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**OAKLAND 2025 CHARGES FORWARD**

*Pfaffmann + Associates/ Studio for Spatial Practice to Lead Neighborhood Visioning Process*

OPDC is excited to announce the Oakland 2025 steering committee has selected an urban design consulting team for the Oakland 2025 community plan. This team is led by two local firms in partnership, Pfaffmann + Associates and the Studio for Spatial Practice the other team members are 4ward Planning for economic planning and Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. for transportation planning. This experienced team is anchored by a group of planners known for its work on community planning efforts in Central Northside, Lawrenceville, The Hill District, Homewood, and most recently, Polish Hill. The planners are also very familiar with Oakland and have the expertise to handle the complexities involved in this project.

The team will begin work this July, using the foundation provided by the fifty-five dialogue sessions which took place throughout Oakland this spring as well as other previous plans. The consultant team will conduct analysis, explore options, and make recommendations. All members of the Oakland community will be engaged every step of the way through meetings and interactive design workshops. Many of the recommendations will be developed through design workshops that planners call “charrettes.” After community review and feedback, the consultant team will prepare the final plan document and conduct training sessions to facilitate plan implementation.

“Our team is thrilled to be selected to lead the Oakland 2025 Plan,” said Christine Brill of the Studio for Spatial Practice. “Oakland is one of the most complex and diverse communities in the city as well as being Pittsburgh’s cultural acropolis. Where else can you live practically next door to the central library, dinosaurs and one of the City’s four regional parks? We will plan holistically for Oakland, taking into account the major corridors and institutions as well as all of Oakland’s residential communities. It is an exciting opportunity to revisit past efforts and help to shape a vision for the neighborhood’s future.”

“Oakland’s own players will also be an integral part of the team’s work,” says Wanda Wilson, Executive Director of OPDC. “The residents, businesses, and institutions of our community have shown remarkable dedication to this process since beginning group dialogue sessions in March. We have heard their voices and are eager to include them in this next phase of the process in

# Community Improvement through Involvement

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OPDC is the connector for people with shared concerns—to empower those who need a voice.

partnership with Pfaffmann and the Studio for Spatial Practice.”

Oakland 2025 will include these focus areas:

- Transportation & Safety
- Housing Quality & Development
- Youth, Family & Elderly Services
- Neighborhood Diversity & Heritage and Culture
- Neighborhood Greening and Infrastructure
- Urban Design & Zoning Standards

Throughout August and September, the team will prepare for the community charrette process by conducting pre-charrette stakeholder “walkshop” meetings, a hands-on model that they have found popular and effective in other nearby communities.

The multi-day charrette workshop will take place in November, along with a series of public meetings that will summarize the outcomes of the charrettes and provide for additional community input and Q&A.

After the first of the year, the team will present the draft plan and conduct two training sessions for Oakland stakeholders and public officials.

The final plan will be released to the public no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

*Founded in 1980, OPDC builds a better Oakland through job placement services, neighborhood preservation and investment programs, resident volunteer efforts, youth services and community engagement.*

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