

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Art projects help youth plan Cincinnati's future

PLAN Cincinnati is a road map for Cincinnati's future. The outcomes from an ongoing series of community meetings and working groups will inform current and future decision makers in the City of Cincinnati about who we are, where we want to go, how we will get there and what resources are needed.

The City of Cincinnati's Department of Planning and Buildings is expanding the original initiative and reaching out to Cincinnati Public School students to incorporate their ideas into the comprehensive plan that will guide Cincinnati's future in 12 key areas: Arts & Culture, Economic Development and Business Retention, Fiscal Impact, Health, Environment and Open Space, Historic Conservation, Housing and Neighborhood Development, Institutions, Intergovernmental Cooperation, Land Use, Transportation and Transit, Urban Design and Utilities and Infrastructure.

"The popularity of the "Planting the Future" art projects conducted at community and recreation centers throughout the summer are now expanded and designed to complement key learning modules in Cincinnati Public Schools," says Chief Planner Margaret Wuerstle, City of Cincinnati. "Students at all grade levels will have an opportunity to take an artistic approach in expressing their ideas on how to make Cincinnati a great city."

PLAN Cincinnati's youth project started on October 14 and concludes on November 12, 2010. "We believe when the youth in a city are active, engaged and visionary, the future of any city is safe," Wuerstle adds. "Our goal is to make sure often overlooked 'voices' have a say in shaping the future of Cincinnati."

Students participating in PLAN Cincinnati will have four venues for expression to address the theme "How do we make Cincinnati a great City?" Interested students can:

- Write a letter to Mayor Mallory
- Prepare a multimedia presentation
- Create a visual art project
- Have their school art class paint their vision for Cincinnati on clay flower pots

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in three grade categories: Kindergarten through fifth grade, sixth through eighth grade and ninth through 12th grade. Winners in each category will be featured in a PLAN Cincinnati video and posted on City websites. Finalists in each category will also receive lunch with Mayor Mark Mallory, a tour of City Hall and gift cards.

"As we continue to reach out across a broad spectrum of Cincinnatians -- from our youngest citizens to our most senior -- we gain insights for the comprehensive plan that will energize the growth and development of our City," says City Director of Planning and Buildings Charles Graves. "Our youth are the generation that will help implement the plan we are creating."

Planting the Future is a collaborative effort between the City of Cincinnati's Department of City Planning and Buildings, Cincinnati Public Schools, Mayor Mallory's Kitchen Cabinet and the Cincinnati Recreation Commission.

For more information about PLAN Cincinnati and a complete description of the youth art project participation guidelines, visit the website at www.plancincinnati.org or call 352-4849.

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