

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## **‘Designing Our Future’ Neighborhood Summit** **February 26 – 27, 2010** *2 Days, 7 Sessions, 1 Clear Vision*

The City of Cincinnati is inviting residents to help shape the City's future by attending the 2010 Neighborhood Summit on February 26 – 27 in the Cintas Center at Xavier University. Be among the residents from 52 communities throughout Greater Cincinnati who will come together to discuss and help create **PLAN CINCINNATI**, our City's first comprehensive plan in nearly 30 years.

“**PLAN CINCINNATI**” will become the roadmap for Cincinnati's future. It will inform current and future decision makers about where we are, where we want to go, how we will get there and who will help us along the way,” says Charles Graves, Director of City Planning & Buildings. This is a unique opportunity for City residents to be an integral part of the process in creating our future. We are opening up the planning process to as many people as possible.”

This once-in-a-generation opportunity is open to every Cincinnati resident who wants to participate in the weekend activities which include:

### ***Pre-Summit Dinner***

On Friday, February 26 the Neighborhood Summit will kickoff with a Pre-Summit Dinner in the Schiff Banquet & Conference Center in the Xavier University Cintas Center from 6 until 8 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person. Attorney Anthony Williams, the former Mayor of Washington, DC and Ellen M. McCarthy, Director of Planning and Land Use for Arent Fox in Washington, DC will lead a discussion on the importance of engaging residents in preparing a Comprehensive Plan, directing the growth of their city, as well as strategically positioning a metropolitan area to accommodate future development and changes in population.

### ***2010 Neighborhood Summit***

The Neighborhood Summit will take place Saturday, February 27th at the Xavier University Cintas Center from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Light lunch will be provided for all registered participants. Cincinnati Mayor **Mark Mallory** and Vice Mayor **Roxanne Qualls** will open the Summit at 8 a.m. The morning Keynote Speaker is Scott Bernstein, President and Founder of the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) which develops resources to promote healthy, sustainable communities. Mr. Bernstein will share pioneering approaches to urban problems that use resources more efficiently, reduce costs for households and communities and improve the environment.

## ***Neighborhood Summit Activities***

The Neighborhood Summit will bring together a diverse group of people who live in different communities to discuss what needs to be done in seven strategic areas:

- Arts and Culture
- Economic Development and Business Retention
- Health, Environment and Green Spaces
- Historic Conservation
- Housing and Neighborhood Development
- Transportation and Transit
- Urban Design

"Cincinnati residents are encouraged to attend the two thought-provoking days of action to create a template for change for Cincinnati," adds Graves. "Citizen participation in this weekend will directly impact Cincinnati's future by influencing how our City grows and changes. Don't be left out of the conversation."

Small group discussions will provide direction and establish recommended goals for inclusion in the Plan. Hand-held voting devices allow participants to vote on questions posed throughout the day and immediately see the results.

To register for the Neighborhood Summit, visit <http://www.xavier.edu/communitybuilding/>. For more information about "**Plan Cincinnati**", visit [www.plancincinnati.org](http://www.plancincinnati.org) or call 513-352-4845.

Attachment/Neighborhood Summit Flyer

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*The 2010 Neighborhood Summit is sponsored by PNC Bank, the Community Building Institute, a partnership between Xavier University and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati and the City of Cincinnati.*