

All of Pittsburgh’s neighborhoods serve as a unique contribution to the textured fabric of the City. Oakland’s position as ‘a city within a city’ makes it even more so, and its community plan should be similarly distinguished. Because the rest of Oakland’s story has yet to be scripted, OPDC is inviting all of its community partners to create a roadmap for the future by joining in the creation of the *Oakland 2025 Community Plan*. The plan will lead Oakland to the heart of its greatest challenges and produce the tools needed to remedy them.

Roughly eight months into the process, the *Oakland 2025 Community Plan* is progressing quickly. Under the leadership of Oakland Planning and Development Corporation (OPDC) and [its partners](#), the plan has been conducted with a commitment to democratic community dialogue. There have been and will continue to be many opportunities for you and your family, friends and co-workers to get involved with the issues that concern you the most, and help to shape a vision that will make Oakland an even more vibrant neighborhood to live, work and visit. Decisions that will impact public safety, real estate development, transportation, employment, and many other critical issues will be made during the months ahead, and community participation has been crucial to the success of the process.

Following is a brief summary of what has been accomplished thus far, and a preview of what will unfold throughout the remainder of the process:

- On March 24th, OPDC collaborated with [Everyday Democracy](#) for the *Oakland 2025 Kick-Off Event*, where 120 community members signed up to participate in a six-week series of community dialogues to tell their story of Oakland and share their visions for its future. From these conversations a set of common themes emerged—such as neighborhood unification, pedestrian safety and beautification—all of which remained central to the planning process as it moved forward.
- To sustain the enthusiasm and energy generated by these dialogues, OPDC convened an Action Forum on May 12th to publicly summarize the dialogue sessions and establish priority projects that the community can advance while the planning process is ongoing. Through a voting process, participants at the forum established three “Action Teams” that reflect a balanced approach to present concerns and future goals. These include:
 - Code Enforcement – The Team will reactivate the *Oakland Code Enforcement Task Force* to address housing violations, parking problems, disruptive behavior and similar issues. The underlying goal of this Team is to bring persistent nuisances under control quickly.
 - Eliza Furnace Trail Connections and Neighborhood Greening Initiatives – Creating a greener and cleaner Oakland and enhancing connections to the

trail looks toward the future and is an example of building from the neighborhood's strengths and assets.

- Transportation - Combining the various shuttle bus systems in Oakland into one unified system. Because this idea involves a great deal of planning and analysis, the members of the action team determined that coordinating with the consultant team on this effort would be most effective.
- During June and July, a committee of community leaders selected an urban design team led by Pfaffmann + Associates and Studio for Spatial Practice to lead the creation of the community plan document.
- Throughout September and October, community walkshops and design workshops in each neighborhood of Oakland provided ample opportunities for you and the many faces of Oakland to interact with the urban design team. The goal was to encourage the public to provide thoughtful solutions to Oakland's most persistent problems, along with creative ideas that will enhance Oakland's position as one of the most desirable destinations in the region.
- In November, the Pfaffmann team hosted a public meeting to present the preliminary plan recommendations. This presentation was the culmination of the community design workshops and conversations among neighbors and stakeholders from throughout the community. The discussions centered around maps and raw data to find out what issues are the highest priorities for our community, and what solutions are feasible and make sense for everyone. [Click here](#) to view the presentation of preliminary data and recommendations made by the Pfaffman + Associates/ Studio for Spatial Practice consulting team at the November 17th public meeting. [Click here](#) to view a summary of the topics and ideas from the community design workshops. Please note that these are preliminary findings and OPDC will update the content in coming weeks as the consultant team continues to finalize the recommendations.

A community planning process rarely follows a straight line, and often veers into unknown territory. The exploration of a neighborhood leads to new faces and interesting places, challenging issues and great ideas. The ultimate goal of the planning process is to develop a document that will empower the Oakland community to confront these challenges and embrace new ideas, while at the same time providing a guide for public and private investment that will serve Oakland well for the next decade and beyond.

Please lend your experiences, observations, hopes and concerns to this ongoing effort that will significantly shape Oakland over the next decade. To learn more, contact Tara at OPDC at 412.621.7863 ext. 17 or tarat@opdc.org, or visit www.opdc.org.