

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MEETING #4 – THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2025 – 5:00PM-6:30PM HIGH SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY- 175 WATER STREET, NEW HAVEN, CT Meeting Purpose

For the Steering Committee to review and approve key strategies developed to date. The discussion was structured around four main areas: People, Housing, Neighborhood, and Early Action Items.

### **Committee Members Present**

### **Other Presents**

### -PRESENTATION MATERIALS ARE ATTACHED TO THIS DOCUMENT-

### Overview

The purpose of this meeting was for the Steering Committee to review and approve key strategies developed to date. The discussion was structured around four main areas: People, Housing, Neighborhood, and Early Action Items. The committee focused on project timelines, funding strategies, community engagement, and infrastructure improvements. Key action items were identified, and several important questions were raised regarding accessibility, transportation, and park development. The meeting concluded with a discussion on the long-term impact of the task forces involved in the project.

### **Topics:**

### Housing Plan:

The committee discussed the project timeline and phasing. It was emphasized that the project would be staged to manage expectations, with financing structured in phases. Given the complexity of funding, the process could take up to three years. The project is anticipated to consist of eight phases, each costing over \$500,000 per unit. While the community feels a sense of urgency, realistic expectations must be set. The estimated timeline includes two years to break ground and an additional two years for construction. The project requires tax credits and multiple funding sources, with four to six different funding streams being pursued. All funding applications are highly competitive.

Josh inquired about the possibility of tearing down a specific wall, but it was confirmed that no work is planned in that area. It was noted that construction work will be put out to bid. Regarding the Church Street South site, a question was raised about whether old rocking chairs could be moved, but it was confirmed that this will not happen.

A multi-day charrette is scheduled for September 9-12<sup>th</sup> for further community input on the planning efforts.

### **Neighborhood Planning Process**

Chris presented slides on neighborhood statistics and assessment results. Key emerging themes are Connectivity and Mobility, Education and Economic Mobility, Health and Safety, Business and Culture, and Housing and Affordability.

Summaries for Connectivity and Mobility include: There is a strong need to enhance neighborhood safety and accessibility for all residents by adding more crosswalks, bike lanes, improved lighting, and ADA-compliant sidewalks. Reducing speeding through better enforcement and street design is also a priority. Additionally, improving connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods, particularly through enhanced public transportation and thoughtful urban design, is essential for fostering a more accessible and integrated community. Summaries for Education and Economic Mobility include: There is a strong need for expanded community resources across all age groups. Youth would benefit from more after-school programs, indoor recreation spaces, and educational opportunities to support their development. Adults require greater access to job training programs, financial literacy courses, and computer labs to enhance their skills and economic mobility. Additionally, seniors need a dedicated space of their own to foster social connections and access essential services. Summaries for Health and Safety include: A strong sense of safety and access to fresh food are essential to making the neighborhood a great place to live. However, violent crime remains a significant concern, particularly in areas south of Columbus Avenue and Kimberly Square. Residents are eager for improved neighborhood amenities that foster community engagement, such as enhanced parks and recreational spaces. Additionally, many community members have expressed a desire for more water recreation options, including a public pool or additional spraygrounds.

Summaries for **Business and Culture** include: The neighborhood lacks sufficient retail stores and essential services that cater to local residents. Community members want more cultural activities and gathering spaces to strengthen connections and celebrate the area's diversity. Additionally, there is a strong desire for more convenient shopping options within the neighborhood, reducing the need to drive or take public transportation to access basic goods and services.

Patrick brought up the issue of car access and the need for adequate parking. The discussion included the accessibility of CT Transit bus schedules and the potential involvement of CT Transit in improving transit options. A question was posed about whether transportation issues had been specifically addressed in the community survey. Parking was noted as an ongoing challenge.

A question was raised regarding whether the outside sidewalks would be worked on. It was noted that accessibility improvements would need to be coordinated with city engineering and public works. Additionally, engaging with community elders on this matter was suggested. Additional work remains to be done on the neighborhood component of the plan. The next steps include identifying potential opportunity sites, scheduling meetings with relevant City departments, and refining the data in preparation for the September charrette.



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### **Early Action Activities**

Resident engagement and city funding were discussed. A variety of activities and initiatives were proposed, including banners, Trowbridge, a pendulum, and a monument. The ECC/GG has committed \$150,000 in funding to support these initiatives. The decision to focus on a particular park was based on its proximity, being only two blocks away. While there are many parks in the area, the city is currently prioritizing work on others. A compact project has been deemed more impactful, and the city is covering the administrative costs. The project proposal is scheduled to be submitted to HUD by September 1.

The committee explored alternatives to park development, with an openness to new ideas. However, any changes must be implemented by April. If Trowbridge Square were to be removed from the plan, a replacement project would need to be identified.

A vote was taken regarding the development of Trowbridge Square. Six committee members voted in favor of proceeding with the project. The committee agreed to also address other parks and determine their specific needs and costs. A neighborhood map was reviewed as part of this discussion.

### **People Plan**

Mr. Miller presented on resident assessment findings, highlighting data related to the Wolfe residents and the Hill. While some of the data reflected challenges, the strength and resilience of the community were also acknowledged. Amos emphasized the importance of making data accessible and using it to support community health and employment opportunities. He raised concerns about high pediatric asthma rates in New Haven, particularly in housing developments, and questioned how this data could be used to improve health outcomes and job retention.

### **Overview of the Hill Neighborhood Plan**

Chris DiStasi outlined the Hill neighborhood plan, highlighting its focus on the Wolfe and former Church Street South site and broader neighborhood investments. The plan is structured with a vision statement, four goals, and a graphic summarizing strategies. Each goal section includes public engagement data, existing conditions, and actionable items for residents.

### **Action Items:**

- 1. Include the number of years, stages and phases to integrate plan in order to manage expectations.
- 2. Make sidewalks more ADA accessible.
- 3. Keep an informed timeline and post plan online
- 4. Think of other parks as connectivity as part of the transformation plan.
- 5. Add parks as part of the neighborhood plan
- 6. Post resident and neighborhood assessments
- 7. Think of how to target prevention strategies around Health, Employment, Education.
- 8. Think of "Community Commercial".
- 9. Get the plan translated
- 10. Obtain copies of data for Thomasina
- 11. Coordinate with city engineering and public works regarding accessibility improvements.
- 12. Engage with elders on sidewalk planning.
- 13. Prepare for HUD submission by September 1.
- 14. Address additional park needs and funding.

### **Key Questions:**

- How many parts are in this plan?
- Does Long Wharf plan have to match?
- A suggestion to give visual that displays the connection to downtown.
- What are the next steps for securing tax credits and funding sources?
- How will parking and transportation issues be addressed? Was this specifically included in the community survey?
- How can we better use data to support community health and job retention?
- Infrastructure: Will there be work done on outside sidewalks? Who will coordinate accessibility improvements?
- If Trowbridge Square is removed, what alternative project should be implemented by April?

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the long-term impact of the various task forces involved in the project. **Next Steps:** Execute the outlined action items, maintain ongoing community engagement. Committee will provide feedback on the draft Transformation plan. The planning team will revise accordingly.

Next Meeting Date: January 23, 2025



# **STEERING COMMITTEE**

## AUGUST 8, 2024





## For More Information Visit UNIONSQUARECHOICE.COM

# Agenda – Meeting # 3

- 1. Welcoming Program Manager
- 2. Call to Order Co-Leads
- **3. Approval of Minutes** 
  - Review and approval of the minutes from the last meeting.

# 4. Updates

# **5. New Business**

- Early Action Activities
  - . Introduction of Proposed Early Action Activities
  - . Review and Approval of Early Action Activities for HUD Submission
    - >Detailed presentation of early action activities proposed for submission to HUD

Discussion and finalization of the action list  $\geq$  Formal approval of the final document for submission by September 1, 2024





# Agenda – Meeting # 3 (Cont'd)

# Neighborhood Assessment Report

- . Presentation of findings from the recent Neighborhood Assessment, focusing on:
  - ➤Housing Assessment
    - Current housing stock analysis
    - Challenges related to affordability, quality, and access
    - Opportunities for development and revitalization
  - >Health Assessment
    - Overview of community health metrics
    - Accessibility of healthcare services and facilities
    - Public health challenges and initiatives
  - Educational Attainment
    - Analysis of educational levels across the neighborhood
    - Discussion on local school performance and resources
    - Strategies to enhance educational opportunities and outcome



# UNION SQUARE

# Agenda – Meeting # 3 (Cont'd)

## Resident Assessment Overview

- Summary of resident demographics and socioeconomic status
   Overview of resident satisfaction and feedback
- Overview of resident satisfaction and reedbac
- Discussion on resident engagement and communication strategies

# **Market Analysis Presentation**

- . Trends in local real estate and business development
- . Analysis of economic opportunities and challenges
- . Future projections and impacts on the community

# 6. Updates on upcoming events and initiatives

- Neighborhood Task Force August 15, 2024
- Resident Advisory Committee August 22, 2024
- Steering Committee Meeting September 5, 2024
- Housing and Neighborhood Charette September 9–12

# 7. Other announcements

8. Adjournment



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# Housing Update





# For More Information Visit UNIONSQUARECHOICE.COM

# Housing Team Update

# July 18<sup>th</sup> Housing Task Force Meeting Feedback



High Quality, Safe Housing Choices

Retail and Non-Residential Services that Build Community

Steering Committee







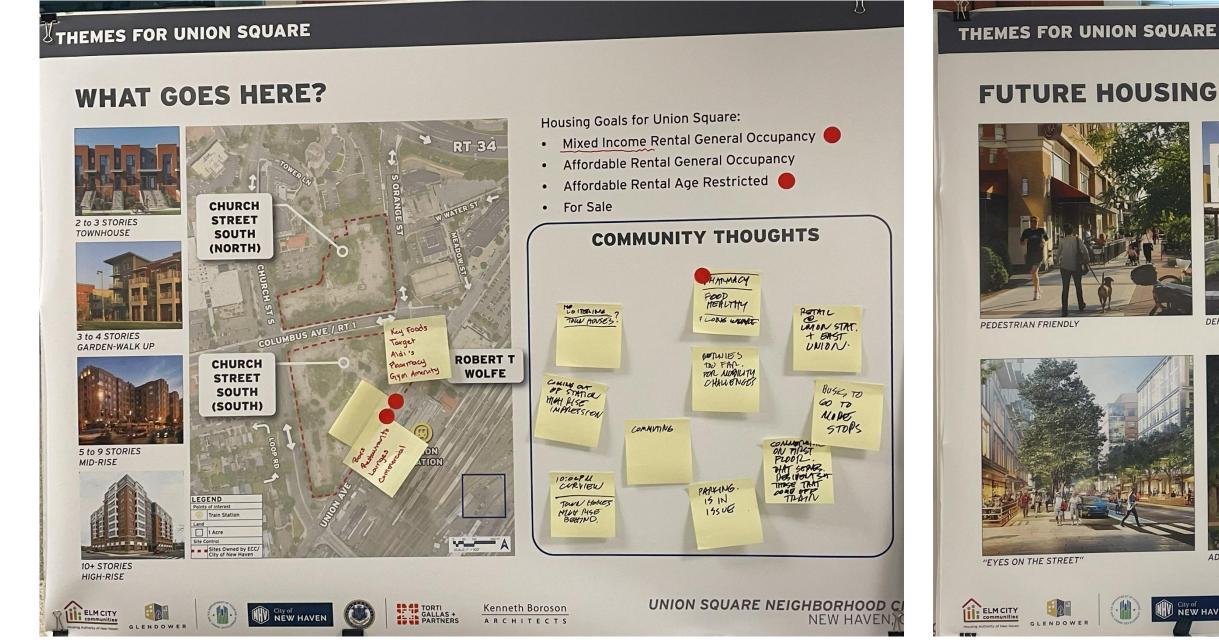






# Housing Team Update

# July 18<sup>th</sup> Housing Task Force Meeting Feedback



### **FUTURE HOUSING OPTIONS**



DEFINED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACE

ADEQUATE LIGHTING

NEW HAVEN

TORTI GALLAS + PARTNERS

Goals for Future Housing Options:

- Include a variety of housing types, unit types, unit sizes;
- Options will include accessible units in all hou types and senior housing;
- Will provide modern conveniences and complete with funding agency requirements.



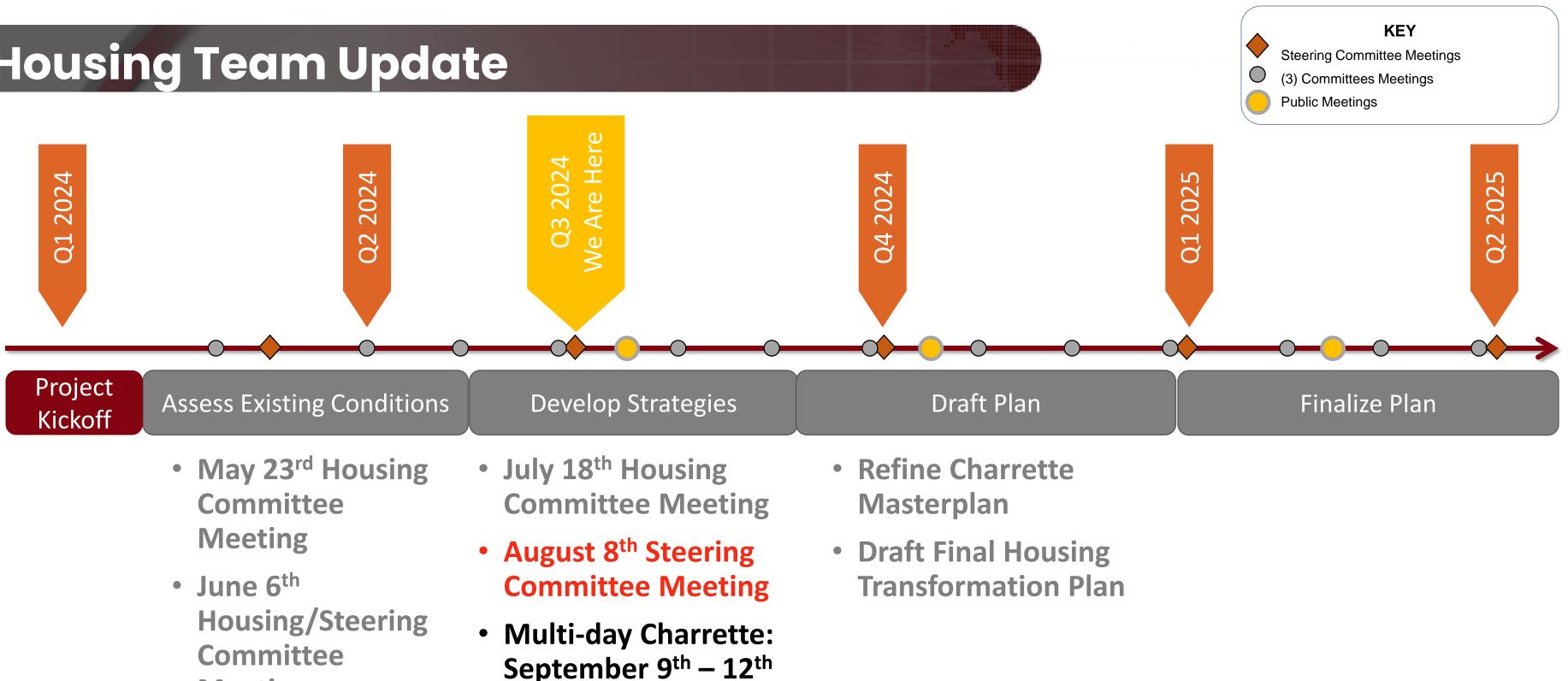


# **Housing Team Update**

Meeting

• June 20<sup>th</sup>

**Listening Session** 



Steering Committee





# Multi-Day Charrette Schedule

Monday Sept. 09	<b>Tuesday</b> Sept. 10	Wedne Sept.
<b>Kickoff Meeting</b> 5:30pm – 7:30pm Robert T. Wolfe Apartments (Tent Outdoors)	<b>Task Force &amp; Resident</b> <b>Advisory Work</b> <b>Sessions</b> 9:00am – 12:00pm Robert T. Wolfe Apartments (Tent Outdoors)	<b>Open Hous</b> <b>Sessic</b> 9:00am – 1. 1:30pm – 3 Location
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### ise Work ions

12:00pm 3:30pm on TBD

## Thursday **Sept. 12**

## **Open House Work** Sessions

9:00am – 12:00pm Location TBD

### **Master Plan** Presentation 5:30pm - 7:30pm Location TBD

**UNION SQUARE** A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

# **Charrette Schedule: Evening Meetings**

Monday	<b>Tuesday</b>	Wedne
Sept. 09	Sept. 10	Sept.
<section-header>Kickoff Meeting Sign</section-header>	<ul> <li>Progress Meeting 5:30pm - 7:30pm Robert T. Wolfe Apartments (Tent Outdoors)</li> <li>The Planning Team will present Plan Options for Union Square</li> <li>Come and give feedback on what The Planning Team is designing!</li> <li>Snacks Provided</li> </ul>	No Evening

### Steering Committee



## esday t. 11

## g Meeting

## Thursday Sept. 12

### Master Plan Presentation 5:30pm – 7:30pm Location TBD

- The Planning Team will present the Charrette
   Master Plan for Union
   Square
- Review the Plan and provide input on a consensus vision plan
- Dinner Provided







# NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROCESS

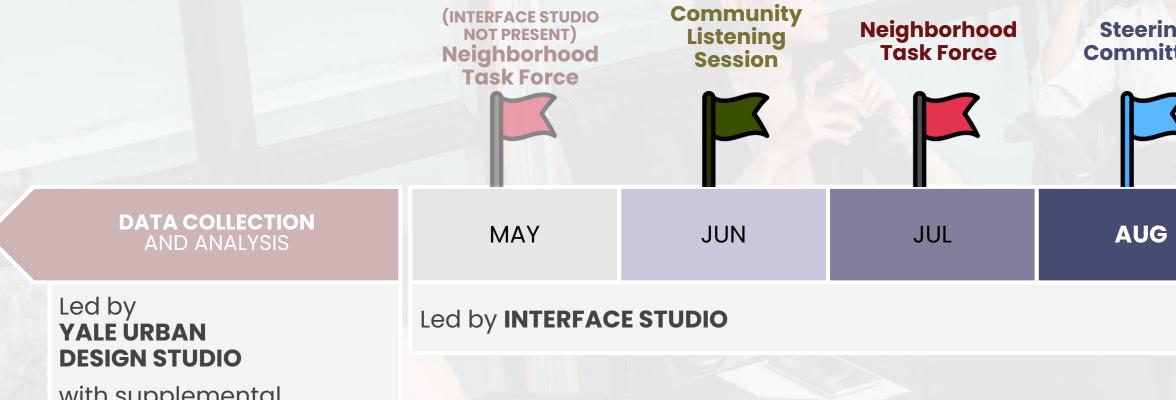




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# **Recent Timeline**





with supplemental collection by **INTERFACE STUDIO** 

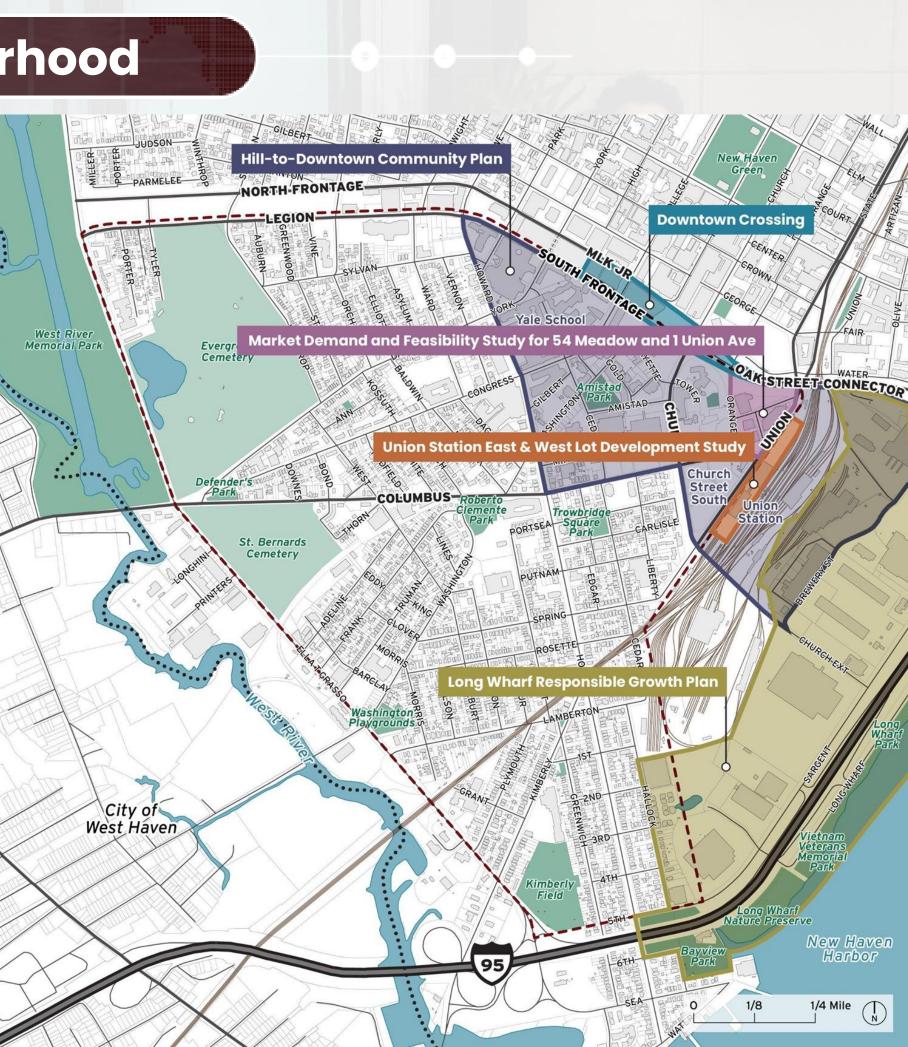
## PLAN PRODUCTION AND PUBLIC MEETING

SEPT

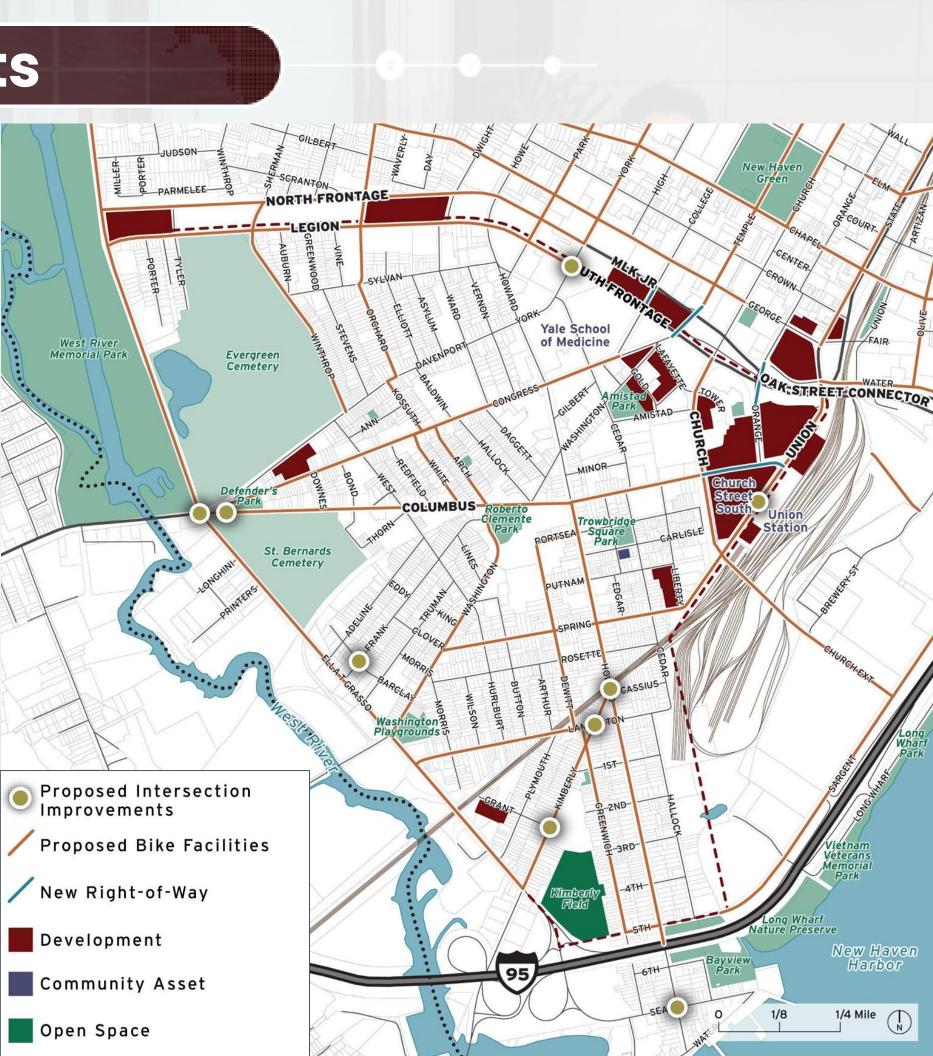


# **Recent Projects & Plans for the Neighborhood**

- Hill-to-Downtown Community Plan (2013)
- Long Wharf Responsible Growth Plan (2018)
- Market Demand and Feasibility Study for 54 Meadow and 1 Union Ave (2018)
- Union Station East & West Lot Development Study (2022)
- Downtown Crossing (Ongoing)
- City-wide Plans
  - New Haven Vision 2025 (2015)
  - Safe Routes For All (2022)



# **Proposed or In-Progress Projects**



# **Key Emerging Themes from the Process**



**Connectivity and Mobility** 



**Education and Economic Mobility** 











# **Connectivity and Mobility**

What have we heard about this throughout the project?

- . There is a need for safer connections in the neighborhood for people of all ages and abilities through more crosswalks, bike lanes, improved lighting, and ADA accessible sidewalks.
- . There is a desire to reduce speeding in the neighborhood through better enforcement and street design.
- . It is important to improve connectivity to other neighborhoods, especially through public transportation and improved design.



### The Task Force's Top Thumbs Up / Thumbs Down Ideas







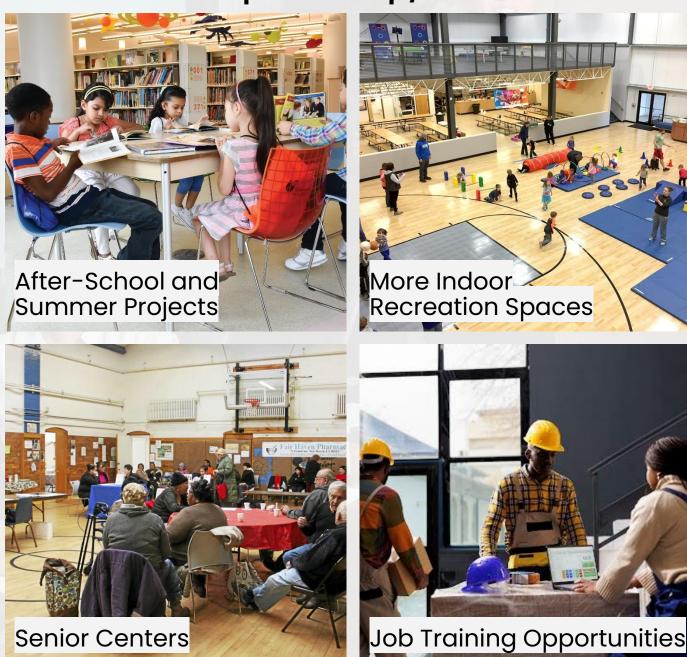
### **Better Connections** Downtown



# **Education and Economic Mobility**

What have we heard about this throughout the project?

- . There is a need for more after-school programs, indoor recreation spaces, and educational resources for youth.
- . There is a need of more opportunities for adult education and job training and more access to resources like money management classes and computer labs.
- . Seniors need a place of their own.









### The Task Force's Top Thumbs Up / Thumbs Down Ideas



# **Health and Safety**

What have we heard about this throughout the project?

- A sense of safety and access fresh food are key to making this a great place to live.
- Violent crime is a major issue, particularly in areas South of Columbus Avenue and Kimberly Square.
- . Residents want improved neighborhood amenities that bring people together, like better parks and recreation spaces.
- Many residents want more water recreation like a public pool or more spraygrounds.



### The Task Force's Top Thumbs Up / Thumbs Down Ideas





# **Businesses and Culture**

What have we heard about this throughout the project?

- . There are not many stores with retail or neighborhood services that serve local residents.
- People would like more cultural activities and reasons for the community to gather.
- It would be nice to be able to shop without driving or taking the bus somewhere else.



A Pharmacy

### The Task Force's Top Thumbs Up / Thumbs Down Ideas





Organizations



# **Next Steps**

- . Identify possible opportunity sites
- . Set up meetings with City departments
- . Refine this data in preparation for the September charette







# **QUESTIONS?**





# For More Information Visit UNIONSQUARECHOICE.COM



# Early Action Update





# For More Information Visit UNIONSQUARECHOICE.COM

# **Doing While Planning**

# **Early Action Activities**

Early Action Activity refers to limited, physical neighborhood improvements undertaken during the planning process.

These activities should support the planning process through:

- Engaging the community
- Fostering social cohesion
- Reinforce the planning process

Activities must:

- Be responsive to neighborhood needs
- Used for physical community development or •
- Economic development that enhances and accelerates the • transformation of the neighborhood.





# **EAA Planning and Approval Process**

# **Early Action Activities & Approval Process**

- Grantees must secure HUD approval and complete their early action activities within the first 12 months of their grant
  - A description and justification of the early action activity
  - Administrative details, including who is responsible for administering the plan
  - A project budget that details the sources and uses for the early action activity
  - A project's operational budget, if the project will continue to be operated after construction;
  - A project schedule
  - A part 58 environmental review, or documentation that the activity is Exempt; Categorically Excluded not subject to part 58; or are Categorically Excluded subject to the part 58;
  - A part 58 environmental review can take as long as six months
  - HUD encourages the use of Early Action Activity Funds for grants instead of loans
  - HUD typically does not approve the use of early action activity funds for land use on an interim basis, unless it is for the purposes or reclaiming and recycling vacant land



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# Possible EAA at Robert T. Wolfe

# **At Church Street South**

The Resident Advisory Committee met on May 1, 2024, and were given an opportunity to further refine their ideas of March 27, 2024. Schematic and mock-up were shown to the residents. recommend the work they wanted to see a part of the Early Action Activities. Based input from the residents ECC/Glendower is in the process of procuring the work recommended by the residents.





# **Recommended EAA by the EAA Committee**

# EAA Approved by the EAA Committee om June 27, 2024

The Early Action Committee wanted to implement projects that would preserve the vibrant history of Union Square and Trowbridge Park. Trowbridge Square Park was unanimously selected as their top priority.

The committee identified the following as proposed activities:

- Banners Commemorating Connection to Underground RR \$10,000
- Regrade and Rebuild Stone Dust Path in Trowbridge Park \$65,000
- Install Pendulum Swing at Trowbridge Park \$28,000
- Install Interpretive Display/Monument at Trowbridge Park -\$35,000
- Contingency \$13,000

Additional funds were leveraged from ECC and the City for environmental assessment, planning, and administration. Work will be accomplished by the City via a Pass-Through Agreement between the City and ECC. All work is expected to be completed by April 2025.





# Possible EAA In Union Square/The Hill (cont'd)





CIVITAT					
No.	Revision	/Issue	Date		
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Projec	Niget Nume and Address Trowbridge Square Improvements				
Drawn	C. FLANAGAN				
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# Neighborhood Assessment





## For More Information Visit UNIONSQUARECHOICE.COM

# **Neighborhood Assessment Report**

HUD requires that goals, objectives, and strategies be predicated on extensive community input, but also on the findings on Resident Assessment, Neighborhood Assessment and a Market Analysis. The Neighborhood Assessment been finalized while the other two are being refined and finalized. The key finings of the Neighborhood Assessment that were completed by the Yale Urban Design Workshop are in the next few slides.





# A Densely Packed Neighborhood in the Heart of New Haven

# 15,675 residents

live in the Union Square neighborhood.

# **12% of city population** City population: 130,381

# 1.2 square miles

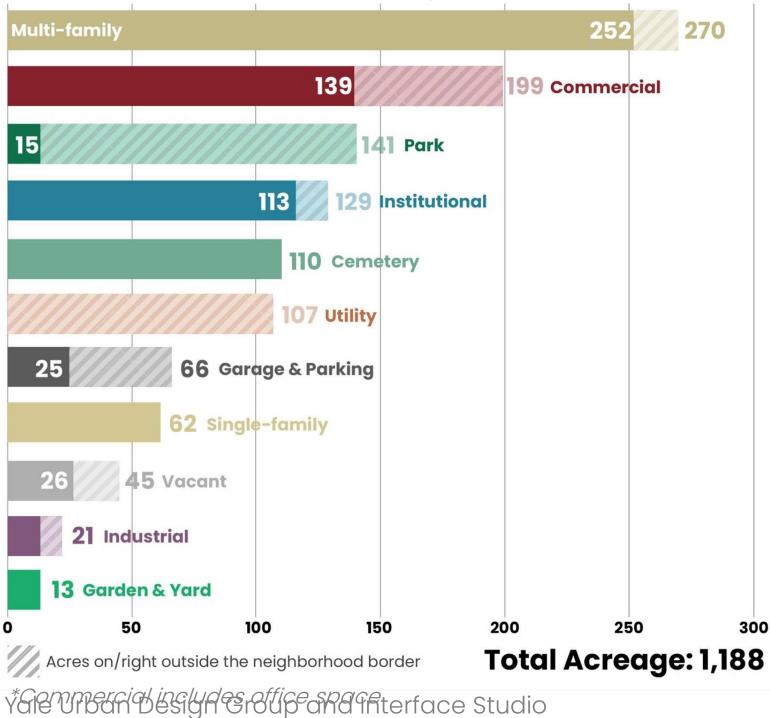
**6.4% of city land area** City land area: 18.7 square miles

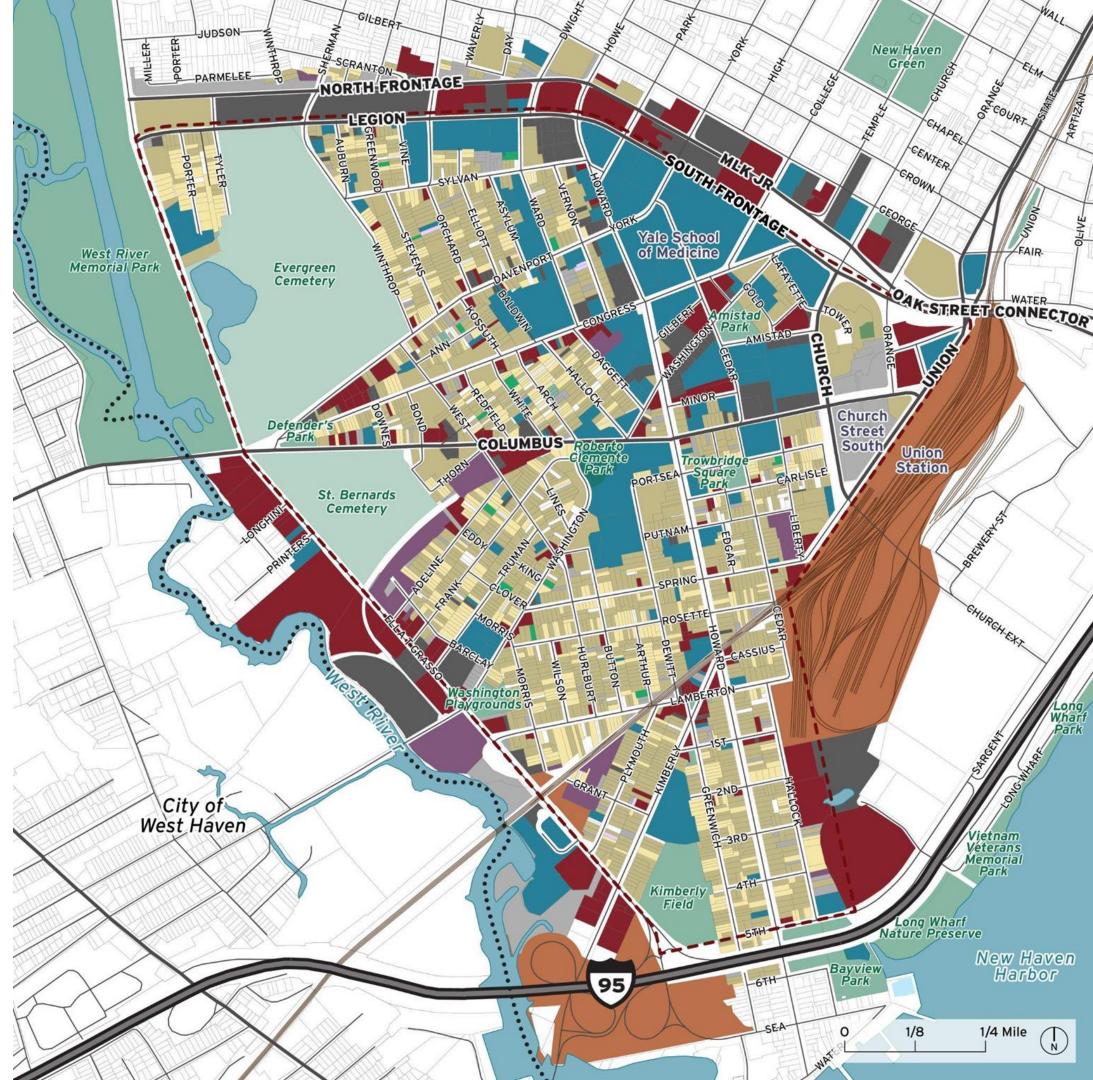
U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey, 2016-2020



# Land Use Primarily Small Multi-family Homes and Institutional Uses

## Land Use by Total Acreage





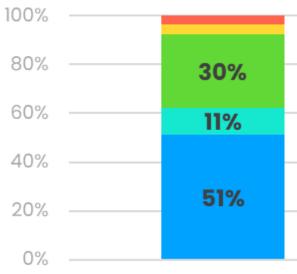
# A Majority Hispanic and Black Neighborhood

# Connecticut is one of the most segregated regions in the United

**States,** according to the 2024 "Connecticut Housing & Segregation Study" by Urbanomics.

# **19% of the neighborhood is noncitizen** (City: 11%; County: 6%)

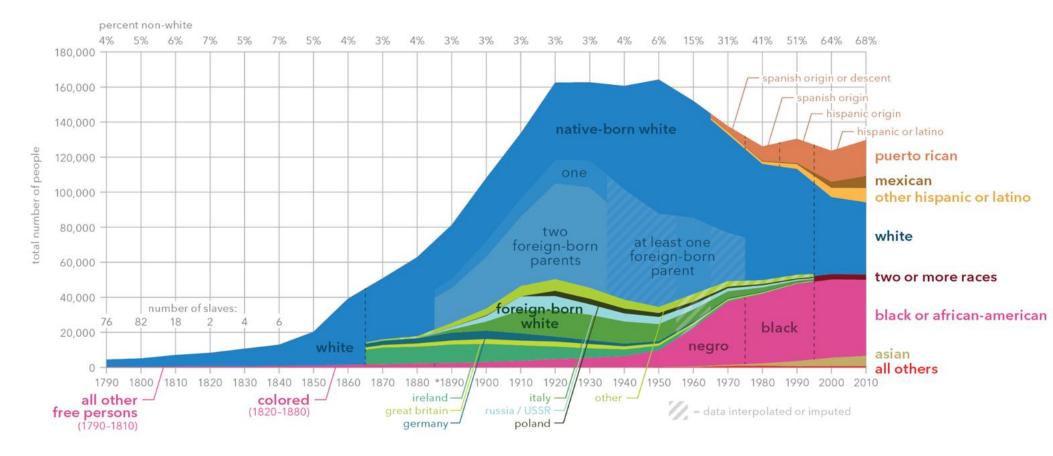
Top Chart: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey, 2016-2020 Bottom Chart: Bill Rankin, Radical Cartography: New Haven, 2011, with data from U.S. Census, Decennial Census Hispanic or



**Union Square** 

Race & Ethnicity in New Haven, 1790 - 2010 Source: Bill Rankin, 2011

New Haven

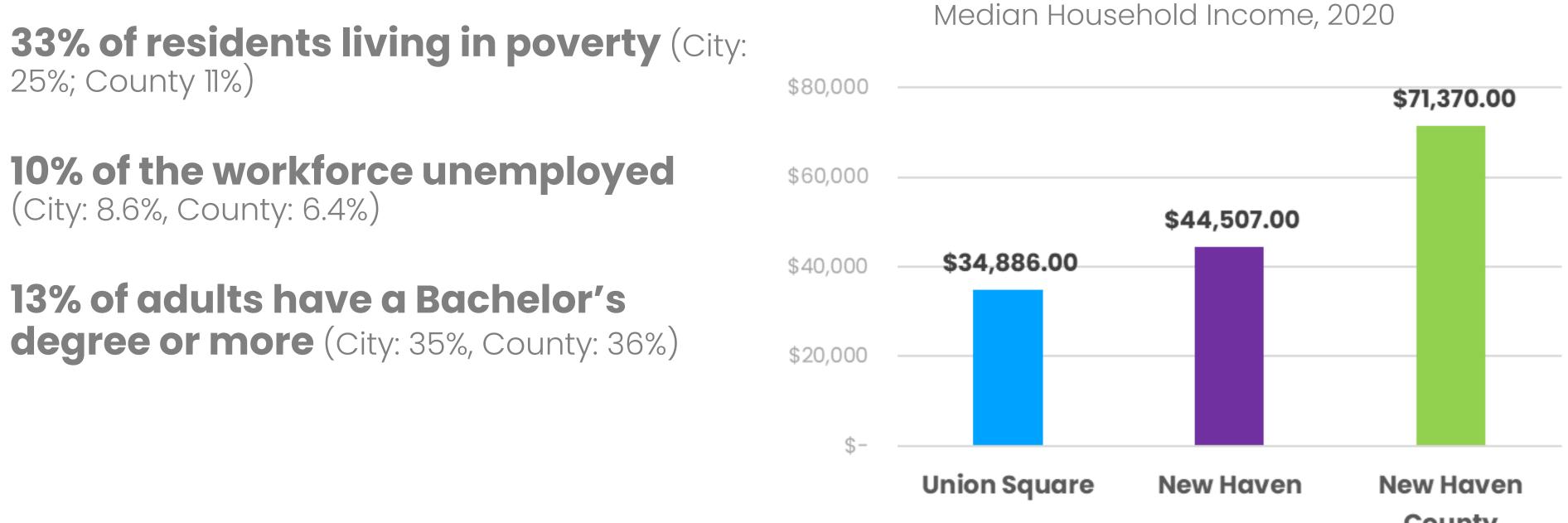


## Race & Ethnicity, 2020

r Latino 🗧 W	/hite 📕 Blo	ack <mark>–</mark> Asian	Other	
	32%		13%	
	29%		62%	
	31%		19%	

New Haven County

# **A Low-Income Community with Lower Educational Attainment** Than The Region



U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey, 2016-2020

County

# Many families with kids, and many single moms

Median age is 31 (County: 40.5)

**29% of residents are under 18** (City: 23%)

The average household size is 2.89 people (City & County: about 2.5)

**30% of households are led by a single woman** (City: 26%, County: 11%)

U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey, 2016-2020



# The Cost of Housing is Hard to Handle

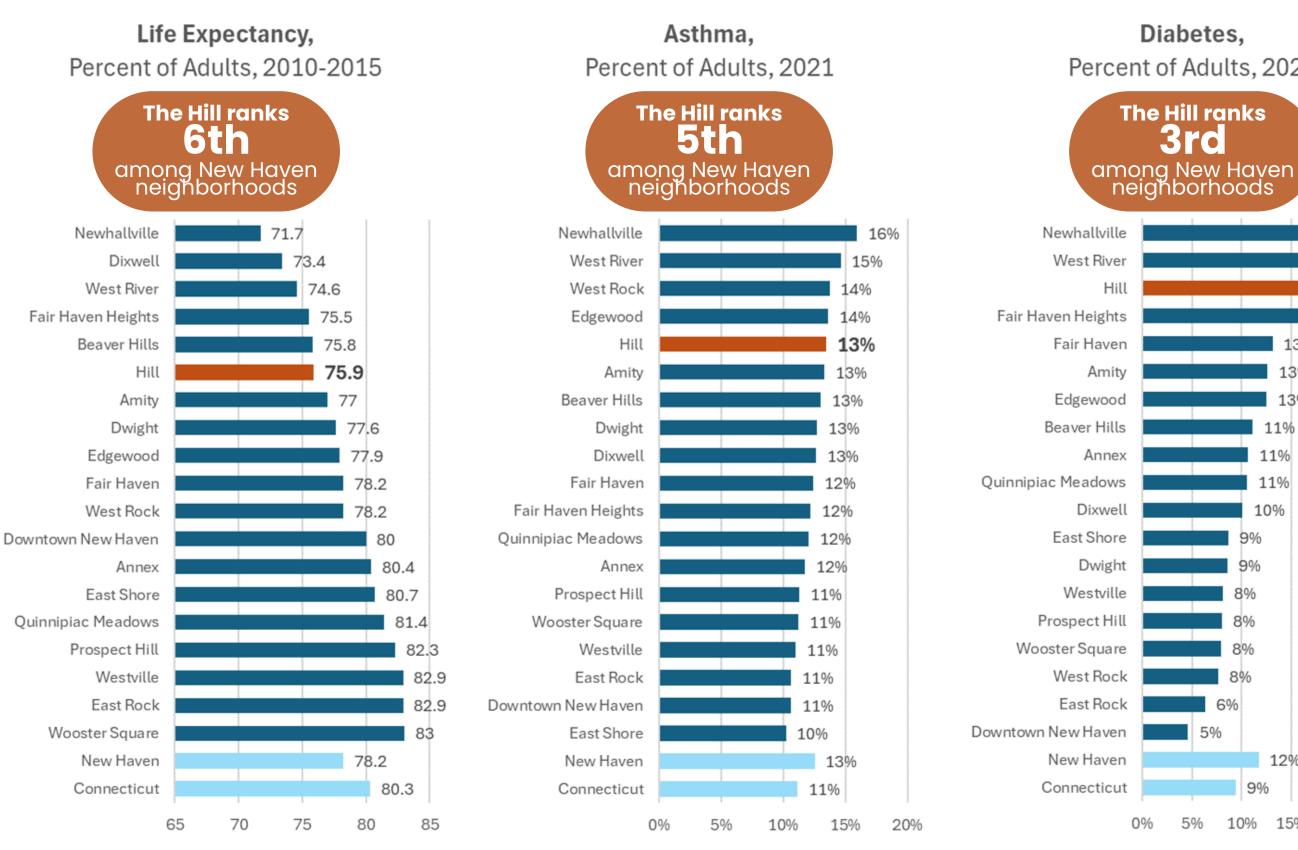
**71% renter households** (City: 72%, County: 38%)

**64% of renters are housing cost burdened,** paying 30% or more of their income towards rent (City: 58%, County: 52%)

U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year American Community Survey, 2016-2020



# **Residents' Are At Greater Risk of Health Issues**



DataHaven analysis (2024) of (1) US Census Bureau 2022 American Community Survey 2022 5-year estimates, (2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2023 PLACES, and (3) National Center for Health Statistics 2018 U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP): Life Expectancy Estimates File for Connecticut, 2010-2015.

Diabetes. Percent of Adults, 2021

### The Hill ranks among New Haven neighborhoods Newhallville 21% 46% West River 18% 43% 17% Fair Haven Heights 39% 36% Hill 16% 13% Amity 35% 13% 34% Edgewood 13% Beaver Hills 32% 11% Fair Haven 31% 11% East Shore 30% 11% Quinnipiac Meadows 30% 10% Annex 29% 9% Westville 28% 9% Dixwell 27% Prospect Hill 8% 25% Wooster Square 8% 25% 8% Dwight 24% 8% West Rock 23% 6% East Rock 21% Downtown New Haven 5% 17% 12% New Haven 31% 9% Connecticut 30% 15% 10% 20% 25% 20% 30% 40% 50%

High Blood Pressure,

Percent of Adults, 2021



# Resident Assessment





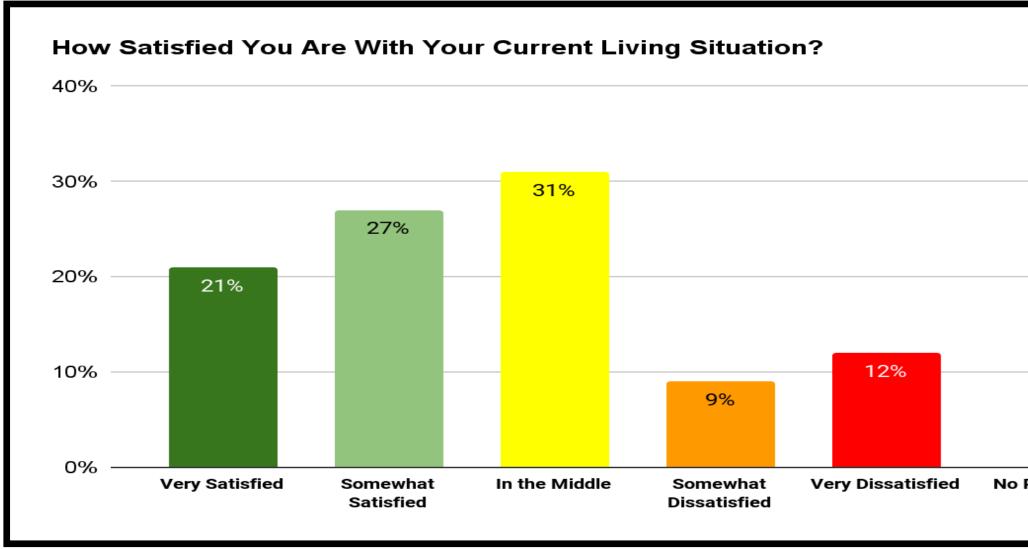
# For More Information Visit UNIONSQUARECHOICE.COM

The preliminary Resident Assessment of the R.T. Wolfe has been completed by the Yale School of Management. YSM is undertaking an additional assessment of a sample of former Church Street South residents.

- 80% of the families completed the survey
- 77 families were surveyed
- 75 % of the families said they had heard about the planning efforts
- 65% of families said they wanted to know more about the planning process
- 77% of families indicated larger apartments as they improvement they must want to see in the new development
- 70% want central AC
- 64% want more amenities
- 60% want more parking
- 51% want more accessible features
- 49% want more community space
- 44% want more storage space





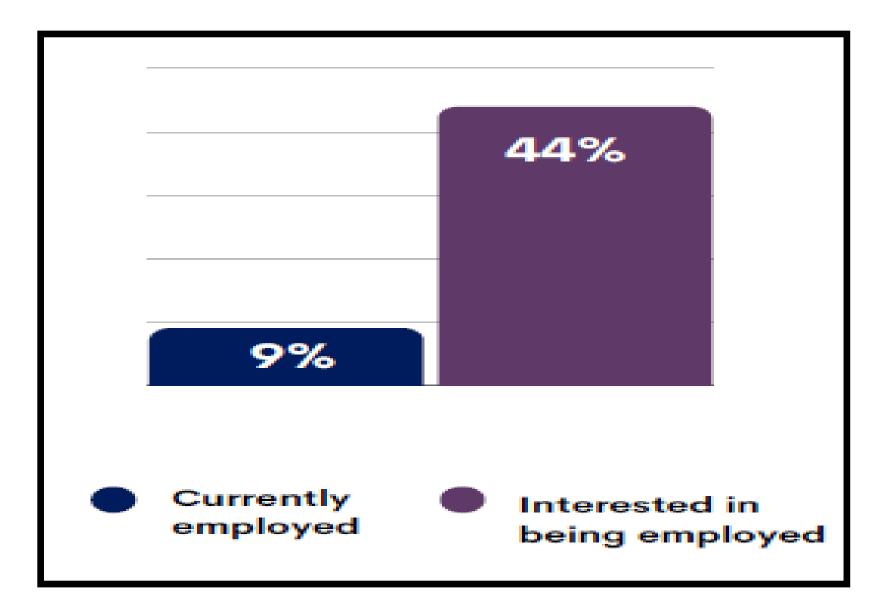


Steering Committee

No Response







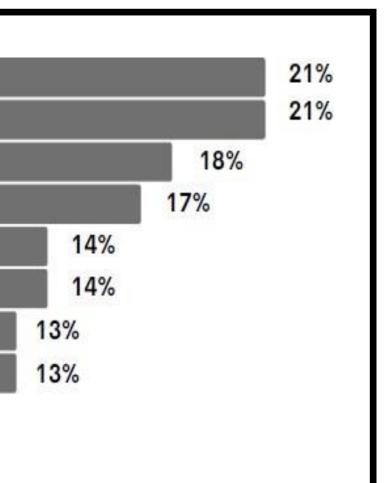
Steering Committee



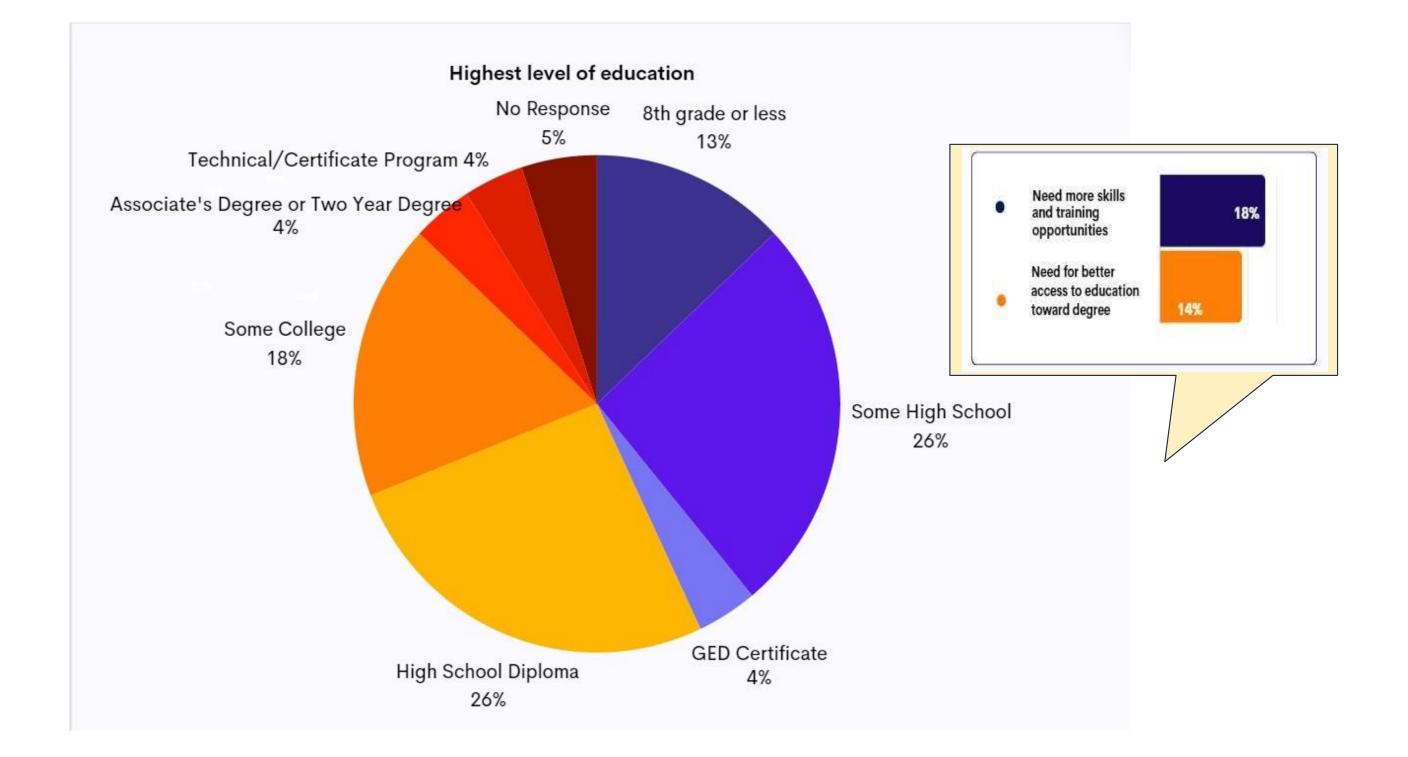
# **Challenges to Employment**

Disability accommodations	
Transportation	
Need more skills and training opportunities	
Available jobs that pay more	
Need for better access to education toward degree	
Other	
Management of health conditions	
Access to jobs	
ESL for Language barrier	4%
Adequate childcare	3%





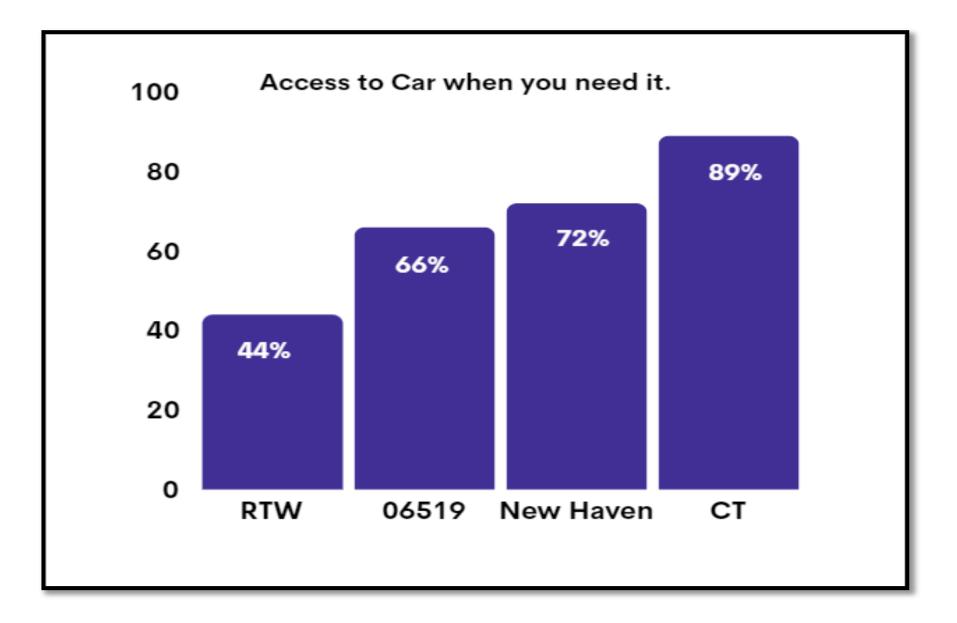




Steering Committee







Steering Committee

