

Welcome!

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?

- 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 #3

Sophia Robison (Department of City Planning)
Josiah Gilliam (Pittsburgh Mayor's Office/Citiparks)
Alyssa P. Lyon (Green Building Alliance)
December 7, 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>

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 previous Community Action Team discussions

1. **Community programming and livability**
 - a. Employment should be equitably available with living wage for residents
 - b. 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**
 - a. Looking the other way on overcrowding, especially with students
3. **Public Safety**
 - a. Many concerns related to traffic safety/crossing streets and using the streets
4. **Other Topics**
 - a. More could be done to support and foster small businesses and business districts and the effects of transience
 - b. There is no feeder pattern public school
 - c. Acknowledging and engaging the role of faith-based institutions in neighborhood life

Community Action Team Equity Workshop 2020

Workshop agenda

- Why are we here
- Review of Oakland plan equity commitment
- Ground in history
- Workshop equity commitments + outputs
- Next steps

Equity commitment statement

The Oakland Neighborhood Planning Process is committed to creating an inclusive environment where diverse voices are active in all aspects of mutual learning, engagement, and planning.

This requires a culture of inclusion in which ALL individuals feel respected and are treated fairly; and where different viewpoints, opinions, thoughts, and ideas are not only encouraged but embraced. This commitment is critical to deepening our relevance, credibility, and effectiveness, and it will strengthen our mission to advance a more just, creative, and abundant future where people and planet thrive.

The civic and economic vitality of our neighborhood, city and region, depend on inclusive, equitable, and accessible opportunities for everyone

Commitment to the process

We view this commitment as an ongoing process through which each Action Team (AT) will periodically:

- **Examine where you are:** action team reflects on current state of equity within respective topic (i.e. community, mobility, infrastructure)
- **Map your route:** action team redirects priorities based on new shared information, state of the nation, etc.
- **Ask your stakeholders for direction:** action team consults members on new priorities and progresses accordingly

An inequitable history



History cont'd.,

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Liberty_(Pittsburgh)#Decline

Decline [\[edit\]](#)

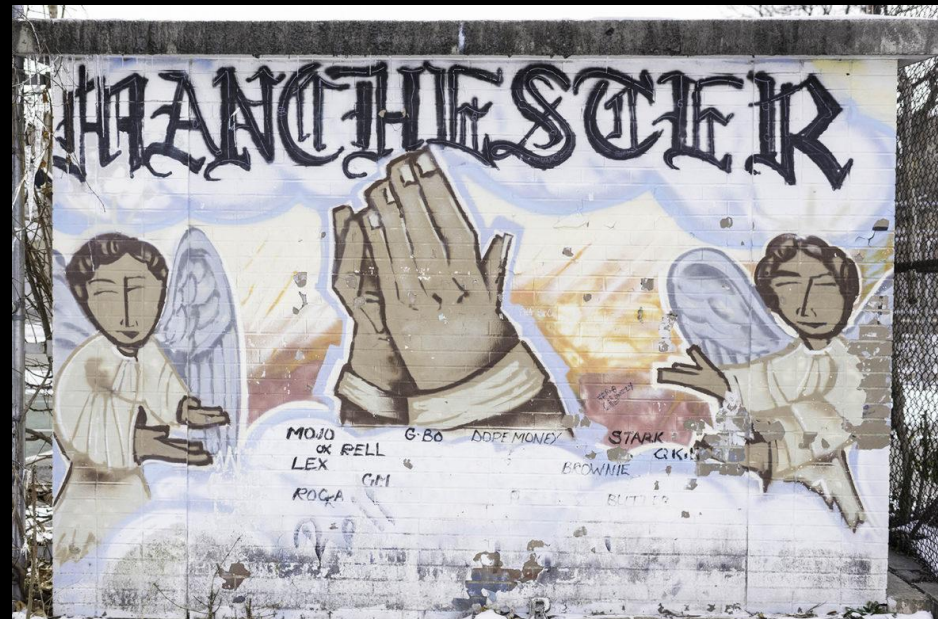
East Liberty's decline was precipitated by a series of government policies relating to the underwriting of mortgages for homes commonly referred to as **redlining**. The residential areas immediately surrounding East Liberty's main business district **consisted primarily of tightly packed wood frame homes built in the mid-to-late 1800s.**^[9] In 1937, The George F Cram Company undertook the creation of federally sponsored surveys and maps which ultimately became the 'redlined' maps used by banks for underwriting. **The Cram Maps listed this housing stock as "obsolete," noted the "infiltration of Jews... and Negroes"**^[9], and the large number of people on relief (the New Deal version of Welfare) as justification for redlining the area.^[10] The result of this redlining was two-fold; first, it made accessing conventional forms of credit for home renovations difficult; and second, it fostered segregation of low income minorities in a neighborhood that was clearly racially diverse in 1937.^{[11][12]}

Discussion of materials



History of the Hill District

Chateau: A Fragmented History



How Urban Renewal Crushed PGH**

Health effects of past housing discrimination (NPR)**

Discussion notes...

- Made progress with including community voice/input
- Large portion of South Oakland was redlined; current indications of lack of investment in Oakland due to redline processes
- Ongoing inequities due to impact of subprime mortgage crisis in 2008; resulted in families of color being displaced
- Oakland not a traditional victim of displacement - VERY SPECIFIC issues regarding the neighborhood (i.e. institutional freedom, large land expansions, etc.)
- There's a power differential in Oakland (residents feel powerless to non-governmental institutions)
 - Eradication of homeowners, undesirable, lack of community building

Workshopping equity goals

1. What comes to mind when thinking of “equity”?
2. What are some examples of inequities/commonly encountered barriers that show up in your space?
 - a. Ex. inaccessible design, cost of transit and availability of options
3. If you were to counteract those inequities, how would you articulate concrete goals within this space?
 - a. Ex. universal design
4. How could this neighborhood planning process reduce/eliminate these barriers?
 - a. Ex. cost protections, increased access, additional modes of transportation, etc.

Steering Committee feedback

What comes to mind when thinking of equity?

- Everyone has equal access to the positive interventions we take. We think about differences in access different demographics have and then take general goals and articulate them clearly for different groups or different geographies, recognizing that “equal access” for everyone, doesn’t mean you don’t need to have different approaches for different groups
- Trust/lack thereof because we exist within institutions that perpetuate inequities, there’s a genuine lack of trust with historically/currently disenfranchised groups, such as the Black population

Steering Committee feedback cont'd...

What are some examples of inequities/commonly encountered barriers that show up in your space? + How could this neighborhood planning process reduce/eliminate these barriers?

A common inequity is that people who show up to meetings are the ones who get to have their voices heard

Bias towards opinions of owners over renters
– history of redlining means this is inherently inequitable

- Livability – means different things to different people and groups, and that sometimes livability for one group is counter to livability for another. How we define “livability” is really important, and is something that we usually make assumptions about (ex. Density reduces housing prices! More transit makes things more accessible! Etc.)
- Public Art – especially in Oakland art is mostly institutional. Need to add space for artists to lift other voices, include others, make Oakland more welcoming.
- Public Safety & Health –. Would also be great if we could effectively bring in Police/Public Safety (also university police), and County Public Health, and nonprofit partners working in these fields.

**Output: *each* action team to
produce their own equity goals**

Workshopping equity goals

1. What comes to mind when thinking of “equity”?
2. What are some examples of inequities/commonly encountered barriers that show up in this space?
 - a. Ex. inaccessible design, cost of transit and availability of options
3. If you were to counteract those inequities, how would you articulate concrete goals within this space?
 - a. Ex. universal design
4. How could this neighborhood planning process reduce/eliminate these barriers?
 - a. Ex. cost protections, increased access, additional modes of transportation, etc.

Equity workshop cont'd...

As an [ACTION TEAM](#) that seeks to counter a community legacy of inequity, we commit to:

1. **Arts & Culture:** Opportunity to acknowledge, maintain, and highlight the extraordinary contributions of diverse artists and artistic disciplines that make up the fabric of public art in Oakland while intentionally engaging with diverse contemporary artists and co-empowering them and the community to lift up additional voices and identities
2. **Sustainability in Historic Preservation:**
3. **Livability & Identity:**
4. **Community Health and Safety:**

Breakout group #1

- Everyone is equal; on the same playing field; equal power dynamics
- Equity is to uplift marginalized populations; to correct historical wrongdoings; how do we provide support to those who need it most
- Challenges in lived experiences of neighbors (i.e technology divide, etc.)
- Silos of identity - what are ALL the needs across a continuum
- How to communicate with outliers; 2-way environment for engagement **(NEEDS TO BE PROACTIVE!)**
- Affordability for special needs; where do people already congregate? How is it painless to get a broader range of folks to participate?
- Are students getting their needs met? (i.e. collegiate food insecurity, overcrowding, etc.)
 - More focused outreach to go to people instead of getting them to come where we are
- Extreme access to resources (very little to A LOT)
- What level of INEQUITY are we willing to tolerate?
- If you can identify one area of inequality to correct, what would it be?

Breakout group #1

As an [ACTION TEAM](#) that seeks to counter a community legacy of inequity, we commit to:

1. **Arts & Culture:** Opportunity to acknowledge, maintain, and highlight the extraordinary contributions of diverse artists and artistic disciplines that make up the fabric of public art in Oakland while intentionally engaging with diverse contemporary artists and co-empowering them and the community to lift up additional voices and identities
2. **Sustainability in Historic Preservation:**
 - a. Placemaking with serious attention to relationships
 - b. Preserving existing material and embodied carbon (sustainability)
3. **Livability & Identity:**
 - a. Identify whose most vulnerable; shift and change in the cycle (abilities and needs change)
 - b. Addressing housing concerns (CLT)
 - c. Barrier attracting families (in a neighborhood without schools)
 - d. How is this true to EVERYONE - whether its now or later
 - e. What voices are going unheard?
4. **Community Health and Safety:**
 - a. Consider the extremes; include the complete spectrum (students to elderly to parents with strollers)
 - b. Passive forms of exercise with safe mobility options (waking to/fro bus stop, grocery store, etc.)
 - c. S.A.D. (seasonal affective disorder)

Breakout group #2

As an **ACTION TEAM** that seeks to counter a community legacy of inequity, we commit to:

1. **Arts & Culture:** Opportunity to acknowledge, maintain, and highlight the extraordinary contributions of diverse artists and artistic disciplines that make up the fabric of public art in Oakland while intentionally engaging with diverse contemporary artists and co-empowering them and the community to lift up additional voices and identities
2. **Sustainability in Historic Preservation:**
3. **Livability & Identity:**
4. **Community Health and Safety:**

Questions?

Equity next steps

- Review outputs of Workshop and return to action team
- Develop Equity Action Plan for Oakland Neighborhood Plan
- Select Equity Ambassador from each action team
- Host bi-monthly Equity TAG meetings with newly selected Ambassadors



Oakland Plan next steps

- **Review input from EngagePGH!**
 - Shortly, we will share a folder with all the raw data from EngagePGH, and a summarized report of the data
- **Learn more** from the various resources on the City website (<https://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/oakland>)
- **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)
 - January 4th 5-6:30pm – Choose 2-3 topics per meeting invite in guest speakers to speak to lived experience or other expertise, refine issues & opportunities for each topic and identify outstanding research & engagement needed to develop projects, programs, and partnerships
- **Invite others** to join the Community Action Team (<https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/oakland/oakland-signup>)