



Union Square Choice Neighborhood Initiative June 6, 2024 Housing Resident Advisory Committee Meeting Robert T. Wolfe Community Room – 49 Union Avenue, New Haven, CT

Attendees:

Michaela Mahon – Housing Team
David Stemble – Housing Team
Ken Boroson – Housing Team
Shenae Draughn – ECC/Glendower
Haley Vincent – ECC/Glendower
Ed LaChance – ECC/Glendower
Monica Wolfork - ECC/Glendower
Jimmy Miller – Censere Consulting
lesha Morrison

G. Casilio

Janice Cash

Jeffery Walker

Danniel Jani

Shirley Grice

Ishallena George

James T.

Linda Cross

Angel F.

Alicia Spencer

Alberta Golden

Ada Hobby

Carmen M.

Vanessa Elias

Robert Manick

John Pupello

Eric J.

Airess Johnson

Manuel Rosado

Natasha Brown

A. Hunter

Nica Latina

B. Perry



Meeting Feedback:

Regular text: notes taken at meeting

Italic text: additional text added for context

STRENGTHS

- Lots of available space next door
- Centrally located
- Good public transportation
 - Buses at Union Station, easily accessible
- "Can go where you need to go"
- Cable Connectivity program
 - o Affordable Connectivity Plan gives subsidy for internet access
- Location (next to police and train)
- Police Station
- · Lack of crime in area
 - O Not an area with heavy crime such as shootings, robberies, etc
- (Some) Security Personnel
- Food Bank

WEAKNESSES

- Parking lack thereof; no guest parking either.
 - o Parking on street or in local garages is prohibitively expensive. Particularly an issue for the disabled population of RTW, who need a car to get around
- Nothing happening to next door space
 - o Residents would like to see site used for something in the meantime
- No Space for children
- Perception of public/affordable housing
- Size of units (too small)
- Entry door building access
 - Entry door opener is faulty, residents have concerns about safety for getting into the building. Intercom also inoperable
- Expensive lack of resources
 - The cost of living around the site is high, no where to get affordable groceries or daily use items, parking is expensive
- Lack of resources for homeless people entering the building, make residents feel unsafe
- Security
 - Residents experiencing issues with security guards not properly securing the building



OPPORTUNITIES

- Interim parking solutions
 - Can the CSS site be utilized for parking and other solutions before sitework beains?
- Add more public transport when new housing
- Bigger community of affordable housing
- Increase unit size
- Place for seniors
- After school programs
- Room for more housing
- Larger community room/center
 - Residents want to see space for them to gather and have community events, larger and better equipped than the RTW community room
- Resident oriented activities (more!)
- Education
- Park for grandkids splashpad
- Nice sitting areas
- Washer and dryer! Dishwashers! In unit
- Central air
 - o Not everyone can afford to provide their own window units
- Convenience/grocery story/bodega
- Aldi?
- W/D on each floor if W/D in unit isn't possible, residents would like to have a laundry room on each floor to make doing laundry easier
- Smoking area (not inside)
 - People smoking in the stairwells residents asking for a designated smoking area outside

THREATS

- Concern that project is not for Robert T Wolfe Residents
- Flooding
- Drugs
- Rodents
- Non-residents entering the building
- Gentrification concerns about being forced out



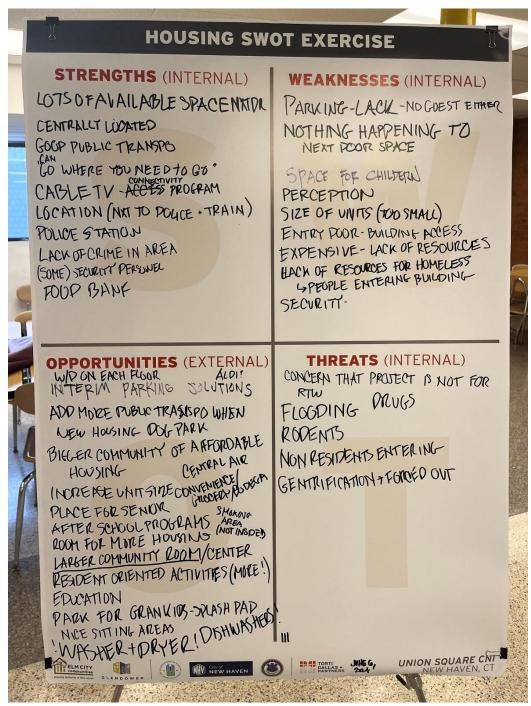
ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Parking
- Care about Robert T Wolfe
 - Residents expressed the feeling that the planning process doesn't care about their interests
- Yale Site parking opportunity
 - The former Yale School of Nursing site is currently a large, underutilized parking lot
- What can happen **now**?
- Need <u>short</u> term + <u>long</u> term goals
 - o Short term goals needed to improve the residents current living conditions
- Buildings Downtown % affordable is unknown/small
- Crime adjacent to Union Station
 - Crime happening next to train



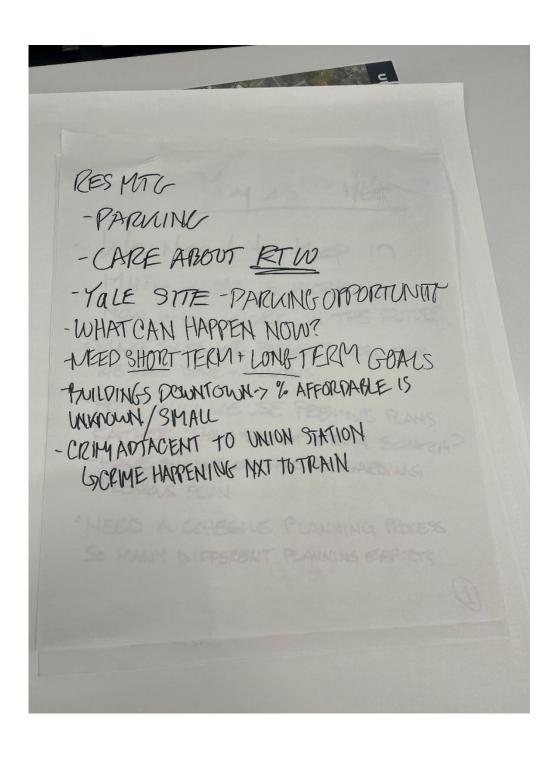
SWOT Board:





ADDITIONAL NOTES:







PEOPLE SWOT FEEDBACK:

PEOPLE TASK FORCE SWOT EXERCISE RESULTS

STRENGTHS (INTERNAL)

- Parks to gather*
- Library
- Proximity to hospitals/clinics*
- · Access to highway
- Local businesses
- Community centers for youth & seniors
- Diversity/culture/arts
- Schools
- Green space
- · Public Transportation*
- Neighborhoodlike
- Police Department
- · Train station
- Access to Downtown*
- Restaurants*

WEAKNESSES (INTERNAL)

- · Lack of Lighting
- · Lack of Security/safety
- Community not working togetherWalkability
- Information centers
- · Signage! Way-finding in Union Square/Hill
- Greenspace for physical activity/open space to
- Adult education relocating
- · Schools/physical improvement
- · School academic improvement
- · Lack of access to fresh and inexpensive foods

OPPORTUNITIES (EXTERNAL)

- Lighting
- Security/safety
- · Addressing homelessness
- · Services in Union Station
- · Recreational spaces for youth and elderly; indoor and outdoor*
- Community Garden
- · Development of children & adult education: -children programs, -computer literacy, -GED, -Continuing Education, -financial literacy
- · Financial literacy & opportunities
- · Workforce training
- · Jobs & job creation
- · Walk-in clinic
- · Update public spaces After school programs
- More funding
- Supermarket w/ fresh foods: -Price Rite, Ald
- Building sense of community and friendliness
- Senior center/community center
- Elderly services
- · School

- THREATS (INTERNAL)
- Gentrification: -kicked out or eased out where will we live?*
- Increasing/high rent*
- Drugs
 Relocation of police department
- · Decrease in utilization services
- · Increase traffic
- Affordable daycare
- · Affordable housing
- · Lack of community social service funding
- Speeding vehicles causing harm to residents
 Lack of resources for early education
- · Lack of Care4Kids
- Lack of qualified teachers
- Adult education for English learners (ESL)
- · Cost of healthcare
- First time homebuyers funding and education
- More funding for sidewalks to accommodate
- · Ensure that property managers do their job and manage the property: -fix door, -fix elevator, - fic intercom, -fix stairs, -fix sidewalks, -fix leaks, -fix roof

* Items that came up more than once City of



UNION SQUARE CNI



Welcome!

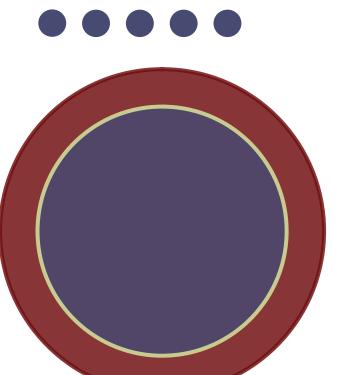
Resident Advisory Meeting
Thursday, June 6th





Agenda

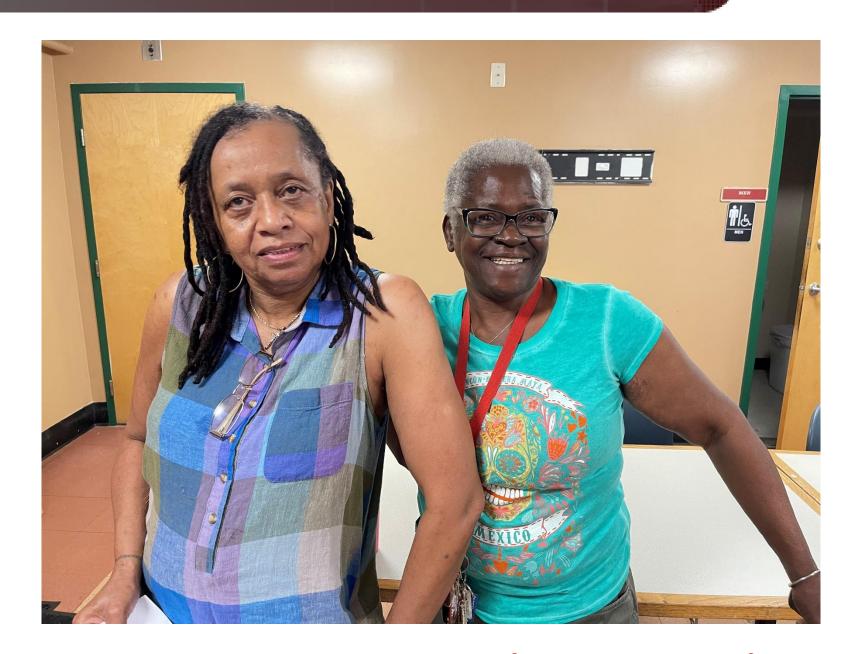
- Call to Order
- Introduction
- What we have Heard
- Previous Planning Efforts
- Breakout Sessions
- Regroup
- Discuss Upcoming Charrette/Workshop
- Master Planning Schedule and Next Steps
- Wrap Up







Call to Order

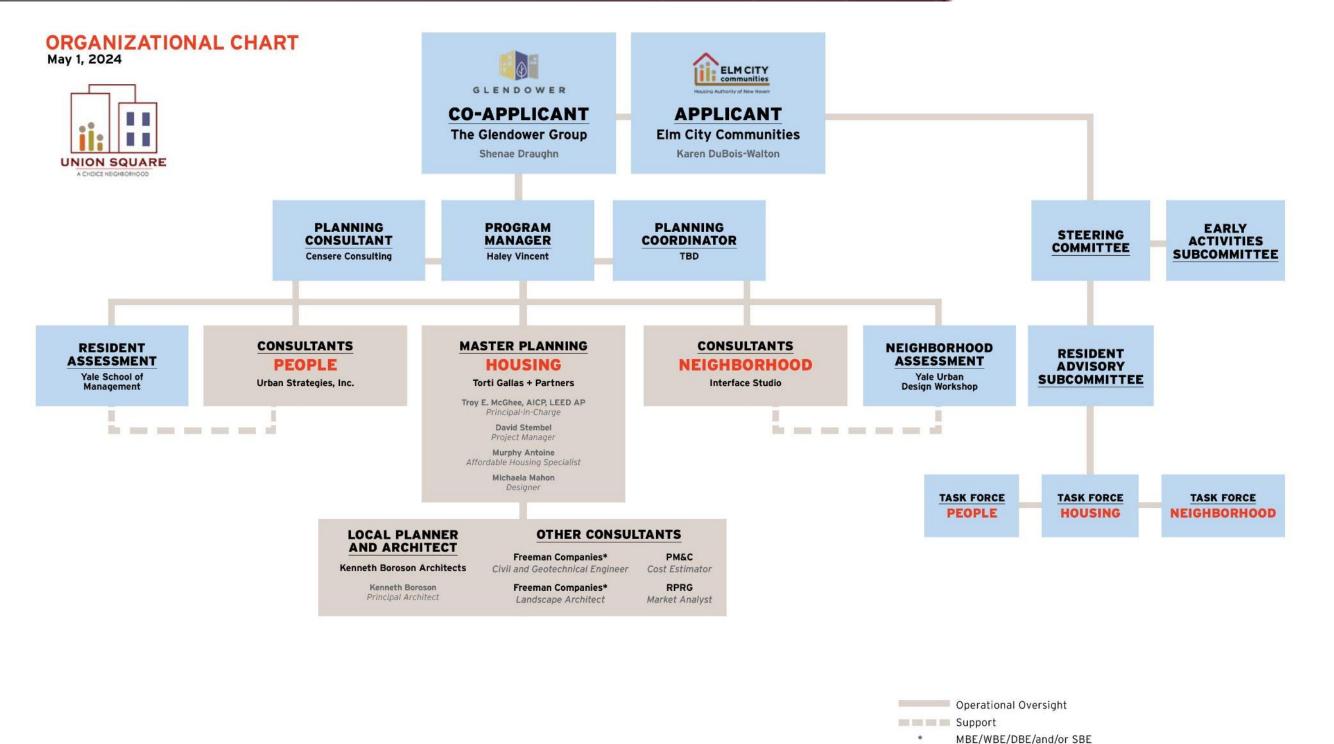


Thank You to our Resident Advisory Council Co-Leads!

Doris Doward and Shirley Grice



Intro: Union Square CNI Organization





The Housing Team:



Kenneth Boroson

ARCHITECTS

MASTER PLANNER & HOUSING LEAD

LOCAL PLANNER & ARCHITECT

Troy McGhee, AICP, LEED AP Principal-in-Charge

David Stembel, AIA, LEED AP

Project Manager

Murphy Antoine, FAIA, AICP, LEED AP

Affordable Housing Specialist

Michaela Mahon

Designer

Kenneth Boroson, AIA, LEED AP

Principal Architect



What is a Choice Neighborhood Initiative?



The Choice Neighborhood
Initiative will transform
distressed neighborhoods into
viable and
sustainable mixed-income
neighborhoods by linking housing
improvements with appropriate
services, schools, public assets,
transportation, and access to
jobs.



KEY Planning Process – Where Are We? Steering Committee Meetings (3) Committees Meetings Public Meetings We Are Here 2025 2024 2025 2024 2024 **Q**4 Q3 Q2 Q1 01 Project Assess Existing Conditions Draft Plan Finalize Plan **Develop Strategies** Kickoff

- May 23rd Housing Committee Meeting
- June 6th
 Housing/Steering
 Committee
 Meeting
- June 20th
 Listening Session

- July 18th Housing Committee Meeting
- Multi-day

 Visioning
 Workshop:
 September 2024





What We Have Heard





Steering Committee and Task Force Meetings





Neighborhood

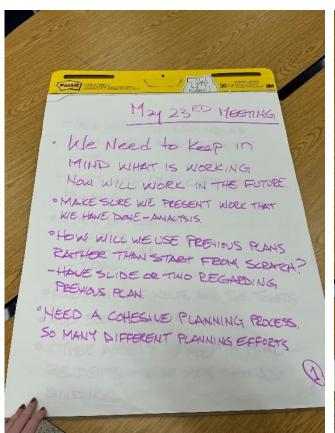
- Take into account new development around Union Square
- Neighborhood Safety

Site

- Pedestrian Mobility safer crossings
- Flooding
- Lack of Parking



May 23rd Housing Task Force Meeting



- TALK ABOUT SUPPONNDING
 AREA FIRST AND THEN THE
 SITE.

 MEET WITH ARMY CORP REGARDING
 FLOODING.

 TYPES OF FLOODING
 100 YEAR
 STORM SENIER
 TIDAL

 FLOODING AT T. WOLFE AND THE TOWERS

 ADD 500 YR FLOOD FLAIN

 OTHER ASSETS TO KEEP IN MIND—
 RESIDENTS, LOOK AT MORE THAN JUST
 BUILDINGS.
- PEZONING AFTER VISION IS CREATED.

 MAKE SURE IT CAPTURES ALL PLANNING

 EFFORTS THAT ARE IN THE PAPEA

 "GET NOTES FROM COMMUNITY MEETING

 THAT WAS HELD FOR THE UNION STATION

 PARKING LOT SITES.

 "CONSIDER RADIO ADVERTISEMENT OR

 SOME OTHER METHOD TO GET PEOPLE

 ATTEND THE MEETING.

 EX. NEW HAVEN IN PERENDENCE. FURNIC SENIES ANNUMENT

 "UPLOAD MATERIALS TO THE WERSITE."

 "BEFORE AND AFTER IMAGES OF SUCCESSFUL

 PEMIXED USE / MIXED INCOME PROJECTS

 IS HOPE ?

 "MARKET STUDY-TES. DRAFT IN JUNE AND

 FINAL IN JULY.

 3
 - HEALTH CASE.

 T. WOLFE RESIDENTS WILL WANT
 TO KNOW HOW ISSOES THAT THE
 BOILDING HAS NOW WILL BE ADDRESSED.

 "DO WE REALLY NEED THE LINGS SLIDES?

 HAVE FOOD AT THE MEETINGS.

- Plan for longevity need to keep in mind what is working today will work in the future
- Cohesion with Previous and Current Plans
 - Hill to Downtown
 - Vision 2034 New Haven Comprehensive Plan
- Coordination with Neighbors
 - The Towers
 - Union Station
- New Haven has different types of flooding
- Community assets organizations, healthcare, etc





Building on Prior Planning Efforts

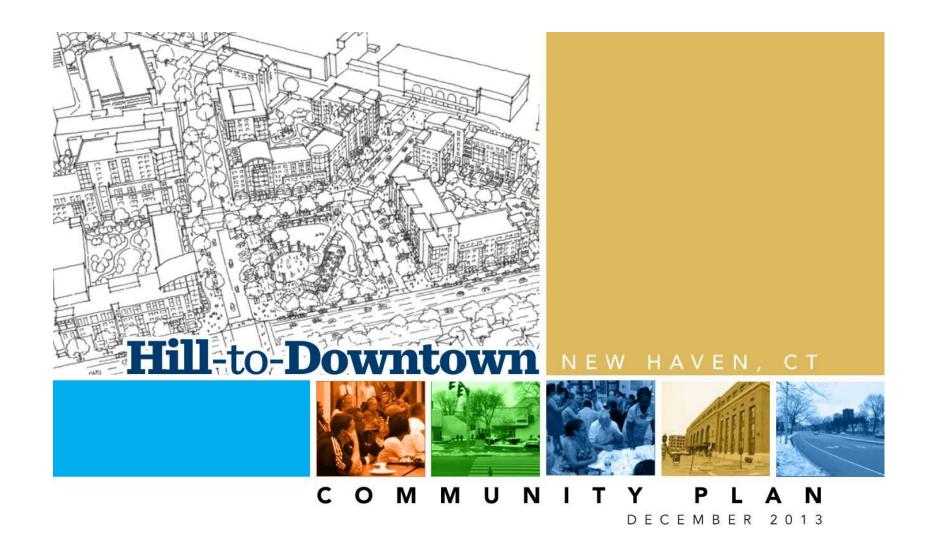




Prior Planning Efforts

Hill-to-Downtown Community Plan 2012-2013

- To address challenges and leverage opportunities in the district between
 Downtown New Haven, Union Station, the historic Hill Neighborhood, and the Medical District
- **Vision**: The project envisions remaking the district into a vibrant, **walkable**, and **mixed-use neighborhood**.









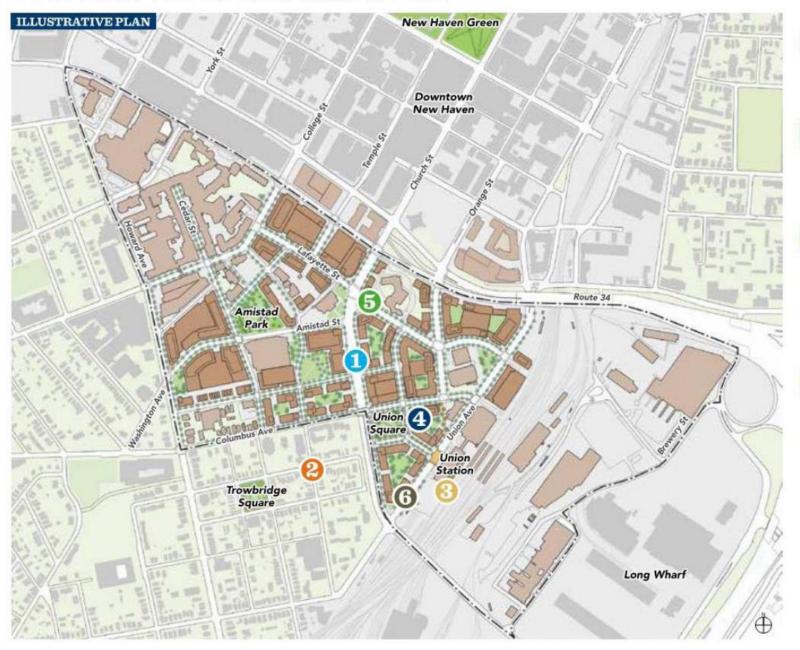


www.HilltoDowntownNewHaven.com



Previous Efforts: Hill to Downtown Plan

2012-2013 Hill to Downtown Plan



SIX KEY INITIATIVES

Establish Church Street as the Center of a Walkable, Mixed-Use District

The Community Plan establishes Church Street as an active, pedestrian-oriented roadway defined by new housing, open space, retail, research and institutional uses.

2 Invest in Existing Neighborhoods

(Columbus, Howard, Trowbridge)

The Community Plan promotes strengthened connections between Hill-to-Downtown and Trowbridge Square. A significant reuse opportunity exists at the Sacred Heart Church campus on Columbus Avenue, with several infill opportunities on Cedar Street and Howard Avenue. Funding should be established for these targeted investments that will strengthen the existing neighborhood.

Connect Union Station to Church Street

The Community Plan seeks to reestablish a historic connection between Union Station and Downtown by creating a new pedestrian/vehicular corridor extending from the front doors of Union Station directly to Church Street.

Redevelop the Church Street South Residential Complex

The Community Plan shows a potential scenario for how this critical area of the district could be redeveloped as a new mixed-income residential community including retail, restaurants and a new destination open space at the doorstep of downtown.

Build a New Lafayette Street

The Community Plan establishes a New Lafayette Street, enhancing access, assisting with traffic demand management, and opening up significant development opportunities on key parcels of land along

Temple Streets that is part of the Downtown Crossing initiative.

Strengthen Union Avenue

The Community Plan proposes roadway improvements for Union Avenue, making it a "complete street"—one that balances the needs of autos, pedestrians, and cyclists and anticipates future development next to and across from Union Station.

Route 34. The new street builds on the plan for New Orange and



Previous Efforts: Hill to Downtown Plan

Three planning scenarios were developed for Public Meeting #6 incorporating public input, market assessment, new street connections, and a desire for placemaking in the Hill-to-Downtown district.

Scenario 1: Urban Village/ Station Square

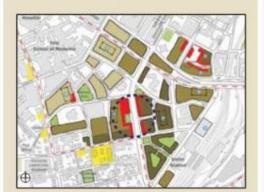
A retail area surrounding a small green would be located directly across the street from Union Station, creating a focus of activity at a "Station Square". Additional retail would be encouraged along Orange Street to make a key connection back to downtown, while Church Street would become a landscape boulevard.



KET PEATORES	
Retail	Focus neighborhood services and restaurants/ cafes near Union Station.
Public Space	Create civic park across from station and neighborhood green space along Columbus Ave.
	Mary Land Brown Land of the Art Land of the Control

Scenario 2: Main Street/ Urban Gateway

Church Street becomes the focus of activity with retail on the Nursing School site and across the street on the existing parking parcel. This scheme envisions a new "Main Street" environment that would draw people from downtown or Union Station into the heart of the district.

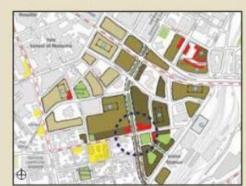


KET PEATURES	
Retail	Mix larger format retail (ex. large pharmacy) with neighborhood services to meet wide range of needs.
Public Space	Create sequence of green spaces ad plazas along Church St. to provide opportunities for different types of use.
Carlo	Parallel March 1997

Scenario 3:

Neighborhood Square

The third scenario scales back the amount of retail development on Church Street and focuses it around a new "Neighborhood Square" at the intersection of Church and Columbus. A new open space would link directly back (visually and physically) to Union Station.



Retail	Focus neighborhood service establishments around Columbus Ave./Church St.
Public Space	Create community green space at neighborhood intersection (Columbus Ave./ Church St.) to define a new place for residents.
Scale	Keep buildings lower along neighborhood edge.

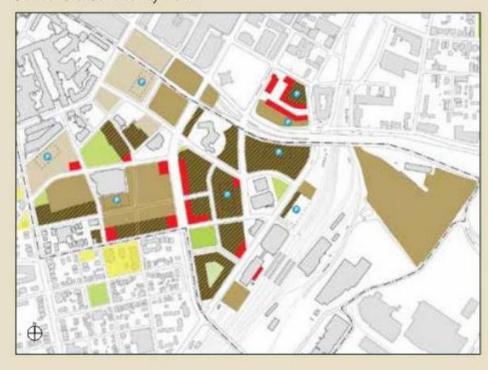
Planning Process

- Seven Public Meetings/Workshops generated 3 preliminary plans, which were then streamlined into one "Framework" plan
- Community Goals:
 - · Create a Sense of Community
 - · Provide Safety and Security
 - Provide Opportunities for a Diverse Mix of People
 - Become Connected
 - · Incorporate Things to Do
 - Include New Public Spaces

The final Framework Plan was discussed at Public Meeting #7 and now serves as the foundation of this Community Plan.

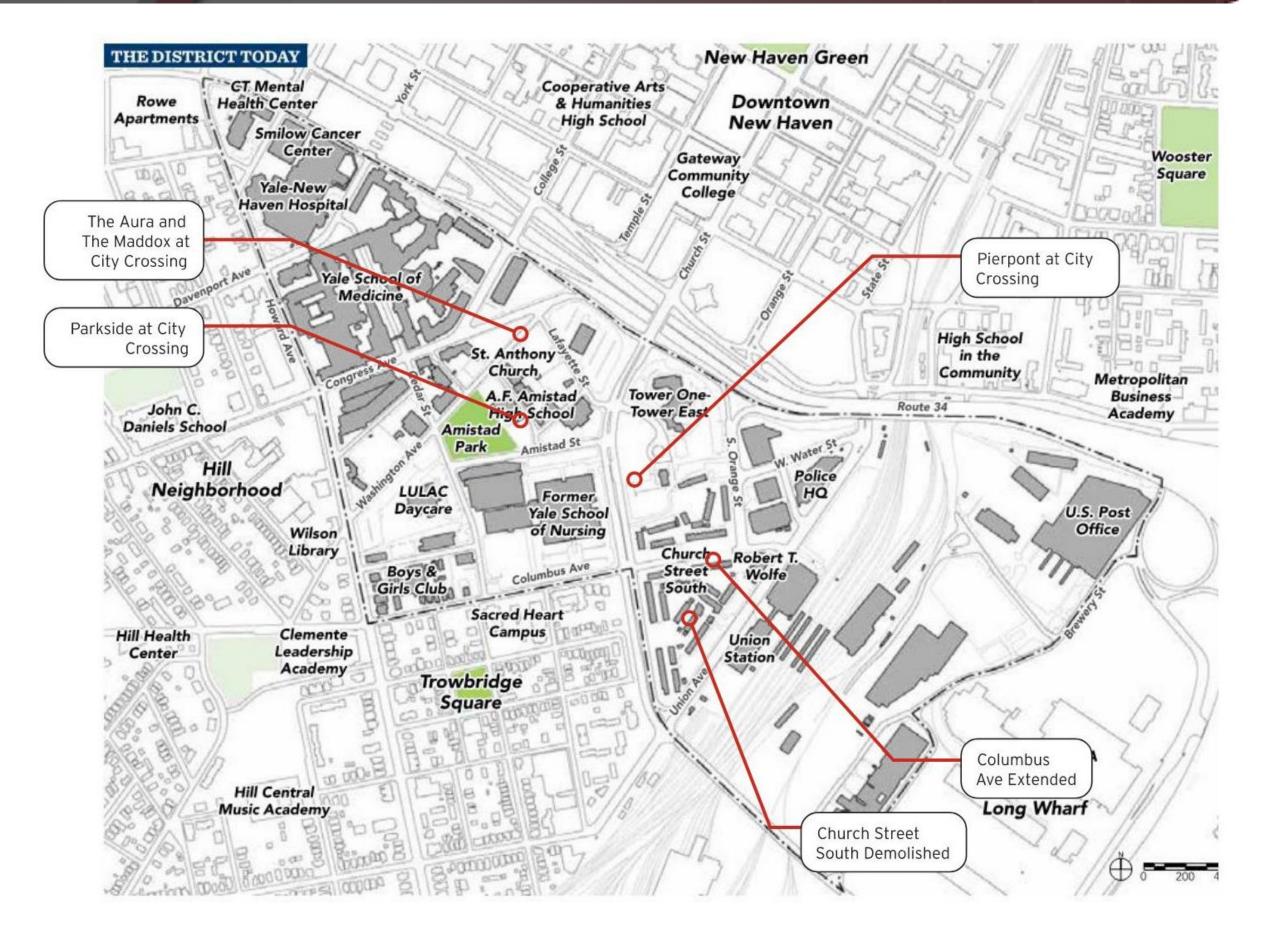
The Framework Plan

One key step in the process was a public workshop to review alternative future options for the district. Three options or "scenarios" were discussed at the public meeting, each one representing a different approach toward the general locations of residential, commercial, institutional and retail land uses and a variety of other concerns. Workshop participants generally concluded that an approach that blended Scenario 2 and Scenario 3 (shown below) most closely met community goals and provided the best foundation for the Community Plan.





Hill to Downtown Plan – Site Today



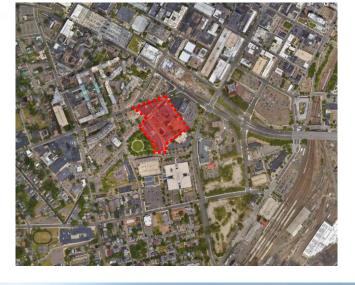
- City Crossing Developments
 - The Aura
 - The Maddox
 - Parkside
 - Pierpont
- Church Street South
 Apartments Demolished
 - Infrastructure & Environmental Study underway
- Columbus Avenue extended



Site Today

Hill-to-Downtown Community Plan | Progress

- Phase 1
 - Parkside at City Crossing 100 units
 - The Aura at City Crossing 104 units
 - The Maddox at City Crossing 90 units
 - Prince Street Apartments 30 units
 - Total: 324 units
- Parkside, the Aura, and the Maddox received funds from the State of Ct to create 30% of the units to be 80% AMI
- Prince Street received a 4% LIHTC to create 30 affordable units with a mix of AMI levels.







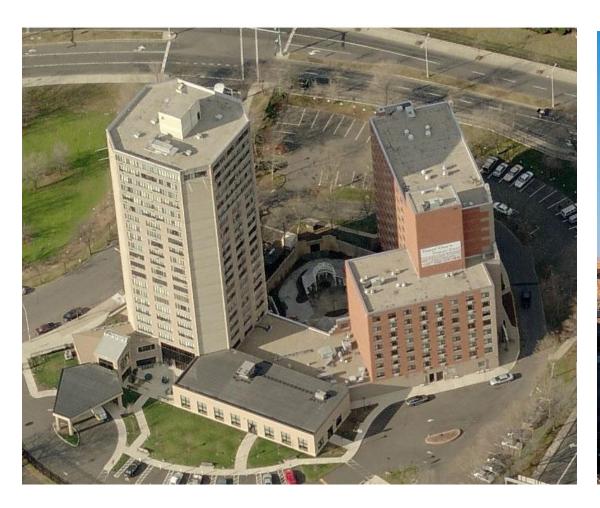


Clockwise from Upper Right: Prince Street Apartments, Parkside at City Crossing, The Aura and The Maddox at City Crossing Image credit: Ken Boroson Architects

Site Today

Neighbors to the North of the Site:

- The Towers
- Pierpont at City Crossing
- St Basil's Greek Orthodox Church













Breakout Sessions







Regroup & Share







Upcoming Charrette/Workshop





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- Multi-day Visioning Workshop: September 2024
 - **September 9 12**





Thank You For Your Time!





STRENGTHS (INTERNAL)

- Available space to develop next door (former Church Street South site)*
- Centrally located close to Union Station, commuters, TOD development, Police Department*
- Proximity to jobs Union Station
- Fairly walkable location, sidewalk condition, street trees
- Robert T Wolfe Residents speaking up for their concerns, mobilizing ability to get each other involved*
- "Community within Community"
- Strong Political Will & Economic Support for Vision,
 Zoning precedent set by Union Station
- ECC Ownership local entity, sole owner

Cable Connectivity Program

Food Bank

RESOURCES

EMENTS

PROGRAMS

Good public transportaion access*

WEAKNESSES (INTERNAL)

- Lack of resident and guest parking*
- Units are too small*
- Faulty entry door/faulty building access*
- Vacant next door space
- No space for children
- Not pedestrian friendly big, busy roads*
- Lack of access to fresh foods and convenience retail, cost of living in area is expensive*
- Lack of neighborhood amenities*
- Oversaturation of smoke shops
- Lack of resources for homeless population building security concerns*

Perception of affordable housing

- High level of scrutiny/skepticism
- Prior planning efforts did not engage Robert T Wolfe residents

• Labor market is not huge • Rents don't support all growth

OPPORTUNITIES (EXTERNAL)

 Improved living units - central air, washer/dryer in unit or on each floor, increased unit size, dishwasher

Larger community room/center*

- Interim parking solutions during construction
- Designated smoking areas
- Dog park, nice sitting areas to gather*
- Places for seniors
- Park for grandkids splashpad
- Convenience/grocery store/bodega Aldi?*

After school activities*

- More resident-oriented activities and education opportunities*
- Create a bigger affordable housing community.
 Create clean, walkable, safe housing*
- Deisolate and connect people
- Increased deeply affordable housing in a mixed income neighborhood

RESIDENT AGENCY

- People can have input to their living situation engagement of Robert T Wolfe residents
- Intentionality in planning and listening*
- Accountability healing, a fresh start while acknowleding site history*

LONG TERM VISION

Leveraging this project for infrastructure improvements - flooding, road improvements

THREATS (EXTERNAL)

- Concern that project is not for Robert T Wolfe
- Gentrification being forced out*
- Change of neighborhood culture
- Dislocation*
- Increased taxes
- Accountability*
- Rodents

• Flooding*

Se · Se

- Sea level rise
- Is city infrastructure keeping up with development?
- Building too densely, not enough green space
- Potential of area to fall into disrepair again repeating cycles

• Drugs

- Non-residents entering building*
- Political Change election cycles, funding, etc
- Political Pressure high profile site*
- Will require lots of subsidy and multiple phases danger of losing steam

- Running out of money
 Hiring regulatory requirements
- Hiring regulatory requirements
 Project will have more expensive buildi
- Project will have more expensive building costs height, flooding, parking
- Uncertainty of marketability
- Market pushes small units

* Items that came up more than once Bold = Items that came up during the People SWOT











