COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We have moved major real estate and economic development projects forward, including securing the 3.5 acre former Kroger site at Peebles Corner.

We’re in the process of saving 84 affordable units at the Alexandra. Scholar House opened, providing 44 parents who are enrolled in school with affordable housing.

And we have three new commercial tenants, including Cream + Sugar in Evanston, as well as Dentistry on Madison and Hello Honey in East Walnut Hills.

New businesses have opened - Esoteric Brewing Company, Century Design Workshop, and Daisy Jane’s Flower Bar; others are coming - Fern, Ten Tiny Canvases, and ArtWorks.
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We worked with Cincy Nice to bring new life to Five Points Alley. We completed beautiful mid-block and intersection street murals at Frederick Douglass Elementary.
And, we launched an innovative video fundraising campaign that reserved 25% of donations for local businesses.
ARTS & CULTURE

Our creative community in Walnut Hills is flourishing. The renewed vibrancy of the neighborhood has turned it into a destination spot with additional cultural institutions choosing to locate and invest in Walnut Hills for the long term. Johnston Park, an interactive space at the southern edge, is being designed as the gateway to the Walnut Hills Arts & Cultural District. And the Art Climb now visibly connects The Cincinnati Art Museum to Walnut Hills. Across Gilbert Avenue, The Cincinnati Ballet is building their Margaret and Michael Valentine Center for Dance. And just up the hill at our Educational Campus, the renovation & expansion of our beautiful Carnegie Library has broken ground. New resident Artworks joins Essex Studios, Manifest Drawing Studio, and Planet Dance to round out an impressive roster of leading arts & culture organizations.

Cincinnati Art Museum - ArtClimb

Johnston Park

Cincinnati Ballet

Walnut Hills Branch Carnegie Library
FOOD ACCESS

We have expanded our food access programs to address the expanded number of residents living with food insecurity and the severity of the issue. Our Food + Fun event each Friday strove to connect people with both the food and other resources they needed but also to make it fun. We had the Popsicles to the Polls truck, the Espresso Priest, non-food items care packages from Full Circuit, and the Unbelievabowl food truck.

We also hosted practical programs: COVID testing, info tables for Get Out The Vote, CENSUS 2020, Equitas Health, Donate Life, and COVID vaccine trials. Freestore Foodbank’s Healthy Harvest Mobile Market sold produce at reasonable prices and offered a $-for-$ match for SNAP users and provided free boxes of pantry items. La Soupe’s Community Kitchen Program distributed Taste of Belgium frozen casseroles and Sleepy Bee Café salads.
FOOD ACCESS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

COVID showed us where the deepest fissures in our fragile food system are - seniors living in poverty and those with mobility issues.

Our solution was two-fold: introduce residents to the Food Forest grocery ordering and delivery platform and provide them training to overcome any technical obstacles. Residents were incentivized to make a regular habit of using the service so they didn’t have to leave their building.

The second action for making healthy food more affordable and conveniently available was to build a garden for residents to grow their own produce. Twelve raised beds are ready for their green thumbs this Spring.
MEANWHILE MARKET - DEVELOPMENT & ACTIVATION

We have developed some insight over the last eight years doing community engagement which prepares us for the launch of the “meanwhile market” – Reinvestment Plan Listening Sessions, 5 Points Alley creation, Green Man Park development, Grocery Town Halls, Food Access Programs, Urban Agriculture Network management, and operating the Walnut Wheels mobile creative placemaking vehicle.

This insight will be used as we move forward with the meanwhile market to create an equitable and sustainable third place that informs the eventual tenancing of the innovative new development coming to the center of the Walnut Hills Business District.
PARTNERSHIPS

Our new program partner relationships grew in 2020 and our existing ones became even stronger. We could not have accomplished what we did without the experience, passion, and dedication of these organizations.

We’ve received nearly 1,000 combined volunteer garden hours from Vitality Yoga, Civic Garden Center, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy, HGC Construction, African-American Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton County Recycling & Solid Waste, and many neighborhood residents.

And cemented our program partnerships with these groups.