

Oakley Yard Program Statement

In May of 2011, the City of Cincinnati approved PD #64, which was a 73 acre planned mixed use development in Oakley that was to include retail, restaurants, offices, entertainment, and residential uses. Since its approval, PD# 64 has had a number of amendments approved to allow the large development to remain responsive to the changing development environment. The 13.6 acres contained in Auditors Parcel 051-0001-0071-00 at 3065 Vandercar Way was designated on the PD #64 Concept Plan as part of the Office "B" site. Since this approval, there have been significant changes to the office market, and the site remains largely vacant with some off-street parking.

Curō has obtained the opportunity to develop 3.44 acres of the 13.6 acre parcel as an entertainment/recreation venue. As the developers of Covington Yard, at 401 Greenup Street in Covington, the proposed development group has established a successful record of creating fun entertainment venues that offer a variety of food and activity options. The development would include two 18 hole miniature golf courses on the western portion of the site. The miniature golf area, which utilizes approximately one acre of the site, will have different skill levels on the two courses and will more closely resemble a traditional golf course in appearance. To the east of the golf courses will be an 8,500 square Food Hall which contains a bar, four food vendors. restrooms, and seating area. Adjacent to the Food Hall to the east will be a 1,430 square foot outdoor area for enjoying food and beverages. Further to the east and north, along the perimeter of the site, there will be a series of 12 shipping containers which will be used as gathering spots for visitors. This perimeter area will also feature a playground and a 550 square foot stage for live music. Enclosed within this area, "The Yard" will contain outdoor seating, TV screens, and outdoor games. The miniature golf courses, as well as "The Yard" area used for gathering and games, will all be permeable surface. The development will be served by 102 parking spaces on the southern portion of the site. Entry to the development will be on the south side of the courtyard, east of the Food Hall.

The proposed development is consistent with a number of recommendations contained in plans adopted by the City.

Oakley Master Plan 2019:

- 1) The Oakley Yard development is to be just east of the proposed pedestrian tunnel under the railroad tracks, allowing residents to the south of Oakley Station to enjoy the same walkability/connectivity as those located within Oakley Station. This will increase the volume of pedestrians within the area and connect to the site via existing sidewalks.
- 2) Bike racks will be provided at Oakley Yard in anticipation of the number of customers who will choose biking as a means to visit the site.
- 3) Oakley has a vision of growing a strong collection of local businesses which are unique to Oakley. Oakley Yard would add an entertainment venue not currently available in the community.



4) The developers of Oakley Yard met with the Oakley Community Council on a number of occasions, and have responded to suggestions regarding the development, obtaining the Community Council's support for the project.

Plan Cincinnati 2012:

- 1) Focus revitalization on existing venues of activity, of which Oakley is one. The Oakley Station development has been one of the most significant revitalization efforts in the City and certainly within the Oakley community. Bringing Oakley Yard to the development adds an entertainment element currently not available.
- 2) The Oakley Station development is included in the "Madison Road Corridor" which is identified as one of three corridors where strategic growth is designated to occur.
- 3) Provisions have been made adjacent to and within the development to promote both pedestrian and bike transportation to Oakley Station and the proposed development.
- 4) The development of a community gathering place for entertainment, recreation, and socializing promotes the creation of a more robust public life.

To allow the Oakley Yard development to move forward, a Major Amendment to PD #64 is being requested to change a portion of the approved Concept Plan from "Office" to "Recreation and Entertainment with food" and approve the Concept Plan for Oakley Yard. As mentioned, Curō has met on several occasions with the Oakley Community Council. At their December 7, 2021 meeting, the Council voted to support the Major Amendment to PD #64 to allow the site to be developed as an eating and outdoor entertainment venue. If the Major Amendment is approved, Curō anticipates beginning construction upon receiving the necessary permits from the City, and opening Spring of 2023.

We believe that the requested modification to PD #64 will allow for the development of a unique entertainment venue that will be a contributing focal point for the Oakley community. Given its location, the Oakley Yard will provide a gathering spot for Oakley residents and visitors, whether they are coming by car, bike, or on foot. This unique use will add another opportunity to strengthen and promote the wonderful place Oakley has become to live, work, and play.