



SECTION 2



COMMUNITY VISION

The Community Vision section describes what type of future residents envision. This future is described in statements—broad descriptions of how the community would like to look and function in five to ten years.

Community visions cover a wide range of topics, describing how a community and its residents would like to get around, where they would like to recreate, how they would like to interact with the government, and what types of new investments they would like to see.

WHAT'S IN THIS SECTION?

The Community Vision for the City of Cleveland Heights Master Plan was developed using existing planning documents, meetings with the Project Team and Steering Committee, and input from the

first Public Meeting. This section includes the vision statements that resulted from those meetings and more specific goals that address each statement.

HOW DO I USE IT?

The Community Vision forms the basis for the actions that the community should undertake to achieve its vision. The goals and actions described in later sections directly correspond to the visions outlined here.

VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS

Cleveland Heights will be a City of strong, safe, and vibrant neighborhoods composed of a variety of beautiful homes and buildings, well-maintained yards and greenspaces, historic districts, active neighborhood associations, and revitalized blocks.

- Revitalize and rehabilitate neighborhoods affected by blight, abandonment, foreclosure, rental conversions, and demolition
- Continue to promote the City's neighborhoods to potential residents, especially the workforce in University Circle
- Strategically use local dollars, state and national grants, and comprehensive incentive programs to stabilize the housing market and spur private investment
- Continue to promote the preservation of historic homes and buildings
- Continue to promote and support neighborhood identities to enhance the sense of place and build pride among residents

COMPLETE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Cleveland Heights will be a community where getting to work, meeting friends over dinner, or shopping can be accomplished easily by foot, bike, transit, or car along beautiful and well-maintained streets that safely and comfortably accommodate all users.

- Adequately repair and maintain the City's network of attractive streets
- Ensure parking accessibility, availability, technology, and management are conducive to shopping, living, or opening a business
- Support the development of high-quality transit connections, and incorporate TOD concepts
- Develop a bicycle network that incorporates recommendations of the Eastside Greenway Plan and local bicycle plans, and achieves Silver Bicycle Friendly Community Designation
- Promote biking and walking with a system of complete streets that incorporate options for all types of transportation
- Review the sidewalk network to ensure a well-connected system of routes that are accessible for residents of all abilities

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

Cleveland Heights will be an environmentally sustainable community that uses green infrastructure to capture and slow stormwater, encourages active transportation, and promotes state of the art building techniques to preserve the environment.

- As part of an integrated plan, use green infrastructure in public projects and promote it in private investments in order to minimize the impact on the City's sewer infrastructure
- Promote and use energy efficient technologies such as LED lights or alternative energy sources to reduce the City's carbon footprint and be more sustainable
- Promote walking or biking as a more sustainable way to get around
- Link incentive programs to green development and building techniques, such as LEED certification
- Continue to promote sustainability through City regulations, such as the adopted sustainable zoning code amendment

BUSINESS FRIENDLY

Cleveland Heights will be a business-friendly community that leverages the City's entrepreneurial spirit, well-educated population, solid services, strong infrastructure, and proximity to world-class institutions to foster new businesses, grow existing ones, and provide meaningful employment opportunities.

- Partner with institutions and capitalize on proximity to capture University Circle spin-off development
- Work with local and regional economic development organizations to increase the number of high-paying jobs available in the City by assisting the expansion of existing businesses and attracting new ones
- Invest in infrastructure that supports businesses
- Promote and support the City's start-up culture to grow new businesses
- Continue to aggressively market the City as an ideal location for business and investment
- Create streamlined business development process

STRONG BUSINESS DISTRICTS

Cleveland Heights will have an appropriate number of strong, safe, and walkable neighborhood business districts that serve the needs of local residents and attract visitors from throughout the region to unique shopping, dining, and entertainment.

- Redevelop Severance Town Center as a mixed-use and walkable area consistent with the character of Cleveland Heights
- Redevelop underutilized and outdated retail space to other uses to focus business in key areas
- Promote the repair and redevelopment of the City's older commercial buildings
- Fill vacant, unbuilt, and underutilized parcels with new development
- Enhance the walkability of business districts as a competitive advantage
- Create memorable experiences by developing a strong sense of place

HIGH-QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Cleveland Heights will be a City of high-quality infrastructure and solid public services that support and spur business activity and serve residents.

- Develop an integrated plan to coordinate multiple and simultaneous infrastructure investments in order to lower construction and maintenance costs
- Partner with the City of Cleveland Department of Water to operate and improve the water system
- Capitalize on infrastructure investments to spur growth

HUB FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

Cleveland Heights will continue to be a cultural leader that supports an active arts community through vibrant events, incorporation of art in public spaces, and support for the artists and arts organizations that call the City home.

- Continue strong arts and cultural programming at Cain Park
- Use events to activate neighborhoods and business districts
- Construct, promote, and program vibrant public spaces that act as attractors and points of community pride
- Support arts organizations that can be linchpins in neighborhood revitalization

A DIVERSE AND OPEN COMMUNITY

Cleveland Heights will continue to be a diverse community that is open and welcoming to all who choose to call the City home.

- Promote and maintain the City's longstanding tradition of diversity and actively foster an environment of inclusiveness
- Promote affordable housing by continuing to partner with fair housing organizations, investing in a variety of housing options, and continuing to use federal funds to support these efforts
- Ensure accessible units and opportunities for independent living through incentives and education in designing universally accessible homes

A SAFE AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Cleveland Heights will continue to be a community of active and engaged citizens that pursues innovative partnerships with local and regional groups critical for providing safe communities, resilient neighborhoods, and strong schools.

- Partner with the School District to promote a quality school system through initiatives to attract and retain families with children
- Continue to develop, encourage, and support a mutually proactive relationship between elected and appointed officials and residents
- Continue to forge partnerships with community groups to directly respond to unique local needs
- Enhance safety in the City's neighborhoods and business districts
- Promote a proactive relationship among surrounding communities and regional entities

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Cleveland Heights will be a City of optimal physical health and general well-being through access to healthy foods, a strong park system, and healthy homes.

- Ensure all residents have access to a variety of parks, recreation facilities, open spaces, and programs for active and passive recreation that contribute to positive health outcomes and improve quality of life
- Continue to promote policies that limit exposure to environmental hazards
- Maintain access to a variety of healthy foods for all residents

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