

ANNUAL REPORT



city of
CINCINNATI
COMMUNITY &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2017

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MAYOR

John Cranley

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Philip Denning

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Vice Mayor Christopher Smitherman

President Pro Tem Tamaya Dennard

Greg Landsman

David Mann

Amy Murray

Chris Seelbach

P.G. Sittenfeld

Jeffery Pastor

Wendell Young

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SENIOR STAFF

Bob Bertsch

Lindsey Florea

Daniel Fortinberry

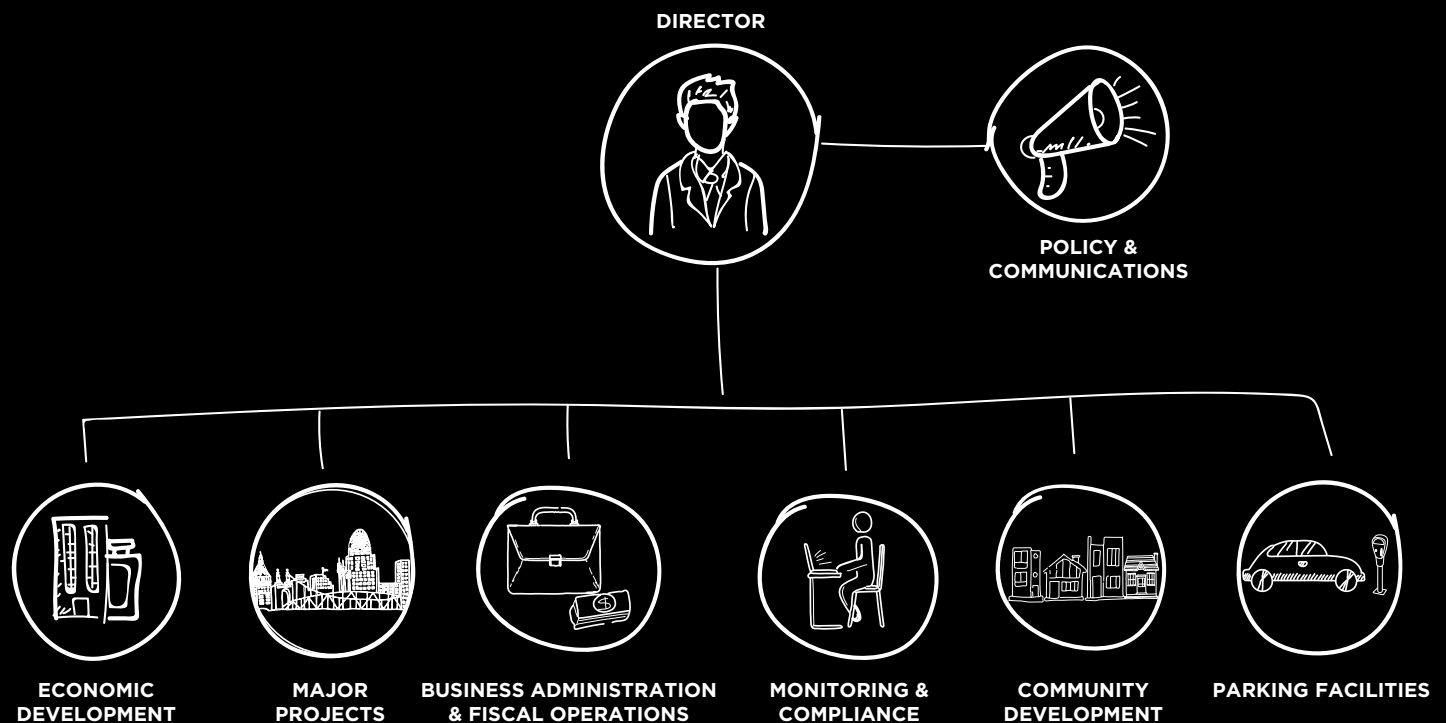
Roy Hackworth

Victoria Kroger

Kevin Osborne

Clifton Pendergrass

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



52 NEIGHBORHOODS



ONE CITY

Committed to facilitating strategic development and services within the Cincinnati community that

IMPROVE the lives of residents,
INCREASE business investment,
& **REVITALIZE** city neighborhoods.

MESSAGE FROM
THE DIRECTOR



Dear Fellow Cincinnatians:

The Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is committed to facilitating strategic development and services within Cincinnati to improve the lives of residents, increase business investment, and bring new vibrancy to city neighborhoods.

Our results in 2017 demonstrate progress in each of these core capacities. DCED's professional staff facilitated \$517 million in total investment leading to 491 retained jobs, 908 newly created jobs and 1,612 new housing units. Team members have also redoubled efforts to better leverage data and streamline internal workflows so that in 2018 and beyond, investing in Cincinnati is even more attractive.

Additional key highlights include:

- Facilitating 58 market-leading additions to our urban fabric, including the first urban Kroger in the nation and numerous historic renovation projects;
- Leveraging sophisticated financial tools in neighborhoods outside of the City's core, including Westwood and Walnut Hills;
- Providing new and diverse housing options to provide residents with safe and affordable places to call home;
- Augmenting our property disposition Request for Proposals (RFP) process;
- Developing strategies designed to increase foreign direct investment (FDI) activity and promote small business growth;
- Supporting human services by providing funding and administrative assistance;
- Improving parking services delivery and pursuing innovative solutions for a customizable and seamless mobility experience.

In 2017 the Department was recognized at the Foreign Direct Investment Symposium where the City of Cincinnati was selected as a Top 10 "American City of the Future" by *FDI Magazine*, a publication of *The Financial Times*. DCED was also recognized at the Ohio Economic Development Association's (OEDA) Annual Summit as a finalist for "Best Project." We are proud of these recognitions, as well as a host of other successful projects discussed elsewhere in this annual report.

Cincinnati's rise continues. As we report on the momentum of 2017, we are even more optimistic about the year ahead. The capable staff of the Department of Community and Economic Development are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of residents and businesses in our City. We look forward to accelerating through 2018!

Best,

Philip Denning



THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

MISSION: Dedicated to supporting DCED staff by providing the tools and resources needed to foster creativity and achieve our core competencies of growth and investment.

58 PROJECTS



908 JOBS
CREATED



491 JOBS
RETAINED



1,612 HOUSING UNITS
CREATED



\$517M

TOTAL
INVESTMENT



THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Director's Office provides the vision and strategic planning to guide and oversee the entire department.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Initiative

The department's ongoing efforts at finding innovative ways to promote development included a new focus on attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

The Cincinnati region is poised to take advantage of FDI trends seen across the United States. As foreign companies look beyond larger, more expensive gateway cities to more cost-effective locations, middle-market cities like Cincinnati are stepping up to bring more capital, jobs, and innovation to the economy.

To stay ahead of the curve, we partnered with stakeholders throughout the region and nation to act. In March 2017, we brought local, regional, national and international thought leaders in FDI to Cincinnati for a productive conversation with specific ideas for regional

partners to implement. The event, "Unlocking the Tri-State Region: FDI Symposium," outlined best practices that helped us generate a new strategy report and resource navigator for the region.



"Unlocking the Tri-State Region: Foreign Direct Investment Strategy Report" offers insights into existing conditions, areas of opportunity, and action items for recruiting and retaining foreign direct investment.

Through the planning and development of both our FDI Symposium and our FDI Strategy, we collected information on a great number of resources for promoting, attracting, and assisting foreign investment in our region. We combined those resources into an online "FDI Resource Navigator."

Our FDI Resource Navigator acts as a directory for supportive services to businesses and investors looking to partner with the City, and can be personalized based on needs. The report and FDI Resource Navigator showcase Cincinnati's ability to deploy new strategies to

attract businesses and investors to grow our local and regional economy.

FDI RESOURCE NAVIGATOR

<https://tabsoft.co/2HLQOxa>

The importance of the FDI Symposium and associated strategy were validated by the City of Cincinnati being selected as a Top 10 “American City of the Future” by *FDI Magazine*, a publication of *The Financial Times*, in four different categories. The rankings further reinforce Cincinnati’s visibility as a city well-positioned for global connectivity.

- No. 6 Overall in Large Cities for “American Cities of the Future”
- No. 9 in Large Cities for “Economic Potential”
- No. 8 in Large Cities for “Business Friendliness”
- No. 4 in Large Cities for “FDI Strategy”



Awards

In addition to the recognition the City of Cincinnati and DCED received regarding FDI, the department received numerous other accolades in 2017 that are worth noting.

OEDA: At the Ohio Economic Development Association’s (OEDA) Annual Summit, the department was recognized as a finalist for “Best Project” (Court and Walnut) and “Excellence in Economic Development Innovation” (FDI Symposium). Lindsey Florea, a Senior Development Officer with our Major Projects Division, was recognized by OEDA as “Rookie of the Year” for the excellence she has brought to the office since starting with us in February 2015.



NDC: The National Development Council (NDC) recognized the redevelopment of the former Queen City Barrel site, now known as MetroWest Commerce Park, and the associated Nehemiah Manufacturing development as a semifinalist in the category of “Investing in Small Business.”

IEDC: At the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Annual Summit in Toronto, the department was recognized by Community Systems as one of their “Digital 25 in Economic Development”.



Block Party RFP Release

As a follow-up to our Cyber Monday RFP initiative in 2016, we released four requests for proposals (RFPs) as a part of an end of summer “Block Party” RFP release.

The four sites represent neighborhood-based development of varying scales. The purpose of these development opportunities is to promote vibrancy and spur additional investment across the city, including neighborhoods outside the urban core. A key goal is soliciting development

proposals that balance the needs of the community with business interests to develop meaningful and sustainable projects.

Walnut Hills – 830 Lincoln Ave.:

The department sought proposals to construct new, single- or multi-family units on one (potentially two), City-owned parcels at the corner of Melrose and Lincoln avenues in Walnut Hills. The larger parcel contains 20,214 square feet; the smaller lot consists of 7,742 square feet. Combined, the parcels offer 356 yards of frontage. The prime real estate location is near the Walnut Hills Business District and multiple bus stops, and is additionally well-suited for ADA-accessible construction.

The successful bidder to this RFP had yet to be released at the time this report was written.



North Avondale – 3916 Reading Road:

This 1.8-acre site at the corner of Reading and Paddock roads in Cincinnati's thriving North Avondale neighborhood is an opportunity to activate a corridor along North Avondale's main thoroughfare, Reading Road. The neighborhood's emerging business district has plans for catalytic growth to complement its existing vibrant housing stock, schools and amenities.

The successful bidder to this RFP had yet to be released at the time this report was written.

Oakley – 3540 Ibsen Ave.: The site is approximately 4.2 acres and located immediately off Interstate 71 at the Kennedy Connector. The site enjoys excellent interstate access, as well as proximity to the Oakley Business District, and new commercial and residential development at Oakley Station. The City is soliciting proposals for a commercial redevelopment of the site.

The successful bidder to this RFP had yet to be released at the time this report was written.

Transportation Service Provider Web-Based

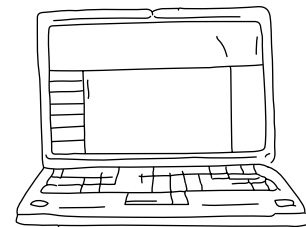
Tool: Currently, transportation data and information is fragmented throughout the Cincinnati area. This RFP solicitation seeks to connect them by procuring a solution that can promote innovation, provide an optimized personal mobility experience, and serve as a data gathering tool to better understand the travel patterns and tendencies of residents and visitors alike to inform decision making. To this end, the City is seeking a web-based, fully mobile-friendly tool that delivers end-to-end, multi-modal transit routes based on user preferences such as:

- Environmental concerns
- Number of stops

- Public Transit
- Cost
- Healthy lifestyles
- Accessibility

Read more about the Transportation Service Provider Web-Based Tool RFP in the Parking Division Section of this report.

The successful bidder to this RFP had yet to be released at the time this report was written.



Interactive Dashboards

In addition to the FDI Resource Navigator mentioned earlier in this report, staff worked with the Office of Performance and Data Analytics (OPDA) to develop several interactive dashboards to renew our commitment to being transparent with our information and provide connections, linking the community with resources and opportunities. These dashboards included a Small Business Navigator, Community Council Dashboard, and Incentives Dashboard.

Small Business Navigator: The department firmly believes that available resources must be accessible to entrepreneurs to increase the success of their small businesses. To that end, staff worked with our partners at Cintrifuse to compile a list of available resources. Staff retooled the information into a web-based portal that provides a comprehensive, interactive guide to small business resources. This Small Business Resource Navigator

is currently accessible online through the Choosecincy.com website.

The comprehensive list of resources streamlines and organizes the search process for entrepreneurs, encourages small business growth and creation, and fosters collaboration among organizations with similar missions and interests. New resources, initiatives, and programming are frequently updated.

SMALL BUSINESS NAVIGATOR

<https://tabsoft.co/2HLQOxa>

Community Council Dashboard: The department strongly encourages community engagement. One of the best ways for a resident to get involved in their community and engage with department staff is through participation in Community Councils. The staff works closely with the Community Councils in each neighborhood and their input helps shape development to make sure it is sustainable and tailored to meet the community's needs.

To promote civic engagement, staff worked with the Office of Performance and Data Analytics (OPDA) to develop an interactive map where residents can find the contact information for their local Community Council.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL DASHBOARD

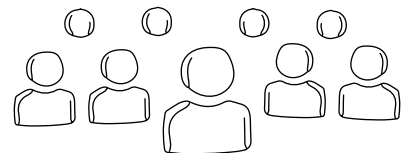
<https://bit.ly/2HphqVp>

Incentives Dashboard: The department firmly believes that if we are going to live our mission, then we must be transparent and showcase the work we are doing to fulfill it.

The department worked with OPDA to develop a dashboard that showcases all the commercial and residential incentives provided throughout the City of Cincinnati during the last several years.

INCENTIVES DASHBOARD

<https://bit.ly/2Dom6lt>



Staff Updates

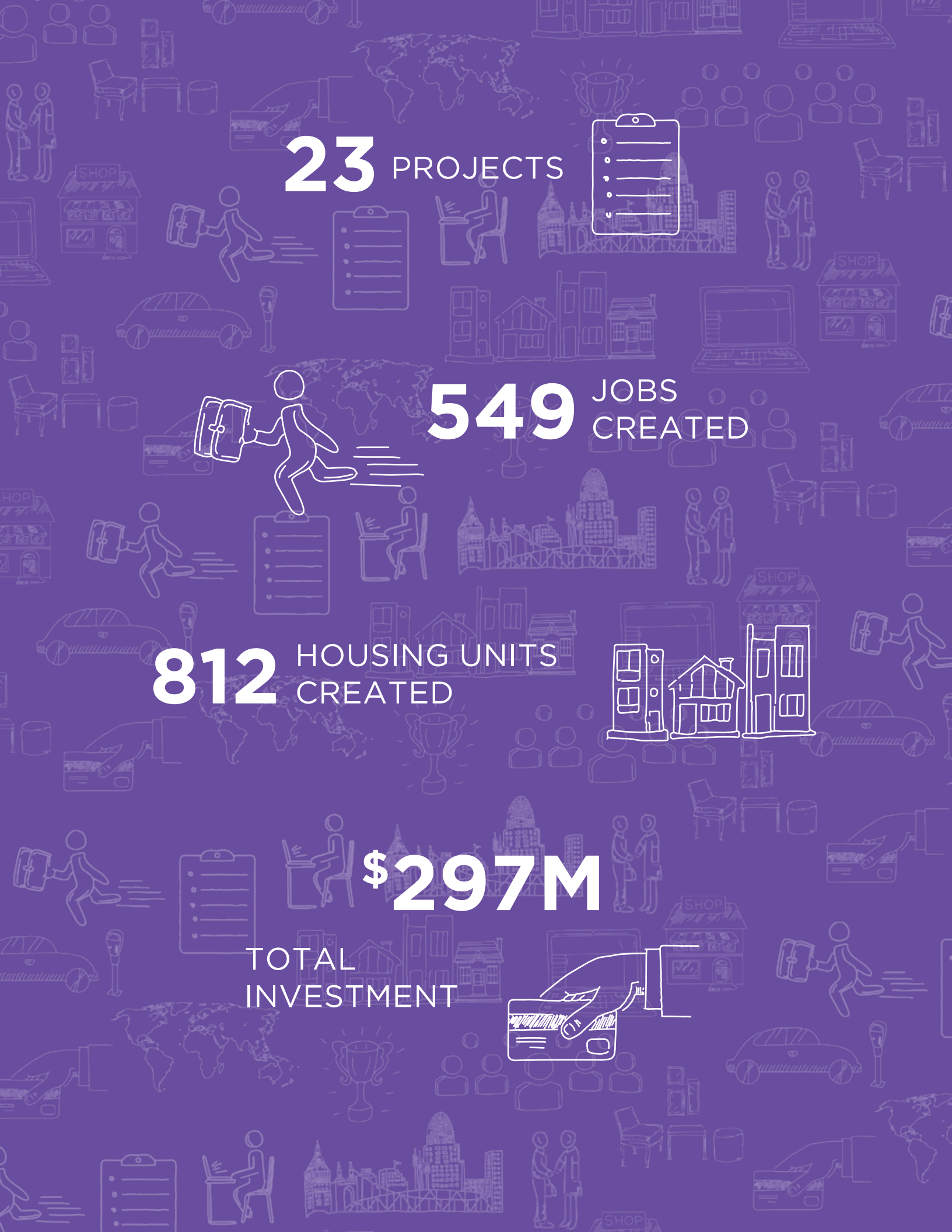
New hires in 2017: Cody Brooks, Leatha Howard, Christen Johnson, Valerie McIntosh, Brian Ogawa, John Sadosky, Taylor Stephens

Promotions in 2017: Gary Boeres, Roy Hackworth, Daniel Kalubi, Greg Koehler, John Reiser



MAJOR PROJECTS

MISSION: Maximize the City's impact on high-profile development opportunities.



23 PROJECTS



549 JOBS
CREATED



812 HOUSING UNITS
CREATED



\$297M

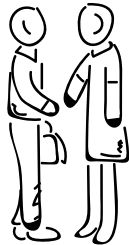
TOTAL
INVESTMENT



MAJOR PROJECTS

DCED's Major Projects Team responds to the complicated needs of our rapidly developing urban core. Our collaborative team works across Divisions and Departments to execute the most sophisticated and technical development transactions. Our mission is to maximize the City's impact on high-profile development opportunities. In 2017, the team facilitated a deal to bring a long-sought grocery store to Downtown, continued the renaissance in Over-the-Rhine, and spearheaded transformative neighborhood projects like Westwood Town Square.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Business Expansion and Attraction Projects

Court and Walnut (Downtown)

The department provided an \$8.5 million grant from the Urban Redevelopment Tax Increment Equivalent Fund for a transformative mixed-use project on the border of Downtown and Over-the-Rhine.

Partnering with The Kroger Co., North American Properties, the Cincinnati Center City Development Corp. (3CDC), and Rookwood Properties, the City is helping develop a \$90.5 million project that will include Cincinnati's first Downtown supermarket in nearly 45 years (45,000 square feet). It also will feature a 550-space public parking garage on the streetcar line, and 139 luxury residential apartment units.

Other City assistance includes the creation of a Tax Increment Financing district for part of



the project, as well as a 15-year, 100 percent Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) tax exemption for both the grocery and garage parcels.

The addition of the grocery store complements other development by increasing the walkability of downtown and is tailored to meet the needs of residents, workers, and visitors.

This project was a big win for the City, and the department and was recognized by the Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) as a finalist for “Best Project of 2017.” Perhaps more than most projects, the Court and Walnut mixed-use project is a clear sign of the continuing renaissance of Downtown and Over-the-Rhine.

This project broke ground in fall 2017, and is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2019.



Westwood Town Square (Westwood)

Cincinnati Landmark Productions is using private funds, along with a \$4 million loan from the City of Cincinnati and various grants and tax credits, to convert a building into the new home of Madcap Puppets and renovate park areas around Westwood Town Hall. Located at the former Cincinnati Bell Exchange building, Madcap’s facility will include an education center that will host puppet festivals, summer camps and community events.

When completed, the project will anchor an historic business district and spur additional investment in Westwood, Cincinnati’s largest neighborhood.

The Columbia (Over-the-Rhine)

DCED is assisting the Cincinnati Center City Development Corp. (3CDC) in redeveloping three buildings into office, commercial and residential space by granting a 15-year, 100 percent Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) tax exemption for the site.

The structures – located at 1301 Walnut Street, 1500-1502 Vine Street, and 1434 Vine Street – are designed to better connect the Vine Street district to neighboring side streets.

Each of the buildings is being renovated to include about 12,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floors. The project has \$4.3 million in Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits, \$633,000 from New Markets Tax Credit equity, and loans from the Cincinnati Equity Fund. Additionally, the City will give more than \$400,000 in capital funds to create affordable housing.

The project is expected to be completed in late 2018.



824 Broadway (Downtown)

The former home of the Hamilton County Board of Elections at 824 Broadway is being converted into apartments by Rookwood Properties. When completed, the \$8 million project will include up to 60 loft-style rental units, with the possibility of more built on an adjacent parcel later. DCED is providing a 12-year, 100 percent Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) tax exemption.

SHP Leading Design (Downtown)

DCED secured a 40 percent Job Creation Tax Credit (JCTC) for SHP Leading Design to move Downtown from Norwood. SHP, a major architectural firm, signed a lease for 20,000 square feet of office space on Plum Street. The tax credit requires a five-year retention period for the jobs.

The firm will move more than 70 employees to 312 Plum Street in spring 2018.



Freeport Row (Over-the-Rhine)

The department is facilitating redevelopment of the northwest corner of Liberty and Elm streets by Source 3 Development. When completed, the \$23 million, mixed-use project will include 113 apartments and 12,000 square feet of retail space. It involves construction of a new building on vacant land, along with the extensive

renovation of four historic structures.

Through DCED's efforts, the project received a 12-year, 100 percent LEED Community Reinvestment Area tax exemption for the both the renovation and new construction portions.

Also, the department assisted with the property sale and development agreement for the public right-of-way area of Campbell Street and Freeport Alley.

The project also will include a parking garage built in two phases, with up to 155 parking spaces. Additionally, the site is located along the streetcar line, increasing its accessibility. Construction will mark an important milestone for Over-the-Rhine's renaissance, as new development moves north of Liberty Street.

Clyffside Event Space & Rebel Mettle (Over-the-Rhine)

The brewing renaissance in Cincinnati will soon see another addition in Over-the-Rhine. Thanks to a 12-year, 100 percent LEED Community Redevelopment Area tax exemption, Rebel Mettle is renovating a historic building located at 244-246 McMicken Avenue. The building will contain 47,000 square feet of commercial space including a brewery on the ground level and several event spaces above. The site was once home to the Clyffside and Sohn Brewery, a prominent pre-Prohibition era drinkery. The estimated total project cost is \$13 million.







ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MISSION: Dedicated to serving the needs of residents and businesses through job creation, implementation of public infrastructure projects, urban redevelopment initiatives and revitalization of Cincinnati's neighborhoods.

15 PROJECTS



176 JOBS
CREATED

473 JOBS
RETAINED



\$54M

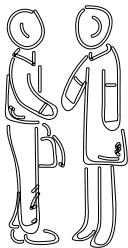
TOTAL
INVESTMENT



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DCED's Economic Development Division is dedicated to facilitating development in Cincinnati's diverse neighborhoods, with a focus on manufacturing and commercial projects. The team works closely with Neighborhood Business Districts, Community Councils and Community Development Corporations to ensure a tailored approach that reflects each neighborhood's unique identity and specific needs. Many large companies in the region now consider Cincinnati first when thinking about a move.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Business Expansion and Attraction Projects

TriHealth (Walnut Hills)

When TriHealth began searching for a new headquarters site, DCED helped retain the business within the City instead of moving to Blue Ash. The City agreed to make a \$2,000,000 forgivable loan to TriHealth for eligible relocation expenses. In return, TriHealth agreed to retain 310 employees over a 15-year term.

As a result, TriHealth is moving from Avondale into 125,000 square feet at the Baldwin 200 building in Walnut Hills.

The Baldwin 200 building is one piece of the Baldwin campus that was purchased by Neyer Properties in 2014 at auction for \$17.1 million. The company is in the midst of a \$100 million redevelopment of the campus that included the recently completed renovation of the Grand Baldwin building into 190 loft-style apartments. Leasing has begun for the units and demand is brisk.



Nehemiah Manufacturing/MetroWest (Lower Price Hill)

After a fire destroyed the Queen City Barrel building in Lower Price Hill, the City of Cincinnati strategically acquired the site, which included approximately 100 parcels totaling 18 contiguous acres. The site acquisition was intended to establish a much-needed development site within its urban core, while offering access to existing



industrial infrastructure crucial to attracting new manufacturing operations. The site was renamed MetroWest Commerce Park.

MetroWest required full-scale environmental assessment, along with soil and groundwater remediation after the area's 100-year-plus history of heavy industrial use resulted in contamination, an environmental liability the private market would not address. The City assembled and cleaned up the site, then sold seven acres for Nehemiah Manufacturing Co.'s new \$12 million, 180,000-square-foot building.

The City offered a tax abatement on the new building and Nehemiah agreed to retain 81 employees and create 37 new jobs within three years of the facility opening. Nehemiah creates job opportunities for chronically unemployed people in the inner-city.

The new building houses Nehemiah's corporate headquarters and all manufacturing/distribution functions, and also offers social services in-house to support its workforce beyond employment issues.

Nehemiah won the "Excellence in Workforce Development" Award from the Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) in October 2017. The award recognizes unique approaches to workforce development.

Paramount Square (Walnut Hills)

DCED offered a loan and tax exemption to help restore the historic Paramount Square building in Walnut Hills.

Located at 737 E. McMillan Ave., Paramount is being renovated by the Model Group into 12 residential units and 2,500 square feet of commercial space. The commercial space will be the home of Esoteric Brewery, which is the first African American-owned brewery in Cincinnati's history.



The department offered a \$2.4 million loan to the project for 15 years. As a cash-flow sharing loan, any net cash flows above a 12 percent cash-on-cash return for Model are required to be split 50-50 between the City and the developer.

Also, the City approved a 12-year, 60 percent commercial Community Reinvestment Area tax exemption for Phases 1 and 2.

The \$8 million project is part of a larger \$20 million development that will completely reshape the Walnut Hills Business District at the corner of Woodburn and Gilbert avenues.

PROGRAMS



Renewing our Dedication to Small Business

Within the department, there is a team specifically dedicated to supporting small business growth in Cincinnati. This team spent 2017 developing a Small Business Strategy to showcase the renewed commitment to facilitating small business growth and to create a roadmap aimed at connecting small businesses and future entrepreneurs to the tools and resources necessary for them to grow, expand, and be successful.

This strategy, which was released in early 2018, highlighted new programs introduced in 2017, which included a Food-Based Business Workshop and an event titled, “Survivors and Thrivers.”

Food-Based Business Workshop (May 2017):

The department partnered with Findlay Kitchen to conduct a food permitting workshop in March 2017. An expert panel composed of a representative from the Cincinnati Health Department, the Buildings and Inspections Department, 3CDC, Findlay Kitchen, and OCD Cakes shared their experiences about obtaining the necessary permits for various food-based ventures. Attendees also shared their knowledge with each other.

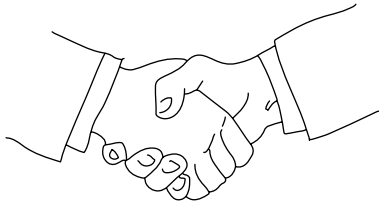


Survivors and Thrivers (Sept 2017): Department staff coordinated an event, called “Survivor’s and Thrivers,” in conjunction with the Small Business Advisory Council (SBAC) that allowed aspiring small businesses from different industries to hear stories of success from successful peers willing to adopt a mentoring role.

The event was held at Listermann’s Brewery and featured four local entrepreneurs:

- Matthew Cuff, Jr., CEO,
Just Q’in Restaurant
- Jason Snell, Partner/Founder,
We Have Become Vikings
- Leah Spurrier, Co-Founder,
High Street Design
- Jason Brewer, General Manager,
Listermann Brewing Company

Video of the event can be found by visiting vimeo.com/choosecincy.



Advancing Diversity in Development

The ADD program started in 2015. Since then, the department has created programming to encourage minority involvement in development and connect minority- and female-owned business owners to the resources they need to be successful.

As a part of the ADD program, the department partnered with the Cincinnati Minority Business Collaborative and BB&T Bank to host a financial seminar titled, “Cash Reigns Supreme” (CRS) in June 2017. CRS focuses on strengthening the financial knowledge of minority- and female-owned small businesses so that they can better assess opportunities, stabilize their business, and seek out growth opportunities. Understanding the financial state of one’s business is essential to long-term sustainability.

The topics covered at the event included:

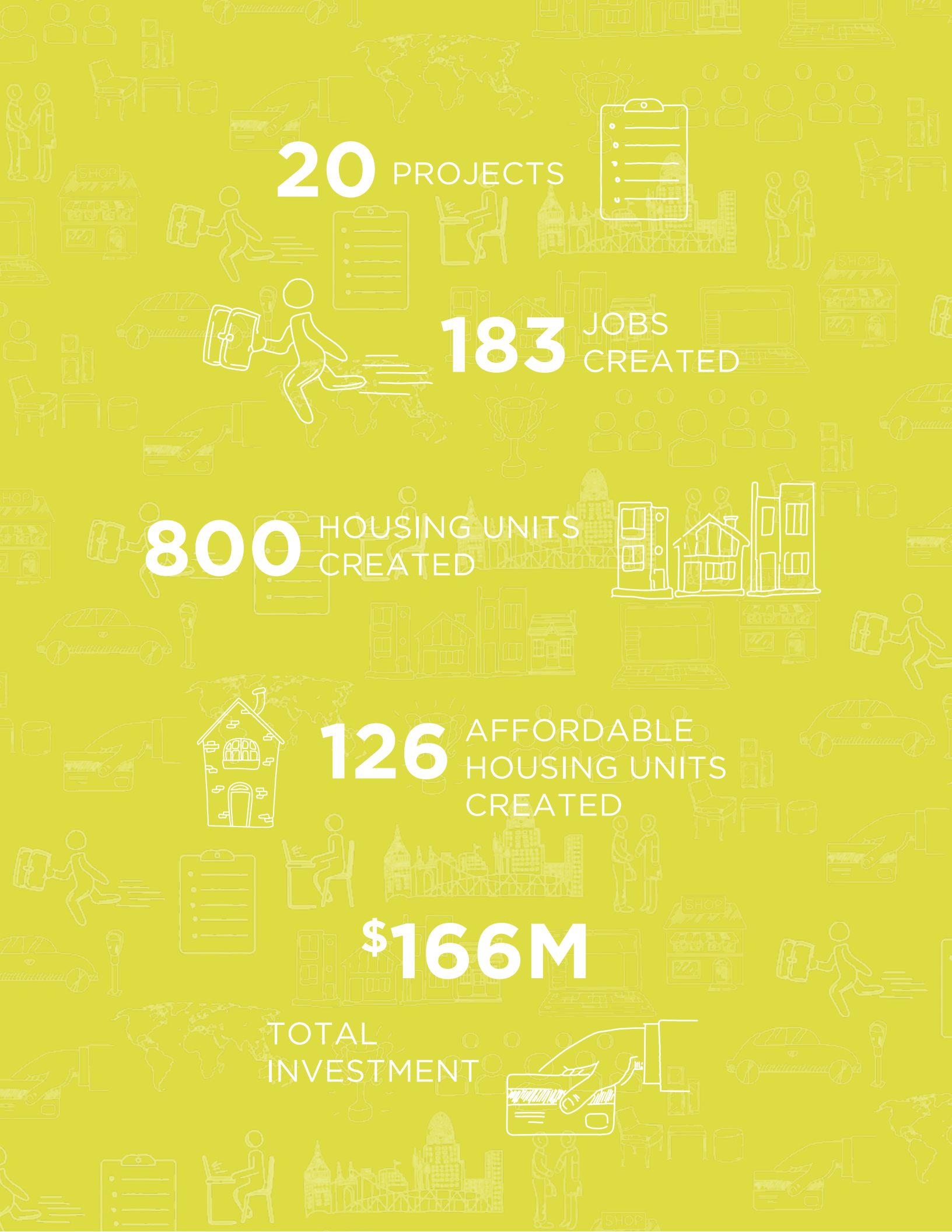
- Budgets
- Balance sheets
- Profit and loss statements
- Cash flow statements





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MISSION: Enabling proactive, targeted, and transformative development to provide quality housing options for all Cincinnati residents and to position the City as a thriving urban center with diverse housing options and supportive housing services.



20 PROJECTS



183 JOBS
CREATED



800 HOUSING UNITS
CREATED



126 AFFORDABLE
HOUSING UNITS
CREATED

\$166M

TOTAL
INVESTMENT



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Division provides and leverages funding and other important resources which facilitate quality housing, revitalizes communities, and supports human service programs in each of the City's neighborhoods. The division continues to be a change agent improving the quality of life for residents in neighborhoods like Avondale and Evanston.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Housing Division Related Projects

Avondale Towne Center (Avondale)

DCED was instrumental in assembling a deal to revitalize a major parcel in Avondale and give residents more shopping and living options. The City is investing \$4.3 million in direct funding toward this \$40 million project that will create 119 residential units, 64 of which will be designated as affordable and made available to those earning 60 percent of the Area Median Income or less. The project will also include a combined 75,000 square feet of renovated and new commercial space that will include a clinic operated by UC Health.

Also, the City engaged numerous stakeholders – including the Avondale Coalition of Churches, the Avondale Development Corp. and the Avondale Community Council – to ensure the project reflected the needs of the neighborhood.



The Community Builders (TCB) leveraged \$22 million in sources that includes an \$11 million HUD Choice Neighborhoods grant along with financial support from the Local Initiatives Support Corp., the City, and owner equity to secure over \$10 million New Market Tax Credit equity. The project is also the recipient of \$11 million in Low Income Housing Tax Credit Equity. Other incentives include a 12-year tax exemption for the renovation portion of the project and a separate 15-year tax exemption for the new construction portion of the project.

DeSales Apartments (Evanston)

The City is assisting Towne Properties with developing Phase 2 of the DeSales Flats apartments along Woodburn Avenue near the

intersection of Madison Road.

DCED is facilitating a 30-year tax exemption in the form of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and the developer will make Voluntary Tax Incentive Contribution Agreement (VTICA) payments during that period. The project is expected to create 130 construction jobs and three full-time equivalent positions.

The \$17.3 million project will include 116 market-rate apartment units, 148 surface parking spaces, and incorporate several amenities including a community room, fitness center, and an outdoor pool. Once completed, the project will meet LEED Gold standards for environmental performance.

Adams Edge (Mount Adams)

DCED is providing crucial support to the Camden Land Group to develop a 1.6-acre parcel in Mount Adams.

Located at 1201 Elsinore Ave., the project will include a \$14.5 million, 64-unit luxury apartment building known as Adam's Edge. The site will also include a two-tier parking structure with 94 spaces.

The City has granted a 15-year, 75 percent LEED Community Reinvestment Area tax exemption. The project is expected to create 40 construction jobs and 14 full-time equivalent positions.

This project will meet LEED Silver standards for environmental performance.

Sheakley Center for Youth (Walnut Hills)

The City invested \$600,000 in federal HOME funds to help provide permanent housing for homeless youth.

The Sheakley Center for Youth is a former commercial warehouse at 2314 Iowa Ave. The

63,000-square-foot building will be converted into 39 affordable, permanent supportive housing (PSH) apartments for youth and young adults, aged 18-24, who don't have a home.

All tenants will be at or below 60 percent Area Median Income. Lighthouse Youth Services and The Model Group are co-developers of the \$19 million project. The building was completed in December 2017.



Roselawn Senior Housing (Roselawn)

Gardner Capital is developing a four-story, mixed-use senior affordable development on a vacant 3.1-acre parcel located at 1811 Losantiville Ave. The \$12 million project will achieve LEED Silver Certification at completion. The project includes a total of 50 senior affordable apartments with a mix of one- and two-bedroom units, plus 6,800 square feet of commercial space that will complement the residential portion of the project. The development site was previously owned by the Greater Cincinnati Redevelopment Authority, which acquired the property and demolished the vacant building on site in 2013. DCED is supporting the project with a \$500,000 federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) loan, which will be used for the hard construction costs associated with the residential space.

Trinitas – Student Housing (CUF)

DCED facilitated the public approvals and CRA incentive package for a new, 350-unit multifamily development on a portion of the former Deaconess Hospital property located at 424 Straight St.

Trinitas, an Indiana-based student housing development company, will invest in the \$108 million project, including the creation of 14 full-time jobs and approximately 250 construction jobs. The project is expected to be completed in 2020.

The City granted a 15-year, 75 percent LEED Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) tax exemption. The project is expected to create 280 construction jobs and 14 full-time equivalent positions.

The company also owns the remainder of the former Deaconess Hospital property and anticipates future development at the site.

Cutter Historic Apartments (Pendleton)

Cutter Apartments is a scattered site,

affordable housing renovation in the Pendleton neighborhood. The City supported the \$6.8 million renovation with \$1.3 million of federal HOME funds. The remainder of the project costs were funded by Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, Federal Historic Tax Credits, and other private financing. In total, the project consists of 40 units spread across eight buildings on Broadway, 12th, and 13th streets.

Habitat for Humanity (East Price Hill and Hartwell)

The City of Cincinnati assisted Habitat by providing federal HOME funds towards sites in the East Price Hill and Hartwell neighborhoods for the construction of seven, new single-family units. Funding provided up to \$183,000 as a grant for construction-related expenses and up to \$14,000 (\$2,000 per unit) in homebuyer down payment assistance loans that may be forgiven over a five-year period.

Abington, Race and Pleasant Apartments (Over-The-Rhine)

Abington, Race and Pleasant Apartments is the renovation of nine historic, mixed-use buildings along Race, Pleasant and Green streets in Over-the-Rhine (OTR), located along the streetcar line, into 50 affordable apartments. Eight of the properties (comprising 30 units)





are located south of Liberty Street and will provide affordable housing in an area that has experienced an influx of market-rate housing. All the buildings, except 1530-1532 Pleasant Street, are mixed use or will be restored to their original mixed-use character (storefront commercial spaces with residential above). The total project cost is \$13.7 million, of which City investment totaled \$1.1 million as a mix of capital and federal HOME funds awarded through the NOFA process. A ribbon-cutting was held in February 2018.

Morgan Apartments (Over-The-Rhine)

Morgan Apartments is a scattered site rehabilitation project comprising 48 rental units and two commercial storefronts in five buildings in Over-the-Rhine. The project will result in three efficiency units, 12 one-bedroom units, 21 two-bedroom units, 9 three -bedroom units, 2 four-bedrooms and 1 five-bedroom unit. Upon completion, five units will be made available to individuals and families at or below 30 percent Area Median Income (AMI) with most of the units made available to individuals and families at or below 60 percent AMI. All units will have a HUD rental subsidy. The City is investing \$350,000 of federal HOME funds in the \$11.3 million project. Construction started in November 2017.

771 & 772 East McMillan Street (Walnut Hills)

South Block Properties will renovate the historic buildings located at 771 & 772 E. McMillan Street to include seven one-bedroom apartments and 2,530-square-feet of commercial space. These flagship properties are in the center of the Walnut Hills Business District and have long been vacant and blighted. All new, high-quality systems will be installed. Each unit will also feature laundry and on-site bicycle storage. The City has committed \$515,000 in NOFA funds to the \$1.6 million project. Construction kicked off in early 2017 and is expected to be complete by mid-2018.

“Visitable” Homeownership (Northside)

Northsiders Engaged in Sustainable Transformation (NEST) designed and renovated their first “kinda tiny” home on Fergus Street in Northside. The home was designed by resident architect Alice Emmons to be “visitable,” meaning the home has a no-step entrance and an accessible half-bath located on the first floor of the home. Development financing was provided through a \$65,000 NOFA award from DCED and a construction loan from North Side Bank & Trust, Co. 8K Construction Co. served as the general contractor for the project. The total project cost was \$176,000.



Madisonville New Homes (Madisonville)

The Madisonville New Homes project includes the construction of four market-rate, single-family homes in the Madisonville neighborhood. Two of the homes will be located on Ravenna Street and the remaining two homes will be located on Peabody Avenue. Each of the homes will feature three bedrooms and two baths, and will contain several sustainable features. The City is providing \$260,000 toward the construction costs of the homes, which will be priced at approximately \$159,000.



Community Development Programs

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

The Community Development Division's Notice of Funding Availability program (NOFA) is the primary procurement process for accessing

City funding for housing development projects. The City assistance provided through NOFA to projects is intended to be gap financing.

In the Community Development Division's Fall 2016 NOFA, staff recommended 16 out of a possible 20 projects. The resulting projects create 528 market-rate and affordable housing units and \$110 million of total investment into City neighborhoods.

As an indicator of our renewed commitment to creating affordable housing options, the 2016 NOFA program included 407 affordable housing units recommended out of the total 528 units. Affordable housing units are defined as being available to individuals and families earning 80 percent or less of Area Median Income. The increase in the number of affordable units was made possible by City Council with the passage of Ordinance 164-2016 which allocated \$2 million dollars to finance affordable housing developments.

The increase in funding for affordable housing will result in the creation of nearly twice the number of units approved under the 2015 NOFA Program. Additionally, the Housing Division

	Total Investment	Recommendation	# Units	Leverage	Subsidy/Unit
Homeownership	7,571,021	1,836,240	35	\$3.17	\$50,750
Infrastructure	15,081,000	270,000	32	\$54.86	\$8,438
LIHTC	76,835,709	2,550,000	416	\$21.83	\$7,074
Rental	10,457,380	1,740,250	45	\$4.02	\$32,915
NOFA 2016	109,945,111	6,396,490	528	\$16.19	\$12,115

*NOFA 2016 Affordable Units Recommended: 407 of 528 (77 percent)

**Note: These numbers are based on developer estimates gathered through the application process. Actual numbers may differ once projects are completed.

anticipates a much greater return on City dollars invested into these projects. Under the 2015 NOFA Program, the return on each City dollar was roughly \$12, while the 2016 NOFA Program yields just over \$16 of investment per City dollar.

American Dream Downpayment Initiative

The American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) is a down payment assistance program designed to assist first-time homebuyers with down payment assistance and/or closing costs up to \$5,000. Participating households must be at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income and must be willing to purchase a home in one of Cincinnati's 52 neighborhoods. Funds are awarded in the form of five-year forgivable loans with 20 percent forgiven each year of occupancy. In 2017, approximately \$62,000 was awarded to 16 households, leveraging \$1.5 million in private financing.

Housing Repair Services

Housing Repair Services provides grants for emergency and critical repairs to very low-income homeowners and renters. These are limited to two \$2,500 emergency repairs grants per household annually and one \$10,000 critical repairs grant. Mobility services are also available. People Working Cooperatively administers this program, which is awarded through an RFP process. In 2017, the program was allocated \$1.5 million in federal Community Development Block Grant funds that were used to provide critical repairs to over 1,100 units in Cincinnati.



Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly (CARE)

The Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly (CARE) program provides funding to extremely low-income, elderly homeowners to correct exterior home violations. The Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency administers this program and utilizes Blueprint for Success students for on-the-job training. In 2017, the program was allocated \$143,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds that was used to provide exterior repairs to the homes of 18 elderly people in Cincinnati.

Emergency Mortgage Assistance

The Emergency Mortgage Assistance program provides low- to moderate-income homeowners with foreclosure prevention counseling, legal assistance and up to three months of mortgage payments for qualified homeowners. The Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati is the subrecipient administering this program. In 2017, the program was allocated \$85,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

Tenant Representation

The Tenant Representation program provides legal representation for low- to moderate-income tenants, including assistance with unlawful evictions, illegal lockouts and utility shutoffs, and works to hold property owners accountable for providing safe and sanitary housing. The Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati is the subrecipient administering this program. In 2017, the program was allocated \$122,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds and provided legal support to 441 persons renting in Cincinnati.

Fair Housing Services

The local fair housing agency, Housing Opportunities Made Equal (H.O.M.E.), promotes

fair housing opportunities regardless of race, sex, color, nationality, religion, handicap, familial status, sexual orientation, marital status, or Appalachian origin. H.O.M.E. conducts complaint intakes, investigations, counseling, and files legal complaints against those suspected of discrimination in housing. In 2017, the program was allocated \$126,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds and provided fair housing services to 2,313 individuals persons experiencing housing discrimination Cincinnati.

Strategic Partnerships Advancing Redevelopment in Communities (SPARC) – Kennedy Heights

Community Development Division's neighborhood-centric program known as Strategic Partnerships Advancing Redevelopment in Communities (SPARC) provides technical assistance to neighborhood organizations, including but not limited to Community Councils, Community Development Corporations (CDCs), and Community Housing Development Organizations.

The program's primary objective is to leverage available resources and development expertise of City Staff and the CDC Association to improve the development capacity and processes of the participating neighborhoods.

In 2017, the department and the CDC Association of Greater Cincinnati collaborated to administer SPARC in the Kennedy Heights neighborhood. These efforts resulted in the staffing of volunteer needs of the Kennedy Heights Development Corp., the leasing of the Kennedy Heights Cultural Campus, and the development of preliminary planning to identify affordable housing opportunities and the integration of "Aging in Place" development practices in the community.

Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) & Place-Based Investigations of Violent Offender Territories (PIVOT)

An innovative collaboration between DCED, the Cincinnati Police Department and neighborhood stakeholders resulted in dramatic improvements in East Westwood and Westwood. The partnership led to a sharp reduction in shootings, creation of community gardens, installation of two playgrounds, and a new permanent walking trail.

The Cincinnati Police Department launched a new effort in 2016 to reduce violence called Place-Based Investigations of Violent Offender Territories (PIVOT). This effort concentrated resources from multiple City departments and community stakeholders to address violence in specific locations.

In 2017, the City of Cincinnati's Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP), a 90-day effort to improve the quality of life in a targeted area, collaborated with PIVOT to help East Westwood and Westwood.

The PIVOT/NEP initiatives led by City departments helped empower these neighborhoods to reduce crime, increase public engagement, address fresh food deficits, and create an environment where children can grow, learn, and play safely. The collaboration is the subject of a documentary produced by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Alphonzo Wesson titled, "The PivotPoint."

Blueprint for Success

The Blueprint for Success program assists ex-offenders and at-risk young adults, ages 16-30, in obtaining marketable construction skills by following a curriculum developed by the National Center for Construction Education and Research. The Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency is the subrecipient administering this program. In 2017, the program was allocated \$78,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds and provided training to 11 persons enrolled in the program, with nine completing the course work.



Hand Up Initiative

The Community Development Division administers the Hand Up Initiative, a program launched in 2015 by Mayor John Cranley. Hand Up is a comprehensive training program that strives to alleviate the burden of joblessness and poverty affecting many Cincinnatians.

Through Hand Up, people who are out of work can be trained, attain employment, and move their families toward self-sufficiency. The program is designed to improve the economic outlook of the region and lead to better outcomes for families affected by poverty and joblessness.

The program is a partnership between the City, the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency, Cincinnati Works, Freestore Foodbank, IKRON Corp., Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, Eater Seals Tri-State, and the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio.

In 2017, more than 350 participants successfully graduated from the Hand Up Initiative. Of those graduates, more than 50 percent were placed into jobs. The program combines job readiness and training programs to help people attain long-term employment with a livable wage . Among the skills and certifications available through Hand Up are commercial driver's licenses, food handling, administrative support, construction, and home care aide training.

A detailed breakdown of 2017 program statistics can be found in the table below.

FY17 Hand Up Initiative	
Total Enrollment	435
Program Completions	358
Employments	183

Emergency Solutions Grant

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) is administered by Strategies to End Homelessness to provide operating support to homeless shelters and help prevent homelessness. The ESG program engage homeless individuals and families on the streets, assists with shelter operations, re-houses homeless individuals and families, and prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless. In 2017, the program expended \$968,189 in federal ESG funds and assisted approximately 8,000 households, both with shelter and with Rapid Re-housing activities.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) is administered by Strategies to End Homelessness to provide supportive services for persons with HIV/AIDS. HOPWA serves the Greater Cincinnati Metropolitan Statistical Area. The HOPWA program provides housing assistance and supportive services including case management, meals and nutrition, behavioral health, transportation, employment services, and benefits assistance. HOPWA also provides housing assistance that includes tenant-based rental assistance, transitional/ short-term housing facilities, permanent housing facilities, and short-term rental, mortgage, and utility assistance. In 2017, the program was allocated \$791,673 in federal HOPWA funds and provided services to more than 300 individuals affected with AIDS/HIV virus.



The background is a solid orange color with a repeating pattern of white line-art icons. These icons represent various business and administrative concepts, including cityscapes, people, cars, laptops, shopping carts, trophies, and office equipment. The icons are scattered across the entire page, creating a textured, thematic background.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & FISCAL OPERATIONS

MISSION: Ensure that the needs of internal customers, external city departments and constituents are addressed in a professional and timely manner.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & FISCAL OPERATIONS

The Business Administration and Fiscal Operations Division has two primary focuses:

- 1) To manage the department's overall budgets and fiscal operations; and
- 2) Respond to the human resources needs of senior management and employees, while ensuring that daily operations support the vision and goals of the department.

BUDGETS AND PROGRAMS

Operating Budget

The department's All Funds Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY 2017), which runs from July 2017 through June 2018, was approximately \$9.1 million. The department's operating budget is primarily funded by the City's General Fund with some resources from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In FY 2017–2018, the department's operating budget totaled \$8.7 million. These funds were used for staff and activities throughout DCED including Economic Development, Major Projects, Housing Development, Monitoring & Compliance, and Fiscal Operations.



In addition to the DCED All Funds Operating Budget, the department's Parking Facilities Division has an enterprise fund budget. In FY 2017–2018, the Parking Facilities Division's Operating Budget totaled \$11.7 million. As an enterprise fund, its financials are reported separately from the rest of the department because fees are generated from the on-street and City-owned off-street parking assets.

Capital Budget

Additionally, the department's FY 2017–2018 Capital Funds Budget totaled \$5.9 million to support 14 projects that led to new housing development and neighborhood improvements.

Federal Funding

The City of Cincinnati also receives four federal entitlement grant programs: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME): Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG): and Housing Opportunities for Persons With HIV/AIDS (HOPWA).

The department received \$1.4 million in CDBG administrative funds, and \$232,379 in HOME administrative funds.

In CDBG programming funds, the department received \$5.3 million in 2017. The funds were used to facilitate 19 different programs administered by DCED and agency service providers throughout the department's various divisions. In HOME programming funds, the department received \$2 million, administered entirely by the Housing Division to facilitate six programs specifically for affordable housing.

ESG and HOPWA funds are administered by the nonprofit agency, Strategies to End Homelessness. In 2017, the City received \$968,189 in ESG funds and \$791,673 in HOPWA funds.

CDBG Funds Allocation

Division	Allocation	Programs Supported	Accomplishment
Monitoring and Compliance	2.2%	• Mill Creek Restoration	• 1 Non-Profit Assisted
		• Findlay Market Operating Support	• 1 Non-Profit Assisted
		• Vacant Lot Reutilization	• 5 Community Gardens Established
Housing and Community Development Division	50.6%	• Hand Up Initiative	• 324 Individuals Trained
		• Core Four Strategic Housing Program	• 528 Units Awarded Funds
		• Compliance Assistance Repairs for the Elderly (CARE)	• 18 Units (CARE)
		• Blueprint for Success	• 9 Individuals Currently Receiving Training
		• Emergency Mortgage Assistance	• 66 Households Received Counseling Services; 25 Received Financial Assistance
		• Fair Housing	• 2,313 Individuals
		• Housing Repair Services	• 1,176 Units
		• Operating Support for Community Development Corporations	• 13 Community Development Corporations
		• Tenant Representation	• 441 Individuals
		• Urban Homesteading	
Economic Development	14%	• Small Business Services	• 71 businesses received training assistance, 5 businesses received loans
		• Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program (NDBIP)	• 57 Businesses Assisted
		• Commercial and Industrial Redevelopment	• 1 Acre Redeveloped

HOME Funds Allocation

Division	Allocation	Programs Supported	Accomplishment
Housing Development	100%	• Affordable Multi-Family Rental	• 457 Total Units Assisted in Progress During 2017
		• Core Four Strategic Housing Program	
		• Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Development Projects	
		• Single Family Homeownership	• 5 Homes
		• Down Payment Assistance	• 16 Homes Receiving Assistance
		• Operating Support for CHDOs	• 4 CHDOs



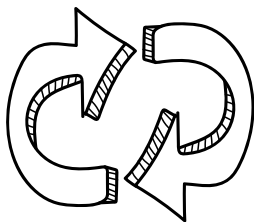
MONITORING & COMPLIANCE

MISSION: Ensure comprehensive oversight of the entire life cycle of a project, from execution of the development agreement to final repayment of any City assistance.

MONITORING & COMPLIANCE

The Monitoring and Compliance Division serves the department, City staff and the Cincinnati community by tracking and recording results of community and economic development programs. This also includes holding City departments and program recipients accountable for proper administration and performance outcomes of these programs, including compliance with relevant local, state and federal regulations.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Community Reinvestment Area renewal

The Monitoring and Compliance Division oversaw the department's role in the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Tax Abatement renewal process. This included active community engagement through surveys and presentations.

The CRA program is a tax incentive program that allows applicants to apply for property tax abatements on the value of improvements. The maximum is 75 percent for up to 15 years for commercial projects, and 10 years with up

to \$275,000 on improvements for residential projects (three or fewer dwelling units with higher values and longer terms for projects receiving LEED, HERS qualified, certified for visitable, or LBC qualified).

Some of the updates to the program that occurred in 2017 include the length of abatements for both commercial and residential remodeling projects. These projects are now eligible for abatements up to 15 years. Previously, they were only eligible for 12-year abatements for commercial and 10 years for residential.

For commercial projects outside of Downtown and Over-the-Rhine, a points analysis will be completed by staff and forwarded to Council. The points will help guide the level of incentive offered to the developer. If the project is either a catalytic project or in a neighborhood that has been targeted specifically for development, no points analysis would need to be completed. The department is still analyzing data to best determine what qualifies as a target neighborhood.

Within the scoring criteria, developers will now also be able to enter into a neighborhood Voluntary Tax Incentive Contribution Agreement (VTICA). This neighborhood VTICA is separate from the VTICA program in downtown and Over-the-Rhine, which collects funds for streetcar operations. This new VTICA program sees half of the proceeds from an

agreement go toward affordable housing projects citywide, and the other half toward permanent improvements and neighborhood services located within the project area.



Vacant Lot Program

The CDBG-funded Vacant Lot Reutilization Program was created to address the vacant lots left after demolition occurs, and improve their

appearance with an urban garden or pocket park. DCED's Monitoring and Compliance Division manages this program.

The department partnered with the Office of Environment and Sustainability to combine \$30,145 in CDBG funds with \$28,187 in General Funds for Urban Agriculture to expand the program.

Some of the sites where improvements were made in 2017 are Beech Avenue in Price Hill, May Street in Walnut Hills, Ward Street in Madisonville, and the East Price Hill Community Garden at the CRC Recreation Center.





PARKING FACILITIES

MISSION: Promote a healthy downtown and local economy by providing professional facility management of the City's parking assets, as well as high-quality service delivery to parking customers.

PARKING FACILITIES

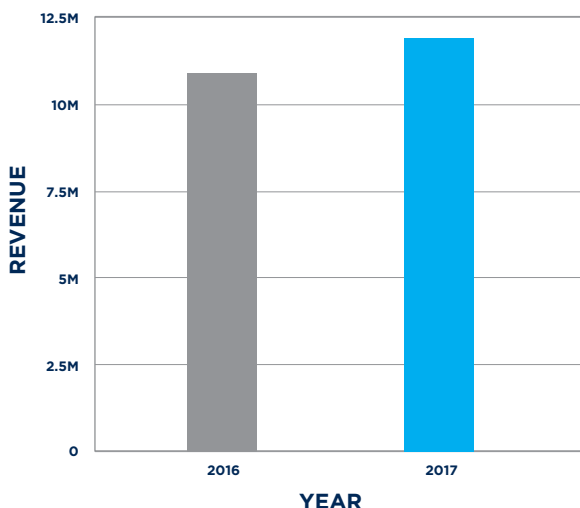
DCED is unique from other Community and Economic Development departments around the nation due to the inclusion of the Parking Facilities Division. Parking is an essential part of development activities and having the Parking Division within the department allows it to more efficiently coordinate the parking needs of development projects.

Unlike the rest of the department, the Parking Division operates as an enterprise fund. It provides funding for the City's on-street parking, off-street parking, and parking business services programs including:

- Parking meter collections
- Parking meter maintenance and repairs
- Parking enforcement
- 15 parking garages and lots

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Meter and Citation Revenue



Dynamic Pricing Enhancements (on-street)

As a part of the FY 2018–2019 budget, meter rates were adjusted for much of the parking system. Four of the five CBD/OTR rate zones were adjusted, as well as 16 neighborhood business districts. The adjustments were made to bring the City of Cincinnati's rates closer to the current market rates of our peer cities and to ensure revenues are sufficient for strong operational and capital improvements into the future.



Cincy EZ Park adoption

Cincy EZPark (pay-by-phone) adoption rate exceeded industry trends, and now accounts for nearly 30 percent of total revenue. There was a 65 percent increase in Cincy EZPark transactions between January and December 2017. This is a strong signal that motorists were seeking a method to increase their convenience and access to the system.

In addition, the City of Covington and multiple private lots and garages in the Greater Cincinnati area are now using Cincy EZPark to increase customer convenience in their facilities. The increased use of Cincy EZPark pay-by-phone technology also reduces wear and tear

on physical meter equipment, decreasing maintenance costs and increasing meter uptime.



Meter uptime and repair turnaround

Cincinnati meter inspectors are tasked with repairing all parking meters within the city. These inspectors were issued tablet computers in February of 2017 to provide them with real-time access to meter outage and repair information. When the tablets were issued, meter uptime was a healthy 98.8%, but further increased to an average of 99.42% by the end of 2017. The larger impact was seen in repair turnaround time (the time it takes for an outage to be repaired). Prior to the implementation of tablets, the average was just more than three days. By the end of 2017, this average had decreased to just more than one day, with almost 94% of repairs being completed within two days in the final six months of 2017.

Additional capacity (added on-street spaces)

Parking Facilities constantly monitors and make necessary changes to the on-street inventory of parking meters. Useful feedback from citizens, business owners, and other partners is a key factor in determining the needs of the parking public.



In the past year, seven new multi-space machines were installed. Three are located at the 3000 block of Clifton Avenue, resulting in the creation of 30 spaces. The other four are located at the 2600 and 2700 blocks of Jefferson Avenue, creating 32 paid spaces.

Working with the Community and Business councils of Walnut Hills and College Hill, both neighborhoods are now upgrading to smart meters to coincide with development and growth. Forty meters along Woodburn Avenue and Madison Road at DeSale's Corner in Walnut Hills have been upgraded to new IPS meters. We are currently 25 percent complete with College Hill's upgrade along Hamilton Avenue.

The demand shows Neighborhood Business Districts view smart meters as assets to help businesses attract customers. This trend shows the efficacy of having parking connected with economic development.

American with Disabilities Act compliance

We currently have lowered or replaced approximately 1,300 poles to date, in conjunction with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The primary focus has been in the Central Business District and Over-the-Rhine areas. After we are finished in these two zones,

we will begin in the other neighborhoods. We expect this project to be completed by end of FY 2018-19.

Transportation Services Provider RFP

In addition to the department's "Block Party" RFP release, staff worked with the Office of Performance and Data Analytics (OPDA) to develop an RFP designed to bring Cincinnati another step closer to being a smart city by facilitating seamless mobility and personalized transit optimization in Cincinnati region.

The RFP seeks to promote innovation and provide an optimized personal mobility experience for users. This solution can also serve as a data gathering tool to better understand the travel patterns and tendencies of residents and visitors alike to inform decision making.

Staff from OPDA and DCED announced the RFP at the Regional Smart Cities Initiative's Midwest IoT Showcase and Smart Regions Conference held at BB&T Arena on the campus of Northern Kentucky University in October.

Specifically, the RFP asks developers to combine transportation data from various providers such as the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA), the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky (TANK), Red Bike, the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), and others, into a web-based tool that allows users to personalize their trip planning and transit choices. This personalization is based on user preferences including, but not limited to:

- Cost
- Public Transit
- Number of stops
- Environmental concerns
- Healthy lifestyles
- Accessibility







LOOKING AHEAD

Despite its many achievements during the past year, DCED is excited about the various residential and commercial projects planned for or underway in 2018. With major projects continuing in the urban core and many neighborhoods, Cincinnati's development efforts have sparked momentum that is envied by its peer cities.

The projects include the conversion of the old Crosley Radio building in Camp Washington into 222 market-rate apartments; the Cincinnati Scholar House, a 45-apartment complex in Walnut Hills for single parents pursuing a college degree and their children; and further development at The Banks district along Cincinnati's central riverfront, among others.

Additionally, DCED staff is currently developing a Workforce Action Plan. This plan, much like the Small Business Strategy and FDI Strategy, will combine regional resources into one comprehensive report and directory aimed at developing the workforce to meet the evolving needs of local businesses. This report is expected to be completed and released by mid-2019.

DCED's committed staff pledges to use all of the tools and resources at our disposal to ensure Cincinnati continues rising well into the future.



CITY OF CINCINNATI DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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