

West End Speaks Update **Community, Health, and Safety Feedback**

This document includes the existing goals, action steps, and partners in this theme area from the WE Speaks Plan (2016). Feedback from the July 27, 2021 kick-off event, online survey, and hard-copy surveys are included in italics.

If idea has * next to it, the idea originated as an idea to support Senior Services & Living.

Goal #6: The West End has a communication system in place to reach all residents in the neighborhood.

This includes finding ways for residents and visitors to the neighborhood to take care of their trash and not litter, and also to bring the community together for cleanups and to take care of the neighborhood.

Action Steps:

1. Form a Communications Team
 - Develop a consistent message to unify all forms of communication
 - Build a resident contact list
 - Start to communicate using a variety of media formats, both online and offline
 - Create a regular newsletter for residents
2. Build relationships with other West End organizations and groups
 - Create an organization contact list, including churches, non-profits, large employers, councils and resident associations
3. Connect with other W.E. Speak Work Teams
 - Find ways that the Community team can help other teams achieve their goals, and how other teams can help the Community team reach its goals

Time frame: Short-term, accomplished within 1-3 years

Relevancy:

- *Still relevant as written – 3*
- *Needs additional discussion – 3*
- *No longer relevant – 2*

Comments:

- *Need to improve how people get messages about upcoming meetings and functions*
- *The West End needs to do a better job of bringing it community together vs using slang like "gentrification" to tell other neighborhood what is happening to the community.*

Goal #7: There are community-led, regular, sustainable events that bring the entire neighborhood together.

Action Steps:

1. Organize a volunteer corps
 - Build a core leadership team to plan and coordinate

2. Survey residents on what events they are interested in
 - Distribute survey online and offline, incorporated with newsletter ▪ Get feedback on what interests residents
3. Host events that bring the community together
 - Consider friendly competition (such as basketball), interactivity, a carnival/festival or block party, a jazz/blues concert, movie night, poetry night
 - Use event to reach people, build relationships, and build a neighborhood contact list
 - Incentivize attendance by giving out tokens at other groups or for volunteering, redeemable at future event

Time frame: Short-term, accomplished within 1-3 years

Relevancy:

- *Still relevant as written – 3*
- *Needs additional discussion – 4*
- *No longer relevant – 1*

Comments:

- *Yes, but we are still misinformed. The West End doesn't get messages out in time for people to attend.*
- *More events for community bake sales, sports, and dances.*
- *More entertainment/events for seniors**
- *More senior activities during daytime hours**
- *Volunteer opportunities**

Goal #8: There are a variety of arts, culture, and agriculture activities and groups in the West End for everyone.

This means that everyone, from children to seniors, has opportunities to gather together in existing or new places in the West End to learn and grow.

Action Steps:

1. Determine what people in the neighborhood are passionate about
2. Connect people to art, music, drama, urban gardening, and cultural exploration
 - Invite in professional performers, troupes, and clubs
 - Organize field trips for youth
 - Use regular event series to grow different interests (e.g. athletics, music, drama, agriculture)
3. Encourage activities and interests that lead to mentor relationships and learning opportunities (e.g. etiquette and life skills)

Time frame: Mid-term, accomplished within 3-5 years

Relevancy:

- *Still relevant as written – 5*
- *Needs additional discussion – 2*
- *No longer relevant – 1*

Comments:

- *The West End Art Gallery is located in this space (Baymiller and Livingston)*

Goal #15: The West End is one of the safest communities in Cincinnati.

This can be accomplished through a significant reduction in drug use and violent crime, securing vacant buildings, increasing youth involved in organized activities after school, and improving police/ community relationships.

Safety is about people feeling safe. Perception of safety, regardless of reality, can often impact how safe a person feels and also how they interact within their community. People feel safer when they are connected with their community, when they have confidence in laws and policing, and when they are well informed, engaged in making their own choices, and confident in their own abilities and actions and being empowered.

Community safety influences all aspects of daily life: where we live, recreate, socialize, learn, work, and participate. "It provides a foundation for our long term choices and decision-making processes at the individual, family, community and societal levels." (Dr Carolyn Whitzman, 2006, University of Melbourne)

We believe these safety recommendations provide an opportunity to coordinate community safety and crime prevention initiatives, identifying, prioritizing and addressing issues locally. The overall objective of these recommendations is "To have a connected, safe and empowered community, where people feel safe and are informed to make choices for their own safety and the safety of others." Key priority areas would be identified and developed through research, community and local consultation, consistent with

Action Steps:

1. Create a West End Community Mediation Program/ Process: a peer to peer mediation program that will serve adults, teens, and families
 - We will utilize the models and expertise provided by CBI and other successful models.
2. Improve police and community relations through intentional interactions
 - Through talks, safety sector meetings, interactive recreation, hiring hearings for community officers, etc.
3. Place cameras strategically throughout our community to improve safety through monitoring
 - Partner with Police Department, organizations, and property owners to install cameras throughout the West End

Time frame: Long-term, accomplished within 5-0 years

Relevancy:

- *Still relevant as written – 3*
- *Needs additional discussion – 5*
- *No longer relevant – 2*

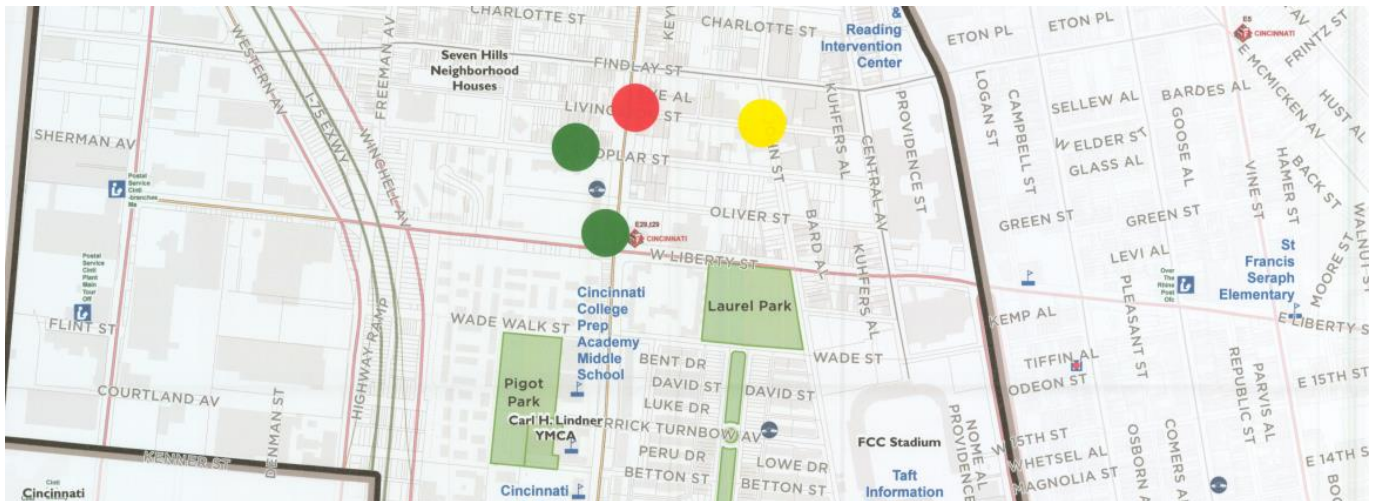
Comments:

- *Safety issues are still a concern*
- *Creative solutions to reduce speeding cars (racers and bikers) through residential streets*
- *Safety patrol known hot spots*
- *Keep our streets safe for outdoor activity.*
- *Seniors are afraid to walk*
- *Youth violence targeting seniors*
- *More lighting**
- *Safer neighborhood**
- *The above idea is crazy. There are at least 2 shootings a week, open air drug markets, prostitution, breaking and enterings, and murders. There is little done to put an end to it, and the city turns a blind eye to these crime as because it has become the dumping ground of the city like Skid Row in Los Angeles.*
- *The community consistently and diligently work towards assisting in MAKING the WE one of the safest neighborhoods in Cincinnati*
- *The goal is too broad and it will never happen. Let's address what we can - safer driving, better lighting, addressing abandoned properties, collecting stray animals, extend crosswalk lights, make stripes in streets reflective, etc.*
- *West End residents and business owners need an action plan to achieve this goal and deepen their engagement. Residents and business owners should increase their safety sector meeting participation.*

Additional Goals/Action Steps/Ideas

- *Senior walking or support groups (Create a new goal to address health?)*
- *WinMed should stay open 1 day a week so people that work can see doctor after hours. (Create new goal to address health?)*
- *More health professionals in the area**
- *More communication with the police (Related to Safety Goal)*
- *More lighting and cameras (Related to Safety Goal)*
- *Yes. Please acknowledge the history beyond the Kenyon-Barr era. We have Cincinnati's first historic district, it's not celebrated and they barely touch on our Jewish heritage (Related to Community)*
- *Creating a central area for people who want to sit out can without problems*
- *Community members put the following on the Community, Health, and Safety map:*
 - *1 red dot at Livingston and Linn (area that needs help)*

- 1 yellow dot at Livingston and John (area for opportunity)
- 1 green dot on Poplar Street at Stanley Rowe Towers (area most proud of)
- 1 green dot at northwest corner of Linn and Liberty near Stanley Rowe Towers (area most proud of)



Partners

- | | | |
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| • Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses | • Lincoln Recreation Center | • Nouveau Chamber Players |
| • Neighborhood youth | • Avondale Youth Council | • concert:nova |
| • Neighborhood churches | • Food Truck Association | • Cincinnati Contemporary Jazz Orchestra |
| • Local schools | • St. Vincent de Paul | • Cincy Brass |
| • West End Community Council | • Public Allies | • Ohio Valley Jazz Band |
| • Local businesses | • Museum Center | • School for Creative and Performing Arts Cincinnati |
| • OneTouchPoint | • Boys and Girls Club | • Symphony Orchestra |
| • Robin Imaging | • Cincinnati Police and Fire Departments | • Art Academy of Cincinnati |
| • West End Faith Alliance | • Cincinnati Human Relations Commission | • Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) |
| • The WIZ | • Tailored Made | • The Community Builders (TCB) |
| • U.S. Post Office | • Urban League | • TWG (The Whitsett Group) |
| • Nehemiah Manufacturing Company | • Cute Kids | • Brickstone Properties |
| • Kaiser Foods | • Bi-Okoto Dance Co. | • Property owners |
| • Wegman Company | • Elementz | |
| • Cincinnati Public Radio and Television | • Cincinnati Ballet | |
| • Carl H. Lindner YMCA | • Cincinnati Opera | |
| | • Exhale Dance Tribe | |

- Community Building Institute
- Sister Link Women's Group
- Neighborhood Churches
- *Need to update this partner list*