

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Charles C. Graves III, Director, Department of City Planning and Buildings
513-352-4888 or Charles.Graves@cincinnati-oh.gov or Laura Carr, 513-608-0730

2011 Neighborhood Summit gives Cincinnati residents a voice in the City's future

Cincinnati, OH – The City of Cincinnati Department of City Planning and Buildings, Invest in Neighborhoods and the Community Building Institute at Xavier University present the Ninth Annual Neighborhood Summit on Saturday, April 2 from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the Cintas Center on the Xavier University campus. The Summit is a singular opportunity for grassroots volunteers to participate in the direction of the City's emerging comprehensive plan. Attendees will interact with City officials and learn from their peers how to effectively make improvements in their own neighborhoods.

The Summit marries interactive discussions about the City's emerging comprehensive plan with sessions designed to help community organizations be more effective by learning from other neighborhoods. The sessions are organized into three general categories: policy, character and making impact. Workshops focused on these themes will be offered in three sessions throughout the day.

The Policy Workshop allows participants to review and recommend policies that will guide the programs, investments and decisions to ensure the City and its neighborhoods remain a vibrant, innovative urban community.

The Character Workshop is a hands-on workshop that centers on where and how the City should develop in the future. Thriving neighborhoods are an important consideration in this discussion. Maintaining a sense of community by focusing on what makes each neighborhood, and our City unique, moves beyond words to developing practical applications.

The Making Impact Workshop features the successes of several of the City's neighborhoods in engaging residents to meet the challenges of keeping neighborhoods vibrant as resources for community organizations diminish.

"We have planned an exciting day that will provide an opportunity for everyone to be actively involved in improving their City," says Charles C. Graves III, Director of the Department of City Planning and Buildings. "We have a powerful brain trust of residents who remain engaged in improving Cincinnati and its neighborhoods and we want to incorporate the best ideas from a wide spectrum of our citizenry in future planning," he adds. "We are fortunate to have so many residents who are interested in the Summit. Last year, we had a standing room only crowd of over 600 people."

The Neighborhood Summit kicks off Friday, April 1 beginning at 6 p.m. with a dinner and presentation sponsored by the Community Building Institute at Xavier University. The dinner features Shelley R. Poticha, the Director of the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ms. Poticha has helped stimulate a national conversation about the role of transportation in shaping communities and making them more sustainable and affordable. The cost for dinner is \$25 per person. Online registration is available through March 25 at www.xavier.edu/cbi.

For a detailed listing of Neighborhood Summit workshops, a schedule of events and dinner and lunch options or to register for the Neighborhood Summit online go to <http://www.invetinneighborhoods.com/register.html> no later than March 25. Updates about PLAN Cincinnati and the Neighborhood Summit can also be found on the Plan Cincinnati website, www.plancincinnati.org

The City of Cincinnati Department of City Planning and Buildings is responsible for the regulation of land use changes in the City of Cincinnati by balancing the needs of the development community with those of residents in neighborhoods.

PLAN CINCINNATI is a comprehensive planning process involving a cross-section of Cincinnati community residents and leaders that will result in a long-range plan to guide and manage growth, protect the environment and influence future development in the City.

Invest in Neighborhoods Inc. is a nonprofit organization created to promote and assist the 51 community councils representing Cincinnati neighborhoods with financial resources to promote self-sufficiency and the leadership skills of the councils and their residents.

The Community Building Institute engages, empowers and energizes community residents, organizations and institutions to mobilize their collective talents and resources to improve their communities based on a widely shared vision.

###