



ECO INNOVATION DISTRICT

Community Sub-Committee Status and 2019 Workplan

DRAFT May 2019

The EcoInnovation District Plan is comprised of four main categories that address strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities to be built upon in order to help reinvest in Uptown and support current and future residents. Each of these chapters – **Community**, **Development**, **Mobility**, and **Infrastructure** – are focus areas for committees with participation from the City of Pittsburgh, property owners, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders.

Purpose

The purpose of the Uptown EcoInnovation District Community SubCommittee – *is to invest in existing residents, preserve affordable housing, promote diversity and an inclusive economy, build on Uptown's existing character and identity, collaboratively tackle blight and improve community safety, expand institutional partnerships*

Participants

The Community SubCommittee calls for strong participation from residents in Uptown but also a diverse set of stakeholders with expertise in projects the committee has prioritized to advance. As of May 2019, active member organizations include:

- Duquesne University
- Conservation Consultants Inc.
- Urban Redevelopment Authority
- City Planning Department
- Green Building Alliance
- Uptown Partners
- Hack Pgh
- At least five active residents

Additional organizations and stakeholders will be invited as needed for focus area meetings in 2019.

Nov 2017-March 2019 Summary

Using the framework of the EID Plan, the Community Sub-Committee met 12 times since November of 2017 to:

1. Prioritize projects and initiatives (March, April, and May meetings in 2018)
2. Review City-led art projects (Feb and July meetings in 2018)
3. Present Duquesne University on Community Initiatives (June meeting in 2018)
4. Review of ProjectConnect (Aug and Oct meetings in 2018)
5. Establish metrics to track performance (Nov 2018 and Jan 2019 meetings)
6. Finalized Community SubCommittee Work Plan (Feb 2019)
7. Held meeting focused on Community Programming (March 2019)

2019 Priorities

General

- Collect baseline metric information
- Identify additional committee members / focus area meeting invitees
- Review City-led art projects

Invest in Existing Residents & Promote Affordability

- Work with URA & City to assist in property acquisition
- Explore LOOP tax policies to reduce taxes to long-term homeowners
- Host training sessions on the Homestead Exemption program to assist homeowners to reduce their real estate taxes
- Expand and create programs to support efficient retrofits and basic systems repairs
- Explore Community Land Trust to maintain affordability

Community Identity, Programming, and Public Art

- Preserve community's existing character
- Create new community programming
- Invest in public art

Clean, Safe, and Green

- Continue reporting/monitoring dumping and nuisance issues
- Expand community policing

Partnerships

- Work with major institutions to expand research and student activities into the community

2019 Indicators

General

- # of community workshops on URA/City resources
- Current % of affordable housing units
- # developments and units in the pipeline for affordability.
- % of developments with affordability in their projects
- % of all pipeline units with affordability
- # of delinquent and abandoned properties acquired
- # of delinquent and abandoned properties developed
- The district's Housing and Transportation Affordability Index score (EcoDistricts)

Invest in Existing Residents & Promote Affordability

- # of new residents using Homestead Exemption
- # of Homestead Exemption training sessions

- # of residents referred/helped by neighborhood advocate
- Kilowatts and \$ saved on energy bills in the 2000 block of Tustin (residents)

Community Identity, Programming, and Public Art

- # of demolitions denied
- Total # of demolitions
- # of buildings preserved
- % of dwelling units occupied (EcoDistricts)
- # attendees at community events
- # of volunteers per event
- # of events per year (break out by type)
- # of partners to create community programming
- # of public art projects and cultural interpretive projects (EcoDistricts)

Clean, Safe, and Green

- # of 311 reports tracked by UP and resolved
- Uptown Part I crime rate % (compared to citywide rate)
- Uptown Part II crime rate % reduction; (compare to citywide reduction rate)
- Annual composite index score of crimes against persons and property. (EcoDistricts)

2019 Meetings

All regular Community Sub-Committee meetings are held at 6:00 pm on the last Thursday of the month at HackPgh. Due to Holidays, the Oct, Nov, and Dec meetings, are rescheduled for Oct 24, Nov 21, and Dec 19

February

Focus: Draft Workplan and 2019 Calendar

Discuss draft workplan, 2019 calendar, purpose statement

Additional stakeholders: N/A

March

Focus: Community Programming Brainstorming Session

Gather feedback from committee and Uptown non-profits on types of community programming desired. Explore Uptown non-profits interesting hosting community programming in 2019.

Additional stakeholders: Duquesne University, Amplify Church, Hack Pgh, BVRS, PAD, and other Uptown non-profits

April

Focus: Energy

Explore expanding and creating programs to support energy efficient retrofits and basic systems repairs. Discuss how to engage residents. Meeting will continue conversation from April's Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Additional stakeholders: CCI, Uptown Residents, Katrina Kelly, GBA, Duquesne Light

May

Focus: Organize Litter and Illegal Dumping Walkaround

Organize an illegal dumping and littering sweep across Uptown.

Discuss possibility of paying residents to pick up litter.

Additional stakeholders: Residents, PLI, Residents, Duquesne University, Councilman Daniel Lavelle's Office

June

Focus: Explore Tax Policies to Prevent Displacement

Organize a door-knocking day to promote a scheduled Homestead Exemption and training session provided by the Duquesne Legal Clinic. Pull data from the Western PA Regional data center before promoting the Homestead Exemption Act in Uptown to track number of new residents signed up in 2019.

Explore how to get the word out regarding existing eviction programs.

Additional stakeholders: Duquesne University, Residents

July

Focus: Public Art Working Session

Brainstorm public art projects in Uptown with residents and other stakeholders. This could be the first meeting of a separate Uptown group charged with advancing and/or reviewing art projects in Uptown.

Additional stakeholders:

Office of Public Art, Yessica Guerra- Public Art and Civic Design Division, Task Force on Women in Public Art, Public Art Commission

August

Focus: Indicators (measurements)

Review existing metrics in progress. Do these metrics still make sense? Should we consider additional ones?

Additional stakeholders: City of Pittsburgh staff, CCI, GBA, Katrina Kelly- University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Daniel Lavelle's Office

September

Focus: Bus Rapid Transit and Community Infrastructure

Discuss potential programs and coordination efforts with the Infrastructure Subcommittee during BRT construction

Additional stakeholders: PWSA, PLI, Residents, URA, Councilman Daniel Lavelle's Office, DOMI, City Planning

October

Focus: Community Land Trust Exploration

Explore creation of a Community Land Trust in Uptown. Consider joining existing OPDC or City of Bridges Community Land Trusts

Additional stakeholders: OPDC, Lawrenceville Corp, Uptown Partners Board

November

Focus: 2020 Workplan Brainstorming

Brainstorm 2020 Workplan

Additional stakeholders: City Planning, CCI, GBA, URA, Councilman Lavelle's Office, Duquesne University, Omicelo

December

Focus: Year In Review and 2020 Workplan Draft

Recap of 2019 accomplishments and challenges, finalizing 2020 workplan draft

Additional stakeholders: City Planning, CCI, GBA, URA, Councilman Lavelle's Office, Duquesne University, Omicelo