



North Central Plan 2020 Planning Process Underway



Community Kick-Off and Implementing While Planning Event on September 19, 2020. Attendees planted trees in front of Scruggs Memorial CME Church, 3680 Cook Avenue; then, over lunch they provided input about their community.

The North Central Plan 2020 is a community-led planning process that is building on the strengths and opportunities of the Covenant Blu Grand Center and Vandeventer neighborhoods. This 20-year action plan will be an update of the original 2000 North Central Plan, using the priorities of the North Central community to create an actionable plan that serves the needs of residents and helps residents to achieve their vision for the future of the neighborhoods. When complete, the North Central Plan 2020 will guide new development; community services and amenities; and coordinating investments from a variety of community stakeholders. This plan is funded by the Deaconess Foundation, the Deaconess

Center for Child Well-Being, and the United Church of Christ Church Building and Loan Fund. A multi-disciplinary project team consisting of Vector Communications, Action St. Louis, and H3 Studio is working with the Deaconess Center and with the community to develop the North Central Plan 2020. The final North Central Plan 2020 will comprehensively address the needs, priorities, and opportunities identified by the community. These will be articulated in a Statement of Core Values, a Community Vision Statement, and Plan Goals (drafts of these items are below for you to review and give us your input). The plan will cover a wide-range of topics addressing community development, including land

use and zoning; housing; sustainability; connectivity; equity; economic development; safety; and public health. The Plan will also have a focused and actionable implementation plan—a roadmap to make the North Central Plan 2020 a reality. The North Central Plan 2020 is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2021 and will be submitted to the City of St. Louis for adoption.



North Central Plan Study Area

Get Involved!

Please help us by getting involved and providing your input! There are several ways that you can get involved and participate in the North Central Plan 2020:

1. Visit the Project website northcentralstlplan.com and Facebook page **@NorthCentralPlanSTL** for information about upcoming events and to sign up to receive email updates about the North Central Plan 2020.
2. Take the Community Well-Being Survey on the website northcentralstlplan.com/index.php/feedback/ to let us know the types of things you would like to see in your neighborhood!
3. Review the Draft Core Values Statement, Community Vision, and Project Goals in this newsletter and northcentralstlplan.com/index.php/town-hall-2/ to provide your input. What have we gotten right? What needs more work and what needs to change? Let us know what you think!
4. Talk to your neighbors about the Plan! Put your heads together and send us your ideas about how the North Central community can be an even better place to live, work, and play!

Identifying the Community's Strengths, Opportunities & Priorities

The North Central Plan 2020 is being developed through an expansive, robust, and transparent community engagement process. This engagement began with a series of interviews and focus group meetings with identified community stakeholders. These stakeholders include community leaders; representatives from neighborhood schools and institutions; local churches; the Grand Center arts district; elected officials; business owners; and neighborhood residents. At the same time, Action St. Louis led a door-to-door canvassing blitz to administer community well-being surveys to neighborhood residents. To date, over 180 community residents have been surveyed. Finally, the project team conducted a Community Kick-Off and Implementing While Planning Event on September 19, 2020. Input gathered across all of these events was used to create a preliminary list of strengths and opportunities for the North Central neighborhoods.

Steering Committee Guides Planning Process

Twenty-seven (27) residents and stakeholders from the Covenant Blu Grand Center and Vandeventer neighborhoods make up the North Central Plan 2020 Steering Committee. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide input and guidance to the Deaconess Center and its project team.

The Steering Committee first met on September 30, 2020; at this meeting, members shared their thoughts on their community's strengths and opportunities and helped to develop the comprehensive list of strengths, opportunities, and ideas that was presented to the neighborhood as a whole. At their second meeting, on October 28, 2020, the Steering Committee participated in the creation of the draft goals, vision statement and core values. These items were based on the list of strengths and opportunities, and developed by the Steering Committee for review and feedback by the whole community.

Community-Wide Town Halls Expand Engagement

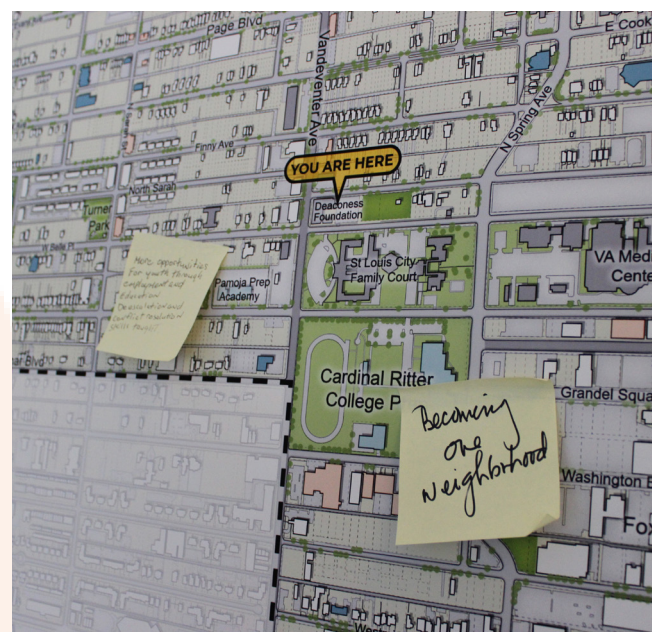
Two community-wide town hall meetings have already been held as part of the North Central 2020 planning process. The first one on October 6, 2020 was conducted as part of National Night Out at the Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being and attracted more than 50 attendees. During dinner and music, participants provided responses to questions about what could be improved in their community. They also heard remarks from the three alderpeople representing the North Central planning area: Marlene Davis (19th Ward), Dwinderlin Evans (4th Ward) and Jesse Todd (18th Ward). During the second community-wide public meeting on November 2, 2020, residents



had the option to attend a virtual meeting or an in-person meeting. At both sessions, a video played recapping the project's purpose, then the draft goals, vision statement and core values were presented. Both, virtual and in-person activities provided participants a vehicle for giving their feedback. To watch the video from the hybrid input session, visit www.northcentralstlplan.com and click the feedback tab. A comment form is available if you would like to leave your thoughts about the North Central Plan's draft vision, values, & goals.

Next Steps

The North Central Plan 2020 planning process is now moving into Phase 3. During this stage of the project, we will be working with the Steering Committee and the community to draft the principles and strategies that support the project Goals, as well as creating the first draft of the plan for land use, development, community amenities, and housing within North Central. The Steering Committee will next meet on December 9, 2020 to review the principles and strategies and provide their feedback.



Draft Community Vision

By 2030, the North Central community will be...

A healthy, whole, and vibrant community made up of a variety of housing and distinctive neighborhoods, and an arts district that are well-maintained, safe, and inclusive for all residents.

Centrally-located and well-connected to all areas of the city and region, all residents will be able to easily access jobs, educational and health care facilities, community businesses, and other key amenities to ensure an excellent quality of life.

Led by the people who call North Central home, the community will provide equal support and assist residents and stakeholders to thrive and chart their own future—this generation and the next.

Draft Core Values Statement

As the members of the North Central community, we believe that:

- Everyone has a right to an excellent quality of life.
- Everyone has the opportunity to thrive in place, no matter our age or ability.
- Everyone is respected and provided equal consideration.
- We, the community, make decisions with transparency and provide opportunities for all residents and stakeholders to participate.
- We all share responsibility for improving the North Central neighborhoods and implementing the Plan.
- We are stewards of our community and environment for future generations.

Draft Goals

- Respect, celebrate, and build upon the diverse history of North Central.
- Create a healthy, whole, beautiful, and well-maintained neighborhood.
- Rehab existing homes and provide a diversity of new infill homes.
- Support and assist North Central residents to remain in place and build wealth and social capital.
- Promote and incentivize the creation of viable and existing community businesses and entrepreneurship.
- Connect and engage the neighborhoods to jobs, everyday, youth, and senior services, and cultural and recreational activities.
- Improve neighborhood safety for all residents and visitors.
- Attract and provide access to high-quality recreational, educational, health, and civic amenities and programs.
- Improve and enhance public and social infrastructure and public services in North Central.
- Establish clear communication and accountability with the City of St. Louis.
- Establish a participatory decision-making process for residents to guide the future of the community.
- Ensure equity, inclusivity, resilience, sustainability, and justice for all residents.



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***Creating a Community-
Led Plan for the North
Central Area***



www.NorthCentralSTLPlan.com

