

Dear members of the Uptown community,

*The completion of **The Strategic Opportunity Plan: Uptown Cincinnati** marks a significant milestone in a remarkable journey for the Uptown Consortium. Recognizing the need to catalyze positive growth and change in the community, a group of institutional and civic leaders initiated an unprecedented collaboration to transform Uptown. In February 2003, the chief executives of Cincinnati's five major Uptown institutions: the University of Cincinnati, Health Alliance, Tri Health Inc., Children's Hospital and The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden commenced a dialogue to define a coordinated development agenda for Uptown's community.*

From February through July of 2003, the group sponsored an extensive stakeholder outreach process which resulted in the identification of a series of important community development issues: improved housing and education quality, economic inclusion, enhanced retail and commercial activity and increased public safety. In October 2003, the Uptown Consortium, Inc. was created as an independent, nonprofit organization to implement the planning and development recommendations of this landmark effort.

As the work gathered momentum, our planning efforts were being heard throughout Cincinnati. During October-November, the Steering Committee convened a series of presentations and workshops with community and civic groups. The community identified opportunities to make key investments that would result in dramatic improvements in Uptown. To formalize the work and to provide implementation support, the CEO's formally established the Uptown Consortium in October 2003. In November 2003, the five CEO's of the institutions met with Mayor Charlie Luken to present their coordinated goals for Uptown's development and revitalization and signaled to the City the importance of taking these steps. This meeting was the first time the leaders of Uptown's major employers had met with the Mayor, speaking with a unified voice. Mayor Luken offered his support to the group's ongoing efforts.

*Scores of committed and energetic individuals have contributed to this remarkable process through public meeting, roundtable discussions and one-on-one interviews, and **The Strategic Opportunity Plan** represents the collective goals and aspirations of a community that is passionate about Uptown. The Plan recognizes Uptown as a unique asset in the Greater Cincinnati region and draws upon its strengths, to make Uptown a great place to live, work and play.*

This plan expresses the vision for the future of Uptown and will be followed by a detailed implementation plan. In partnership with the community, we and our colleagues have come a long way in just two short years and look forward to continuing this journey to realize a better Uptown.

*Tony T. Brown
President & CEO, Uptown Consortium*

*Nancy L. Zimpher
Chair, Uptown Consortium
President, The University of Cincinnati*

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Gregg Hudson, President & CEO,
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Community/Neighborhood Organizations:

Burnet Area Business Association
Clifton Heights Business Association
Clifton Heights-University Heights-Fairview Neighborhood
Association
University Village Association
Avondale Community Council
Clifton Community Council
Corryville Community Council
Mt. Auburn Community Council
The Heights Community Council
University Heights Community Urban Redevelopment
Corporation
Uptown Crossings Community Urban Redevelopment
Corporation

Participating Organizations:

African-American Chamber of Commerce
Avondale Redevelopment Foundation
Avondale Town Center Mall
Belvedere Corporation
BioStart
Clifton Economic Review Committee
Clifton Heights Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation
Community Action Agency
Corryville Economic Development Corporation
Local Initiatives Support Corporation: Greater
Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky
Home Ownership Association of Greater Cincinnati, Inc.
Ronald McDonald House
Urban League of Greater Hamilton Country
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
Xavier University

Strategic Partners:

Cincinnati Development Fund
Downtown Cincinnati Inc.
Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC)

Elected Officials:

The Honorable Charlie Luken, Mayor of Cincinnati
Valerie Lemmie, City Manager
The Honorable David Pepper, City Councilman

Public Agencies:

METRO
Empowerment Zone
Planning Commission
Cincinnati Public Schools
Cincinnati Recreation Commission
Cincinnati Park Board
CPOP
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Veteran's Affairs Medical Center
State of Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio Kentucky Initiative

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