civic and Social Involvement)**
 - **Neighborhood (Access to life, Work and play)**





LIVABILITY IN OAKLAND

65% of respondents chose Housing, Transportation, or Environment within their top three issues in the Oakland Neighborhood.



If you could preserve or spotlight one asset in Oakland what would it be?

Topics:

- Cultural Heritage
 - Preservation
 - Public Art
- Community Uses in the Right-of-Way.

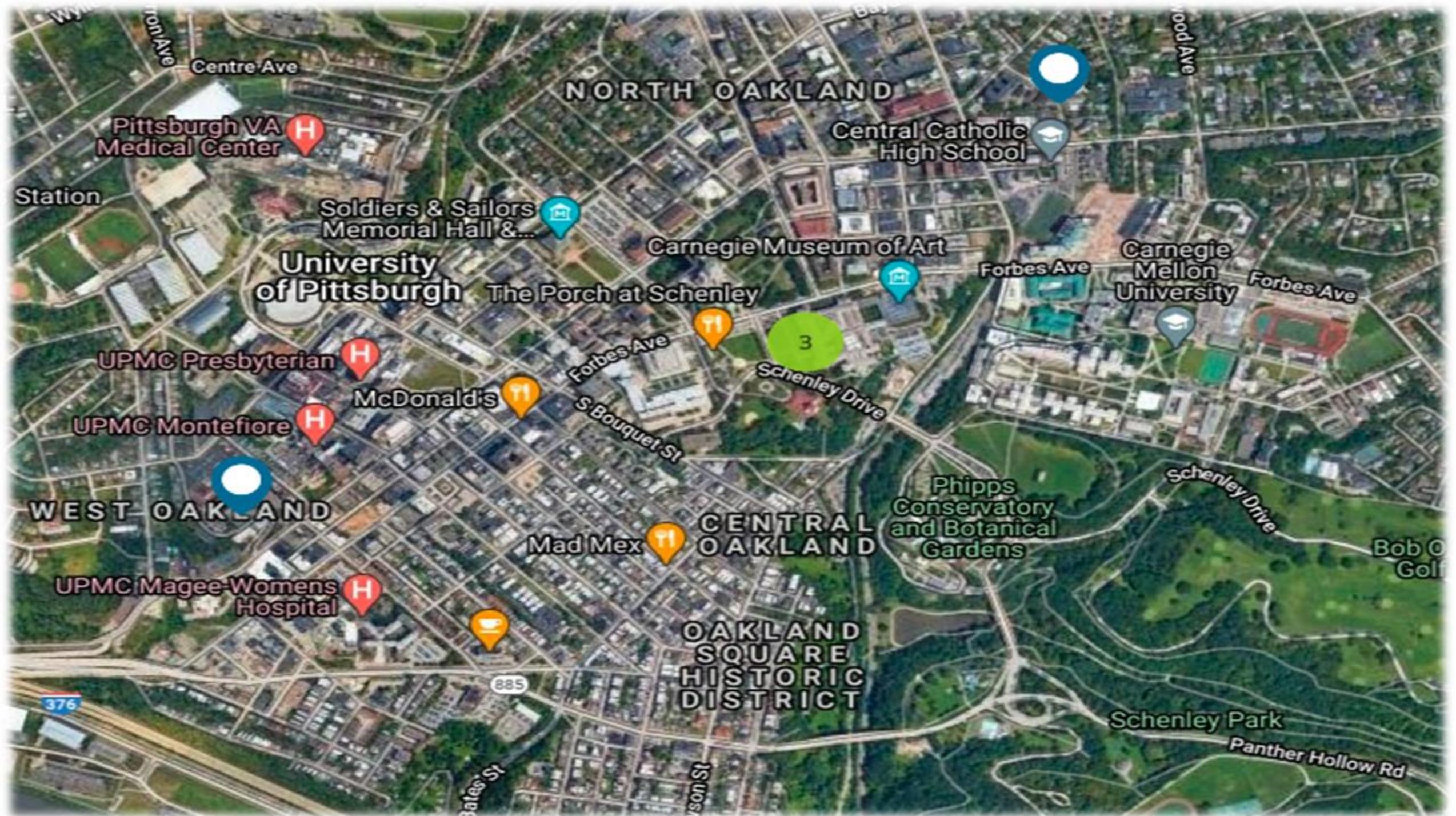
HERITAGE BUILDING ON A RESIDENTIAL STREET FOR AN ACADEMIC PURPOSE

CARNEGIE LIBRARY MAIN BRANCH

THE CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF ART AND NATURAL HISTORY

CARLOW UNIVERSITY





NORTH OAKLAND

University of Pittsburgh

CENTRAL OAKLAND

WEST OAKLAND

OAKLAND SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Pittsburgh VA Medical Center

Central Catholic High School

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall &...

Carnegie Museum of Art

Carnegie Mellon University

The Porch at Schenley

UPMC Presbyterian

McDonald's

UPMC Montefiore

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital

Mad Mex

Bob O Golf

Schenley Park

Panther Hollow Rd

3

885

376

Centre Ave

Forbes Ave

Forbes Ave

Forbes Ave

Schenley Drive

Schenley Drive

Schenley Drive

Bates St

Stinson St

Wood Ave

Station

What brought you and/or your family to Oakland?

- Does Oakland have all the things you need to succeed? (i.e. green spaces, eat, work, play, good schools, safe, etc.)?

COMMON THEMES

OAKLAND NEEDS A MAJOR CHAIN GROCERY STORE

MORE QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

MORE CREATIVE USES OF GREEN SPACE IN OAKLAND



Is Oakland a good neighborhood for people?

- Does the air taste good?
- Is the water clean?
- Is there access to shade and sun?
- Can I access quality healthcare and fresh food?
- Am I able to be safe and well here?

COMMON THEMES

DETERIORATION DUE TO OVER-OCCUPANCY

AFFORDABLE QUALITY CHILDCARE

POOR AIR QUALITY

ABSENTEE LANDLORDS



Tell us about the community services and programs that you use?

COMMON THEMES

LIBRARY + MUSEUMS

SCHENLEY PARK + TRAILS

FARMERS MARKETS

FESTIVALS



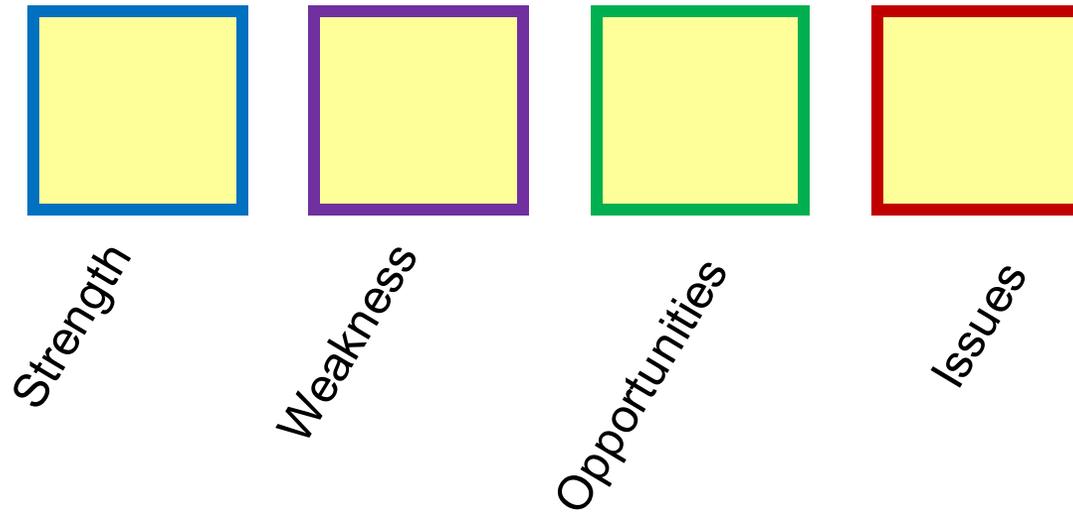
Program for Community Action Team

- **November 2, 2020 from 5-6:30pm** – Review input from first round of online engagement and begin to identify **issues & opportunities** for the Community Action Team
- **December 7, 2020 from 5-6:30pm** – Create an **equity statement and strategy** for the Community Action Team
- **January 4, 2021 from 5-6:30pm (& cont. for a few months)** – Choose 3-4 topics per meeting (ex. Community programs and livability, cultural heritage and preservation, public art, public safety and health, etc. from Neighborhood Plan Guide page 14), invite in guest speakers to speak to lived experience or professional expertise, **refine issues & opportunities for each topic and identify outstanding research & engagement** needed to develop policies, programs and partnerships
 - Next round of public engagement
 - Report back to Steering Committee on progress
- **April 2021 and on** – Continue building language and **policies to support established issues & opportunities**, host additional rounds of public engagement to develop robust policies (*this is flexible given input from Action Team & public engagement*)



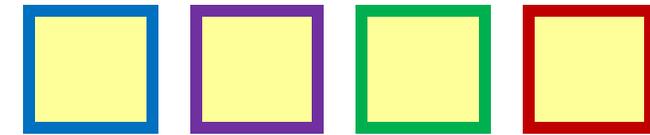
What are Issues and Opportunities?

- We will be using the input received from EngagePGH over the last two months to inform discussion with this Action Team to identify pressing issues and opportunities for the Oakland Community.
- Issues and opportunities will be recorded, refined, and continuously updated as we use them as the basis for the proposals (policies, programs, partnerships, etc.) that will make up the Community section of the Neighborhood Plan.
- We hope to have a solid draft of Community issues & opportunities by the end of February or March.
- Here are a couple examples of issues and opportunities in other plans...



What are Issues and Opportunities?

Uptown EcoInnovation District,
Community, pg 47



Strength

Weakness

Opportunity

Threat

SAFETY



HEALTH



INCOME



FAST MOVING CARS and through traffic in your community causes many accidents. This is a real safety issue for you and your neighbors.



Want to ride your bike? It can be unsafe to do so due to a lack of **BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE** that helps to protect cyclists from traffic.



While our neighborhood has good **BUS ACCESS** the bus stops are in poor condition and the buses often get stuck in traffic. This adds time to your day.



VACANT BUILDINGS encourage illegal activity and negatively impacts you and your neighbors.



It is challenging and sometimes unsafe for you to walk in the community due to **POOR SIDEWALKS** and crumbling infrastructure.



Poor STREET LIGHTING reinforces any concerns you have about public safety in the community.



The vacant lots you see in the community attract **ILLEGAL DUMPING** this results in rodents, bad smells and trash in your community.



A LACK OF USABLE OPEN SPACE limits the opportunities for your kids to play nearby or for you to enjoy time outside with neighbors.



The vast number of cars and buses driving and idling in your neighborhood decreases the **QUALITY OF THE AIR** you breathe.



Large amounts of **surface parking lots** and few trees create a **HEAT ISLAND EFFECT** where your community feels even hotter in the summer.



Due to the **lack of green space**, rains cause street flooding, **CLOGGED SEWERS** and **POLLUTION IN YOUR RIVER**.



Vacant lots replaced what was once a vibrant **shopping district**. Residents now have **LIMITED ACCESS TO FRESH FOOD**.



Old and **INEFFICIENT HOMES** raise your utility costs from the summer and winter.



Due to storm water runoff, hard, impervious surfaces **FLOODING** poses a serious challenge for your home and/or business.



A **LACK OF TREE COVERAGE** increases the costs to cool your home and/or business in the summer.



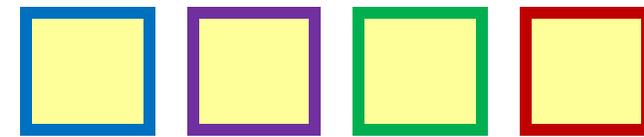
Empty businesses limit the **LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES** for you and your neighbors.

Uptown EcoInnovation District,
Community, pg 45

THREATS TO MAINTAINING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY:

- **RISING TAXES** (HOMEOWNERS)
- **RISING RENTS** (RENTERS)
- **COST OF UTILITIES**
- **HOUSING MAINTENANCE**
- **LIMITED JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

What are Issues and Opportunities?



Strength

Weakness

Opportunity

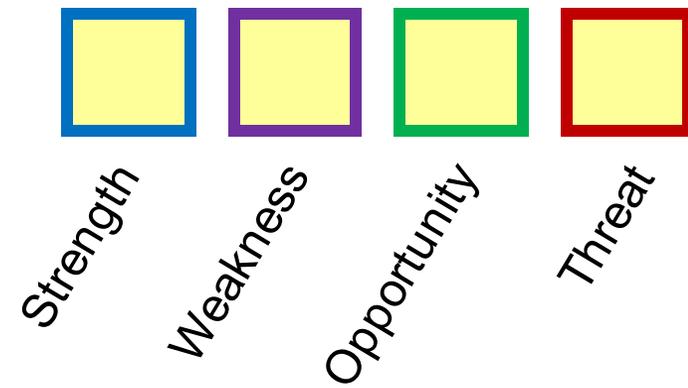
Threat

- » **A lack of neighborhood retail:** Much of the **walkable, neighborhood retail** that residents desire is non-existent in the study area, and is instead located on Western Ave. to the east of Allegheny Ave. *(This is addressed in future land use recommendations).*
- » **Strong nodes of civic engagement in Manchester:** Manchester has 3 neighborhood **parks**, which are important community assets. Each of these parks are surrounded by other nodes, including **schools and churches**, making them important mini-nodes of neighborhood activity. *(Strengthening these nodes is highlighted in the Parks chapter).*
- » **Riverfront access and development:** The Three Rivers Heritage Trail helps **connect** Chateau to other areas of the city, including the professional sports stadiums and Downtown. *(Strategies for addressing this can be found in the Mobility Chapter).*

Manchester-Chateau Neighborhood
Plan, Community, pg 87



What are Issues and Opportunities?



8 Address crime / perception of crime in the neighborhood.

Actual crime in Greater Hazelwood is less of a problem than perceived crime. The number one way to improve public safety, and the public's perception of safety, is to increase eyes on the street by creating walkable, mixed-use areas whose design will attract people and encourage them to linger.

Improve lighting in areas where most crimes occur.

Locate public safety facility on a site convenient to areas where most crimes occur, but not directly in the commercial corridor.

Strengthen relationships between residents and public safety professionals

Create a public outreach campaign encouraging neighbors to secure their properties and vehicles during both day and night.

Make conflict resolution resources available on weekends.

Work with neighbors and businesses to increase eyes-on-the-street in areas where most crimes occur.

Increase neighborhood density and mixed-uses to increase eyes on the street.

Equitably reduce poverty in the neighborhood.

Greater Hazelwood Neighborhood Plan, Community, pg 45



Topics for the Community Action Team

This chapter focuses on the existing residents, employees, students, and visitors of the planning area with proposals for how they can be better served by the district. This chapter also addresses housing affordability.

Specific topics:

- Community programs and livability
- Cultural heritage and preservation
- Public art
- Public safety
- Public facilities and services
- Public health
- Community uses in the right-of-way
- Nuisance and enforcement issues
- Schools and related programs



Neighborhood Plan Guide: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/neighborhood-planning-guide>

Break Out Groups

The Community chapter focuses on the existing residents, employees, students, and visitors of the planning area with proposals for how they can be better served by the district. This chapter also addresses housing affordability.

| | Strengths | Weakness | Opportunities | Threats |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Community programs and livability | <p>Existing small groceries: Mexican grocery store, Italian grocery store</p> <p>Cultural diversity</p> <p>Issues can be addressed with current rules and regulations in place</p> | <p>Small groceries are a long walk and are more expensive</p> <p>Large groceries are a bus and a walk</p> <p>Lack of knowledge about access to food</p> <p>Need to leave to purchase: diapers, office supplies, toilet paper, etc.</p> <p>Overpacking of apartments</p> <p>Overoccupancy skews the housing market; makes it more favorable for speculators to come into the neighborhood</p> <p>Not lot of affordable housing (especially for students)</p> <p>Ways to appropriately manage garbage/trash</p> | <p>Who is livability for? Need to protect people who have lived here for generations</p> <p>More density via high rise apartments</p> <p>Oakland 2025 Plan: closest to Central Oakland, near campus, preserve housing farther from Central Oakland</p> <p>Density for oakland; well-made units designed for high density with low negative impacts; we can manage the density</p> <p>How can we design for density; single family housing not aligned with concept; need appropriate planning strategy</p> <p>Code enforcement changes can be addressed through THIS process; zoning does NOT equal occupancy</p> <p>Supply vs. Demand?</p> <p>Increase quality and standard of life for oakland to take burden of rest of</p> | <p>Expansion of business districts and universities into residential neighborhoods</p> <p>Landlords, living conditions</p> <p>Lack of enforcement of occupancy laws</p> <p>Overpacking of apartments is dangerous for students and residents; places a burden on community; garbage, noise and health concern; structures are not safe and sound for living</p> <p>Ability to attract new homeowners impacted by overoccupancy</p> |

30 minutes

Break Out Groups

The Community chapter focuses on the existing residents, employees, students, and visitors of the planning area with proposals for how they can be better served by the district. This chapter also addresses housing affordability.

| | Strengths | Weakness | Opportunities | Threats |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Public safety | Strong in Central Oakland | Different police forces work within same jurisdiction Lack of lighting Less safety farther from Central Oakland | People need to know their neighbors. This used to be true, but turnover and lack of local schools makes it difficult | Racism leads to people calling police on people of color more often |
| Public facilities and services | Facilities for people experiencing homelessness via CHS, People's, etc. | No daycares. No dog daycare. No public school Need a community center | Build on public spaces to build sense of community A strong third space that could be multigenerational to build community outside of school buildings | |
| Public health | | | | Over occupancy |

30 minutes

Break Out Groups

The Community chapter focuses on the existing residents, employees, students, and visitors of the planning area with proposals for how they can be better served by the district. This chapter also addresses housing affordability.

| | Strengths | Weakness | Opportunities | Threats |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Community uses in the right-of-way | | | | |
| Nuisance and enforcement issues | | | | <p>What should we call police about? I'm parked in, someone is having an illegal firepit, etc. Not dangerous but against rules.</p> <p>Bring in speakers</p> |
| Schools and related programs | <p>Served by good schools (S Oakland:HS to Alderdice, MS to Greenfield; W Oakland: MS to Malines, HS Wyle in Hill)</p> <p>After school programs existing (S Oakland, the Corner), 3 days a week after school (have computers, work on arts) (W Oakland is focused on homework, S Oakland is focused on creativity)</p> <p>Religious schools</p> | <p>Schools are not local, need to travel</p> <p>School choice (leads to further erosion of community feeling), most kids are bussed out of Oakland for school</p> <p>Lack of secular schools means families are not drawn</p> | <p>Do more local things for kids</p> <p>Small after schools programs cannot meet demand</p> <p>Demographics are a chicken/egg issue with schools</p> <p>Headquarters of PPS</p> <p>Bring in a speaker from another city that is a model for early childhood care especially</p> | <p>Loss of past neighborhood schools from demographic changes</p> <p>Lack of families with young children (fewer children now than ever before)</p> <p>Housing prices, lack of grocery store</p> <p>Lots of families with kids are displaced because of housing costs</p> <p>Waiting lists of early childhood centers</p> |

Group Discussion & Report Back

- **ISSUES**

What issues do people currently see in Oakland related to these topics? What's not working today, what could be going better, etc.

- **OPPORTUNITIES**

What are the opportunities for the future of Oakland related to these topics? Think about what you've seen elsewhere or dreamed could happen. This could be specific ideas or bigger visionary ideas.

- **GETTING THERE**

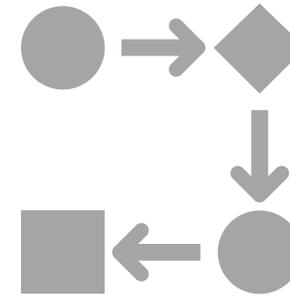
What information do we need that we don't have to develop strategies to adequately address these issues and opportunities? Are there organizations or people who already have this? Are there experts/organizations we could invite to future meetings to help inform us about a certain topic? Do we need to develop our own data? Do we need to gather it through public engagement? If so, what ideas do you have for getting that information?



How will this input be used?



This input will be presented to the Steering Committee early next year to get their input, identify things we missed, and help us to find the information we need.



As we move forward with the Action Team meetings, we will develop policies, projects, programs, and partnerships to address these issues and opportunities.



Next Steps

1. Review input from EngagePGH!

- Shortly, we will share a folder with all the raw data from EngagePGH, and a summarized report of the data

2. Learn more from the various resources on the City website.

- <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/oakland>

3. Continue participating in the Community Action Team meetings

- The first Monday of every month from 5-6:30pm (we will aim for 1 hour, but may extend meetings to 90 minutes to accommodate discussion)
- 12/7/2020 at 5pm: Workshop equity commitment & goals for Community Action Team

4. Invite others to join the Community Action Team

- <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/oakland/oakland-signup>



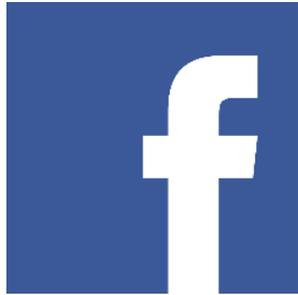
Homework for next meeting, Dec. 7th

Read materials in preparation for Community Action Team Meeting 3 (Equity Workshop) on December 7 to be shared by November 30, 2020.

Questions?



Where can you find us?



Pittsburgh City Planning



@PLANPGH
@resilientPGH



@planpgh

Online at engage.pittsburghpa.gov/oakland

