



City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Agenda - Final-revised Healthy Neighborhoods

*Chairperson, Jan-Michele Kearney
Vice Chairperson, Victoria Parks
Councilmember Anna Albi
Councilmember Scotty Johnson*

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

12:30 PM

Council Chambers, Room 300

REVISED

PRESENTATIONS

JUST CHOICE

Laura Sullivan - Chief Programs Director

ACCESS TO CAPITAL BOOT CAMP FOR WOMEN OF COLOR

Laura Castillo - Director of Economic Inclusion; Charlotte Harris - VP Business Development and Entrepreneurship; Vanessa Sanchez - Program Manger

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Katherine Keough-Jurs - Director of Planning and Engagement; Jeremiyah Hairston - Community Engagement Specialist; Eunique Avery - Community Engagement Specialist

AGENDA

- [202402491](#) **PRESENTATION** submitted by Vice Mayor Kearney, regarding - Just Choice programs & information. Presenting from - Just Choice; Chief programs Officer, Laura Sullivan.
Sponsors: Kearney
Attachments: [Presentation](#)
- [202402520](#) **PRESENTATION** submitted by Vice Mayor Kearney, regarding - Access to Capital Boot Camp for Women of Color; from Urban League and Me; Laura Castillo - Director of Economic Inclusion, Charlotte Harris - VP Business Development and Entrepreneurship, Vanessa Sanchez - Program Manager.
Sponsors: Kearney
Attachments: [Intro slides](#)
[Presentation](#)
[Flyer](#)

3. [202402514](#) **PRESENTATION** submitted by Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager, dated 12/10/2024, regarding the City of Cincinnati community engagement policy update.

Sponsors: City Manager

Attachments: [Transmittal](#)
[Presentation](#)

ADJOURNMENT



We Belong To Each Other **RADICAL COMMUNITY**

www.justchoice.org

Laura Sullivan, MSW, LISWS

THE REAL ONES



WHAT DOES JUSTFAMILY LOOK LIKE? M'S STORY AND E'S STORY



FAMILY SUPPORT REDUCES GUN VIOLENCE

Restorative Justice Circles

Youth without safe & supportive adults lead to youth making unsafe decisions to survive; which looks like gun violence and susceptibility to trafficking

Crisis Support & Connection

- MutualAid + Guarenteed Income
- Hosting for family
- Accompaniment navigating children services and other resources
- Harm reduction

OVERVIEW: JUSTCHOICE PROGRAMS FOR PREGNANT PEOPLE+ PARENTS

Pregnant individuals deserve access to comprehensive information and support to make informed decisions about their reproductive options.

We believe that a pregnant person cannot make an ethical adoption decision without having access to all their pregnancy options, including abortion.

JustChoice offers a range of services aimed at supporting individuals throughout their pregnancy journey.

Parenting Support

Recognizing the diverse needs of individuals on their parenting journey, JustChoice provides financial resources and access to short-term parenting reprieves (hosting) when needed. Our goal is to keep families together and provide support to ensure the well-being of both parents and children.

Abortion Support

JustChoice offers safe referrals for abortion care through partnerships with independent abortion providers, Planned Parenthood, and trusted abortion funds. We ensure that individuals have access to the necessary resources and support when considering abortion as an option.

Adoption Support

As a pro-choice adoption agency, we believe deeply in the right to choose. We guide individuals through a transparent and supportive open adoption process, empowering them to make decisions that align with their values and preferences.

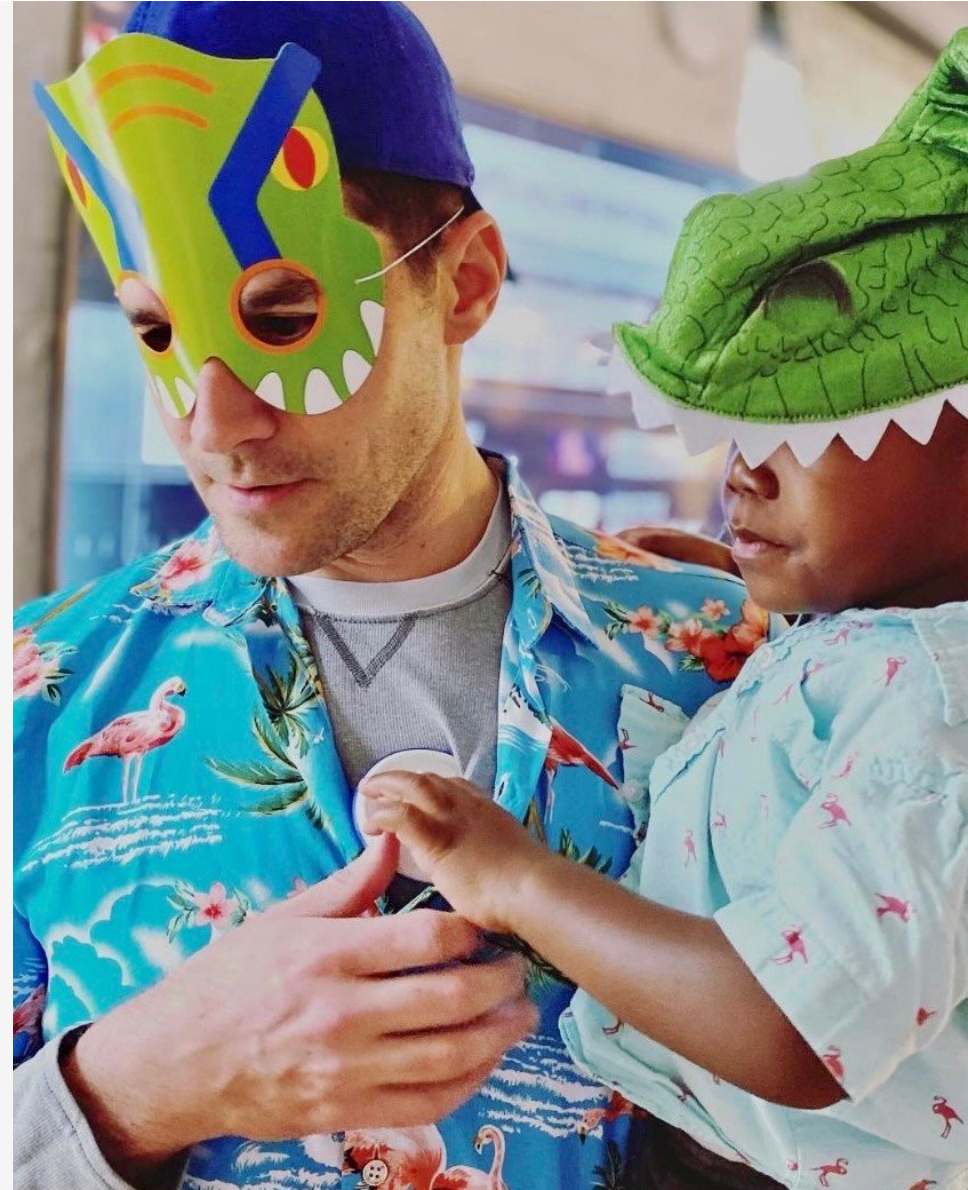
SOLUTION

WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

At JustChoice, our approach is rooted in compassion, inclusivity, and empowerment.

We've assembled a dedicated team of lived experience experts and advocates to support people parenting and preventing parenthood, emphasizing autonomy, education, connections, and community.

We offer comprehensive resources and are the off ramp from the homeless and foster care to prison pipeline.



Through solidarity and collective action, we can nurture a Future where harmful systems are replaced with inclusive ones that uplift and empower all.

Here, we are literally connecting the dots from beginning to end. Our work is not only a one stop shop for family building, but it is also a one stop shop for pregnant people and those parenting and needing help.

We will counsel, connect and advocate for all people we touch. We work to push back against Crisis Pregnancy Centers, the foster care system, harms of adoption, surrogacy and ART movements.

By embracing openness, restorative justice, and abolitionist principles, we can create a world where every individual and family has what they need to thrive.



What is 1 step
towards solidarity
with your
community that you
can make today?



CONTACT

www.justchoice.org 

laura@justchoice.org 

614-601-1015 

city of
CINCINNATI

Access to Capital Bootcamp: Supporting MWBE Firms

12/10/2024

Context Behind the Need:

Supporting Local Entrepreneurs

- The 2023 Disparity Study determined that Minority Women-Owned Businesses no longer qualify as WBE or MWBE with the City.
- As a result, active certifications for these businesses were revoked.
- Recognizing the impact, the City identified a critical need to assist local businesses affected by these changes while initiating a new study.

**Department of Economic Inclusion
and Urban League of Greater
Southwestern Ohio Partnership**



Women of Color Access to Capital Bootcamp

Tuesday, December 10, 2024



About Urban League Greater Southwestern Ohio

Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio is committed to driving equity and financial empowerment for Black people through advocacy, education and development.

The League's Mission is to help Black people and historically underserved communities achieve their highest true social parity, economic self-reliance, power, civil rights and justice.



About the Business Development & Entrepreneurship Center

We support entrepreneurs in developing their business startup or expansion aspirations in the greater Cincinnati and Dayton area.



Women of Color: Access to Capital Bootcamp

<https://www.cincinnatiiec.com/programs/women-of-color-access-to-capital-bootcamp-program/>

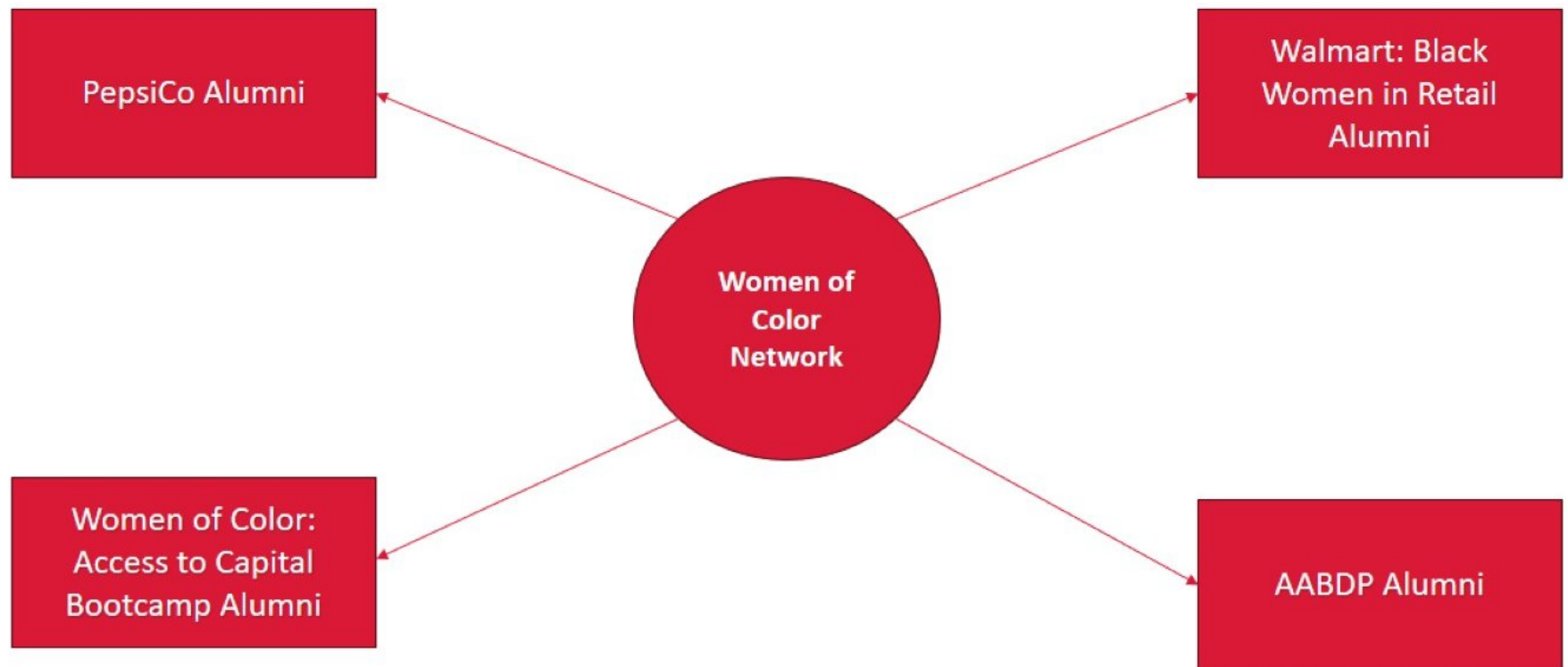
Women of Color: Access to Capital Bootcamp

Mission:

The Women of Color: Access to Capital Program is a groundbreaking initiative presented by the Business Development & Entrepreneurship Center at the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio in partnership with the City's Department of Economic Inclusion ("DEI"). The Program aims to empower historically marginalized and underrepresented entrepreneurs by providing the necessary tools, knowledge, and connections to secure business funding and drive economic growth.



Why the Urban League for the Women of Color?



Women of Color: Access to Capital Bootcamp

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Program is designed to foster meaningful connections between participants and the communities they serve, providing them with essential self-management and business management skills. Participants will be educated in critical nuances that can determine a business's success or failure, ensuring they are well-equipped to navigate challenges. Through this knowledge, each entrepreneur will be empowered to stay on the path to success.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- A deep understanding of different funding sources and confidently navigating the funding landscape.
- The skills to develop compelling business pitches and investment proposals.
- To foster connections between participants, potential investors, mentors, and financial institutions.
- A deep understanding of how to do business with the City of Cincinnati
- Getting to become eligible for a certification with the City of Cincinnati.

PROGRAM TOPICS

Day 1: Orientation
Day 2: Fundamentals of Capital
Day 3: Crafting Compelling Pitches
Day 4: Connecting with Investors
Day 5: Digital Media
Day 6: Mentorship and Feedback
Day 7: Doing Business with the City of Cincinnati
Day 8: Showcase and Networking
Event / Graduation

Who Can Apply?

- Be owners or co-owners of a business with 100 or fewer employees and less than \$5,000,000 in annual revenue (“Small Business”). Only one owner of any Small Business can receive a stipend for participating.
- Have a clear business concept and demonstrate a commitment to growth.
- Show commitment to actively participating in all aspects of the Program.
- Be a business or residence in the targeted City of Cincinnati or Hamilton County.
- Demonstrate sufficient proficiency in English to understand presentations and engage fully in workshops and discussions.
- Engage in a business that performs a “commercially useful function” as defined in Section 323-1-C2 of the Cincinnati Municipal Code.
- Demonstrate past efforts or challenges in accessing capital and describe the causes of such challenges.



Who Can Apply?

Preference will be given to applicants:

- Who have a strong business concept and commitment to growth.
- Who demonstrate a clear commitment to participating in the Program.
- Who have encountered significant difficulties accessing capital for their businesses.
- Who demonstrate the greatest capacity to benefit from the Program.
- Whose business or residence is located within the City of Cincinnati.
- Whose business is in the following industries, which have the most frequent procurement opportunities in the City:
 - Construction
 - A&E
 - HVAC
 - Electrical
 - Plumbing
 - Metal Fabricating
 - Flooring
 - Roofing
 - Painting
 - Fencing
 - Demolition
 - Consulting
 - Landscaping
 - Cleaning Services



Women of Color: Access to Capital Bootcamp

Program Timeline

Applications Open: October 11, 2024

Applications Close: January 7, 2025

Interview Process: January 13, 2025 – January 18, 2025

Acceptance Notification: January 23, 2025

Program Start: February 7, 2025

Program End: May 2, 2025

Graduation: TBD

For Questions

For more information, please contact: Vanessa Sanchez, Programming Manager, at 513.559.2218 or via email at vsanchez@ulgso.org

Where to Apply

Visit our website:

<https://www.cincinnatiyec.com/programs/women-of-color-access-to-capital-bootcamp-program/>

Business Development & Entrepreneurship Team



Charolette D. Harris
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For More Information





TO KNOW MORE

WOMEN OF COLOR

ACCESS TO CAPITAL BOOTCAMP PROGRAM



WHAT TO EXPECT

The Participants will be educated in critical nuances that can determine a business's success or failure, ensuring they are well-equipped to navigate challenges. Through this knowledge, each entrepreneur will be empowered to stay on the path to success.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- A deep understanding of different funding sources and confidently navigating the funding landscape.
- The skills to develop compelling business pitches and investment proposals.
- To foster connections between participants, potential investors, mentors, and financial institutions.
- A deep understanding of how to do business with the City of Cincinnati
- Getting to become eligible for a certification with the City of Cincinnati.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Is a groundbreaking initiative presented by the Business Development & Entrepreneurship Center at the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio in partnership with the City's Department of Economic Inclusion ("DEI"). The Program aims to empower historically marginalized and underrepresented entrepreneurs by providing the necessary tools, knowledge, and connections to secure business funding and drive economic growth.

ELIGIBILITY

- Small Businesses with less than 100 employees and less than 5M in revenue.
- Be a business or residence in the targeted City of Cincinnati or Hamilton County.
- Have a clear business concept and demonstrate a commitment to growth.

QUESTIONS?

If you are looking for more information, please contact Vanessa Sanchez, Program Manager.



December 10, 2024

To: Members of the Healthy Neighborhoods Committee
From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager
Subject: Presentation – Community Engagement Policy Updates

202402514

Attached is the presentation for the City of Cincinnati community engagement policy update.

cc: Katherine Keough-Jurs, FAICP, Director, Department of City Planning and Engagement



City of Cincinnati Community Engagement Policy

Review, Updates, and What's Next

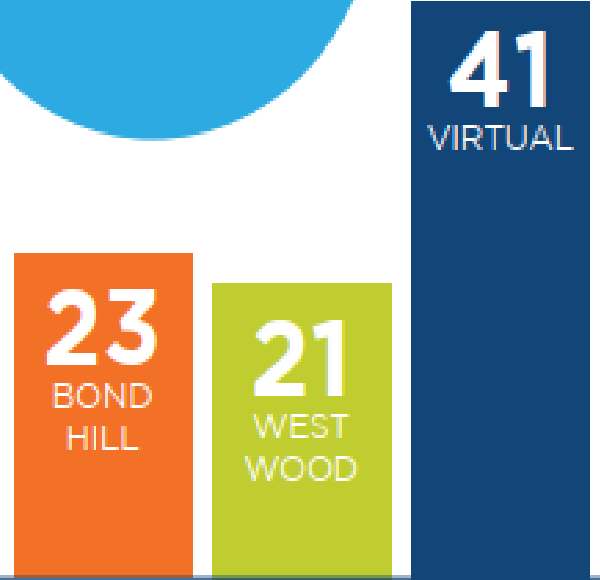
Overview

- 1 History of Engagement
- 2 Engagement Policy Process
- 3 Internal Engagement Support
- 4 What's Next – Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

HISTORY OF ENGAGEMENT

City of Cincinnati Community Engagement

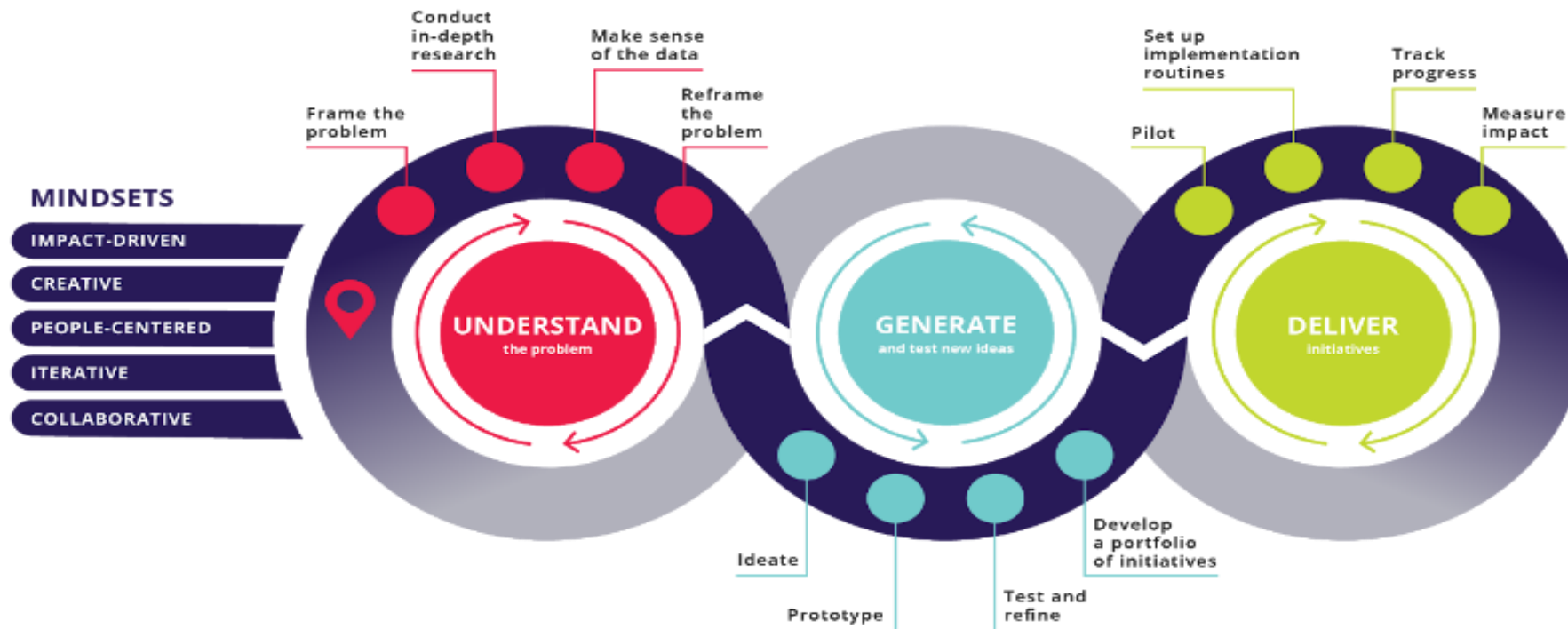
- In **2021**, Cincinnati City Council passed ordinance 0358-2021
- In fall of 2021, The Department of City Planning and Engagement hosted a series of community engagement sessions entitled “Community Conversations” to gather feedback.
- DCPE held **two in person meetings accompanied by a virtual meeting and an online survey.**
- In-person meetings were held at the **Bond Hill Recreation Center and Westwood Town Hall.**



Meeting Attendance

City of Cincinnati Community Engagement

The City applied for and received a grant to participate in the **Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation's year-long community engagement research project**. As a part of the Bloomberg process, **12** City staff members including the City Manager and Mayor participated in workshops to identify and address problems with community engagement.



City of Cincinnati Community Engagement

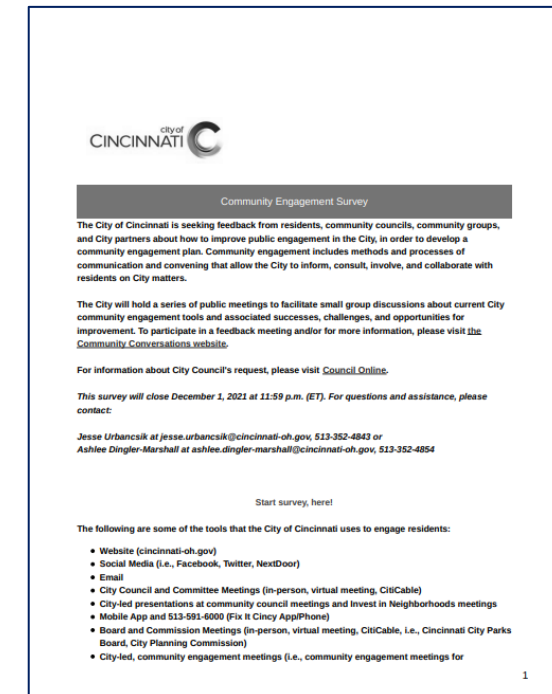
Bloomberg Problem Statement:

The problem is "The City" has historically relied upon expediency, perceived expertise, and prioritizing comfortable relationships with existing power structures, which perpetuates cycles of distrust where community members are apathetic and don't find engagement worth their time.

City of Cincinnati Community Engagement

- In early 2023, DCPE hired two full-time Community Engagement Specialists (CES)
- CES launched an online survey available to all staff members. Over seven hundred employees responded, revealing a need for more in-depth training and a system to track engagement initiatives.
- The Communications and Engagement SIET Team was formed to assist with developing a new community engagement policy and resource guide.

Community Engagement Survey



700
SURVEY
RESPONSES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY PROCESS

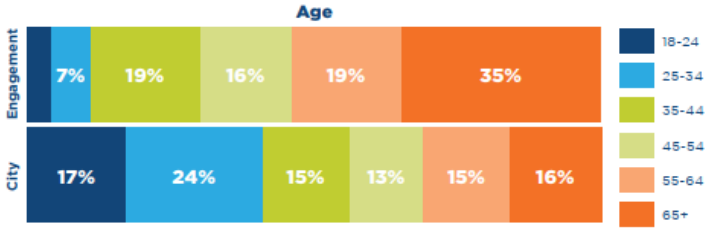
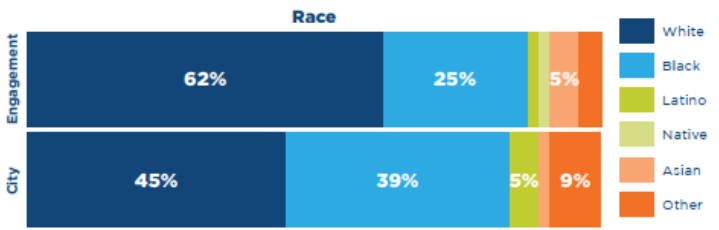
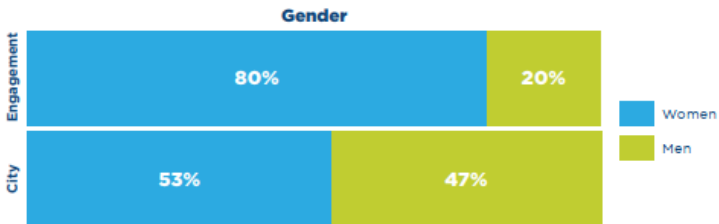
City of Cincinnati Community Engagement

Phase one of the Community Engagement Policy began fall of 2023 with the release of the first draft. Community feedback sessions were held at the following Cincinnati Recreation Commission Centers:

- Tuesday, October 17, 2023 – Pleasant Ridge Rec Center
- Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – Hirsch Recreation Center
- Thursday, November 2, 2023 – McKie Recreation Center



Demographic Breakdown



- Neighborhoods Represented**
- Avondale
 - Camp Washington
 - Clifton
 - College Hill
 - CUF
 - East Price Hill
 - Evanston
 - Madisonville
 - Mt. Airy
 - Mt. Washington
 - North Avondale
 - Northside
 - OTR
 - Pleasant Ridge
 - Roselawn
 - Walnut Hills
 - West Price Hill

City of Cincinnati Community Engagement

CES engaged with various community groups to review the first draft of the community engagement policy and gather their insights on enhancing the culture of engagement in Cincinnati.

CES engaged with:

- Parents
- Youth
- Educators
- Culture based organizations
- Community Councils
- LGBTQIA+ members and allies
- Policy coalition members
- Accessibility advocates

The poster features the ALIN CINCINNATI logo in the top left. The main text reads "Register Now!" in a gold script font, followed by "FEBRUARY COALITION MEETING" in a gold sans-serif font. Below this, it says "JOIN US in Co-Creating Cincinnati's Community Engagement Plan and Policy!" in a bold blue font. Two circular portraits are shown: EUNIQUE AVERY, Community Engagement Specialist at the City of Cincinnati, and JEREMIAH HAIRSTON, Community Engagement Specialist at the City of Cincinnati. The event details are listed as "Thursday, February 22" with a calendar icon, "3PM - 5PM" with a clock icon, and the location "Greater Cincinnati Foundation, 720 E Pete Rose Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202" with a red pin icon. A white box at the bottom states: "Coalition Meeting will immediately follow the Heart of the Community: Impact Symposium".



City of Cincinnati Community Engagement

Phase two began in May 2024 with the release of the second draft policy. The second draft featured several revisions stemming from feedback received on the first draft. These changes included:

- SMART Goals** (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound)
- A Measurement Section** to track progress
- An Action Section** outlining steps the City will take
- Engagement Tracking** to monitor participation
- Shared Definitions** developed collaboratively with the public

Copies of the second draft engagement policy and feedback forms were available **at all Cincinnati Recreation Commission Centers and the Downtown Branch of the Hamilton County Cincinnati Public Library.**



A Fresh Approach to Community Engagement

The City of Cincinnati is working to craft a new community engagement policy.

Feedback Opportunity!

Share your input on the [second draft](#) of our community engagement policy! Visit any Cincinnati Recreation Center or the Main Cincinnati Public Library downtown to fill out a community feedback form!

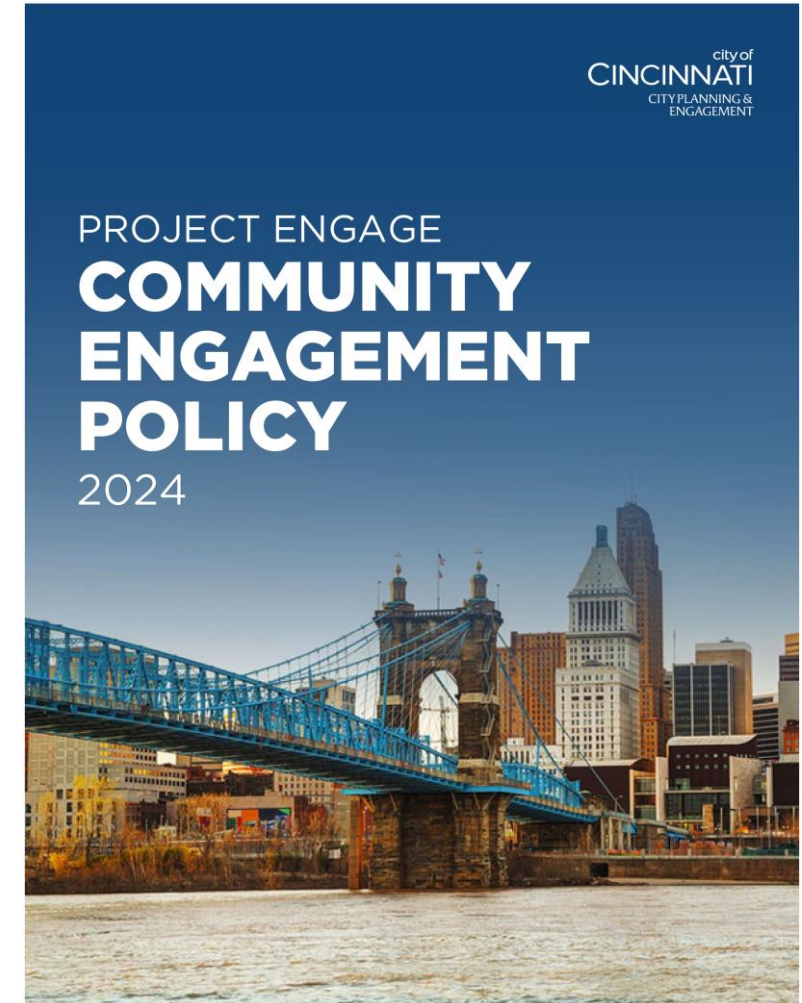


City of Cincinnati Community Engagement

External Research

- Met with representatives from the cities of Lancaster, Portland, and Philadelphia to learn about their approach to creating a community engagement resource guide.
- Explored various engagement software options, including Citizens Lab (now Go Vocal), Social Input, Granicus, and Social Pinpoint, to provide community members with timely, transparent, and accessible information. **CES will continue researching potential engagement software to support the goals of the community engagement policy.**

With over three years of ongoing engagement and research, **the new Administrative Regulation for Community Engagement went into effect September 3rd, 2024.**



INTERNAL ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT

City Planning & Engagement Community Engagement

Department Engagement Champions

Engagement champions serve as liaisons for their respective departments and assist with supporting and strengthening the culture of engagement across the city.

Champions will:

- Take part in engagement education, ideation, and collaboration
- Share engagement successes and challenges
- Support and test engagement strategies led by Community Engagement Specialists
- Share engagement updates and best practices with colleagues









City Planning & Engagement Community Engagement

Engagement Website

The Community Engagement Resource website is designed to:

- Introduce the City of Cincinnati’s adopted engagement framework
- Assist staff with selecting an engagement level
- Share engagement templates, resources, and success stories
- Highlight upcoming events/initiatives on the engagement calendar
- House all community engagement internal forms

	Level of community power 				
	INFORM 	CONSULT 	INVOLVE 	COLLABORATE 	OWN 
Public Participation Goal	Provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	Obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	Work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	Partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	Place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the Public	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.
Example Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Committee Presentations • Development Notices • Social Media Campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Perceptions Survey • Public Comment • Focus Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Engagement Unit • Policy Explorations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood Plans • Community-driven Advisory Groups (MAG) • Place-based Problem Solving (PIVOT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe & Clean Fund • Boots on the Ground Fund

Engagement Tracking

All engagements under the following criteria will be tracked:

- Required by law
- Regarding policy creation and/or amendments
- Seeking public input on a proposed project
- Surveying or polling community members
- Support a specific community or neighborhood
- Involve or collaborate with community members

City Planning & Engagement Community Engagement

Engagement Training



Engagement trainings are designed to:

- Familiarize staff with engagement materials and resources
- Boost confidence in applying engagement best practices
- Ensure compliance with policy guidelines

Engagement modules are currently being developed.



WHAT'S NEXT?

City Planning & Engagement Community Engagement

- Encourage City Departments to utilize the new engagement website as a resource for tools and best practices.
- Department Champions will remain key liaisons, supporting their departments by identifying potential engagement goals and metrics.
- Continue advancing efforts to create and implement engagement training opportunities for City staff.
- Explore the possibility of developing an engagement guidebook tailored for developers and applicants.



Thank you!
Questions & Discussion

For more information:

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/engage/>

Engage@Cincinnati-oh.gov