INNOVATION SQUARE FAIRFAX NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN
Prepared for Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation
March 27, 2017
FAIRFAX - A BRIEF OVERVIEW
After the Great Migration of the early 1900s, the area known today as Fairfax (previously called Cedar Central) become a predominantly African American neighborhood and has remained that way. The neighborhood’s population peaked at 35,000 during the 1940s and 1950s. In 2012, there were 6,078 people living in Fairfax, with about 95% of them being African Americans.

Fairfax, founded in 1915, is home to the Karamu House, which is the oldest African American theater in the United States and was the starting place of numerous actors and playwrights, including Langston Hughes. There are also several historically significant churches in the neighborhood that continue to serve the area and attract visitors / parishioners to the neighborhood.

Fairfax’s land-use represents a mixture of potentially complementary uses. However, development patterns, railroad infrastructure, larger / auto-dominated corridors and other physical elements have led to an overall sense of disparate uses. The Cleveland Clinic’s ever-expanding campus provides high-quality redevelopment, notably along the northern boundary of the study area. As new facilities are brought on-line, it is noted and recommended their planning and design consider the impacts and transitions to the existing neighborhood. Residential uses dominate a majority of Fairfax, and new development is intended to respond to this context and, ultimately, add value to the existing housing stock.

VISION
Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation (FRDC), the local Community Housing Development Organization, has been master planning since the mid-1990’s. The Fairfax 2014-2019 Strategic Investment Plan was adopted by the City of Cleveland in 2014 and envisions the revitalization of Innovation Square development as a mixed use, mixed income, walkable urban community. Increased multi-modal access to spaces and places, including employment centers, is paramount to the neighborhood’s successful future. Plans include leveraging assets, such as walkable access to transit (bus and rapid service), proximity to growing economic hubs and the ability to reposition underutilized and underperforming land through strategic partnerships.

FRDC’s leadership in acquiring and controlling land has set the stage for substantial redevelopment adjacent to the new Opportunity Corridor (see page 4 for more information). This property strategy has eliminated many vacant, abandoned and blighted properties and assembled smaller parcels into contiguous redevelopment sites. The Innovation Square Fairfax Neighborhood Plan aims to revitalize the area with a balance of mixed-use buildings, homes and greenspaces that are connected to the larger neighborhood. A combination of market-rate and affordable for-sale and rental units spread across apartments, townhomes, and single family infill houses that will reach into the existing neighborhood.

Innovation Square is positioned to take advantage of nearby investments and revitalize the Fairfax neighborhood by developing a pedestrian-friendly urban residential community that is inclusive of all income levels and life stages and providing opportunities to attract new residents while retaining Fairfax’s long-term and committed residents. Large-scale catalytic investments are paired with single-family infill homes, aimed to stabilize neighborhood streets adjacent to the development’s core area.

Protecting the heritage and “place” of Fairfax is a critical factor in how the redevelopment must respond to its context. Streets, blocks and housing are arranged to promote a sense of community and a recognizable place that can be celebrated and marketed as unique to Innovation Square, and assets are leveraged to increase density and attract new investments.

PLANNING PRINCIPLES
The planning team reviewed previous and recent materials provided by FRDC. Recent master planning processes (outlined on the following pages) have established a series of guiding principles that directed Innovation Square’s plan development:

1. Create a pedestrian oriented neighborhood by providing a connected network of open spaces. Each space is unique in its purpose and character.
2. Create a diversity of housing types in each phase of the project. This encourages different types of people to engage and connect.
3. Gather density around public spaces and primary corridors. This gives the most number of people immediate access to open space amenities.
4. Integrate new development into the existing neighborhood by knitting together the public realm with the neighborhood trail and compatible densities.
5. Integrate the community narrative into the fabric of the neighborhood.
FRDC’s leadership extends decades, particularly in planning centered around the Opportunity Corridor. Organization master-plans have focused on how to leverage the pending (now, under construction) roadway into a employment hub and technology center. The planning team’s process examined past, recent and ongoing planning efforts to ensure Innovation Square’s vision is consistent with other community supported initiatives.

Samples of initiatives are outlined on the following page, and they range from overall master plans, large corridor and redevelopment planning to social and cultural programming that occurring in and around the study area.

Innovation Square’s value is enhanced by its location and proximity to a variety of other investments - both public and private - and aims to take full advantage of the momentum already begun by ongoing initiatives and investments.
The City of Cleveland Planning Commission’s Thrive 105-93 initiative studies how the two corridors’ redevelopment can accommodate current residents, attract new employment centers, provide better & enhanced access to jobs, support healthy lifestyles and build community pride.

Opportunity Corridor streetscape concepts include a multi purpose trail that provides off-street bicycle connections to the various redevelopment sites. Image from the Greenway Concept Plan, courtesy of Environmental Design Group.

The Greater Cleveland Regional Authority’s investment in the Quincy - E 105th St Station demonstrates a commitment to retaining and enhancing increased transit access to the Innovation Square neighborhood. Image courtesy of GCRTA.

New Economy Neighborhood is envisioned to be the home to new biotech, health, education, and office support operations that desire to be in close proximity to some of Cleveland’s anchor institutions, such as the Cleveland Clinic, Case Western Reserve University, and University Hospitals.

Ground breaking is expected in 2017 for a new office and technology lab at the intersection of Cedar Avenue and East 105th (Opportunity Corridor). New employment opportunities, combined with marketable and desirable housing, are intended to transform Fairfax and create a thriving mixed use district.

Karamu House is an important historic African American theater and has been a neighborhood institution for over 100 years.

New Economy Neighborhood
- Biotech, health, education, and office support operations
- Close proximity to Cleveland’s anchor institutions
- New employment opportunities
- Marketable and desirable housing
- Thriving mixed use district

Karamu House
- Historic African American theater
- Neighborhood institution
- Community pride

The City of Cleveland Planning Commission’s Thrive 105-93 initiative studies how the two corridors’ redevelopment can accommodate current residents, attract new employment centers, provide better & enhanced access to jobs, support healthy lifestyles and build community pride.
Innovation Square is bounded by Cedar Ave to the north, Quincy Ave to the south, E 105th St on the east, and includes both sides of E 97th St. Immediate neighbors include the Cleveland Clinic, Opportunity Corridor, and the New Economy Neighborhood planned redevelopment site.

The neighborhood’s location can take full advantage of its proximity to University Circle, offering additional housing options, aiming to be more affordable than current market rate apartment options in surrounding districts. New housing, ranging from studio apartments to single family homes, can offer home-ownership options, a market that is under-served in the immediate University Circle district.

Additionally, access to Downtown Cleveland is easily attained via Cedar, Carnegie, Euclid and / or Chester Avenues. The approximate 3.5 mile distance offers a short commute whether by auto, bus or bike (dedicated bicycle facilities exist on Euclid Avenue). Commute time may be further reduced upon Opportunity Corridor’s completion.

Access is further offered through ample access to public transportation options: Two bus lines running along its borders - #8 Cedar and #10 East 105, the Quincy-E105 Red Line Rapid Station, and the nearby HealthLine. Throughout this process, the planning team coordinated with other consultant teams working on improvements to the Quincy Station. The Innovation Square Fairfax Neighborhood Plan aims to take full advantage of transit’s proximity. Current residents, who rely on public transportation, experience will be enhanced by improved connections. And access to transit can attract new residents, desiring an urban, walkable neighborhood that does not require automobile ownership to travel to and from work or regionally (via public transit).

Innovation Square’s location at the hinge between MidTown, Downtown, University Circle and Cleveland / Shaker Heights provides urban living, withing the City of Cleveland, with direct connections to surrounding amenities and shopping districts. This value is increased by the area’s immediate adjacency to the Cleveland Clinic and emerging New Economy Neighborhood (intended to be an employment hub). These adjacencies create conditions for a walkable neighborhood with strong ties to the existing streets and residential neighborhood. The planning team considered these physical conditions, overlaid by the Planning Principles, to create an urban redevelopment plan that responds to the Fairfax neighborhood while taking advantage of market conditions in the surrounding / growing areas.

1. New Economy Neighborhood
2. Quincy-E 105 RTA Rapid Transit Station
3. Cedar-University Transit Station
4. Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center (employment hub)
5. Karamu House (cultural / heritage icon)
7. Global Cardiovascular Innovation Center (GCIC)
8. Cleveland Clinic Campus
| 9. | Euclid Avenue HealthLine |
| 10. | Cleveland School of the Arts & John Hay High School |
| 11. | Case Western Reserve University |
| 12. | University Hospitals Cleveland |
| 13. | Griot Village (Fairfax Intergenerational Apartments) |
| 14. | New Community Place |
| 15. | East Technical High School |
| 16. | Health-Tech Corridor |
| 17. | Cuyahoga Community College Metro Campus |
| 18. | Sankofa Village (Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority) |
| 19. | Cleveland State University Campus |
| 20. | Legacy Neighborhood at St. Luke’s Foundation |
| 21. | Cedar Fairmount District (Cleveland Heights) |
| 22. | Little Italy Neighborhood (arts and entertainment district) |
| 23. | Quincy Place |
| 24. | Langston Hughes Center |
These will be complementary to the built environment, distributed throughout the redevelopment study area and utilized for recreation and educational opportunities. Playwright Park is already partially funded and will be the primary community gathering space, while other smaller green areas can be provided in the form of playgrounds, gardens, etc.

By offering multiple living options and arrangements, including a strong emphasis on creating a mixed-income district, Innovation Square will establish itself as a neighborhood stabilizer.

These will be complementary to the built environment, distributed throughout the redevelopment study area and utilized for recreation and educational opportunities. Playwright Park is already partially funded and will be the primary community gathering space, while other smaller green areas can be provided in the form of playgrounds, gardens, etc.
By incorporating creative green building techniques and technologies, including regenerative housing design and site development, throughout the neighborhood and going beyond current green and sustainability norms can set Innovation Square apart.

Two new streets are proposed to extend into the community to shorten the size of the blocks and will provide on-street parking and sidewalks. Specific areas for landscaping will be coordinated as building setbacks / yards are finalized.

**ACTIVE TRAVELWAYS & PLACE-ORIENTED AMENITIES**

**“GREEN” DEVELOPMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

By incorporating creative green building techniques and technologies, including regenerative housing design and site development, throughout the neighborhood and going beyond current green and sustainability norms can set Innovation Square apart.
The Unit Distribution diagram on the facing page illustrates a variety of unit types connected by meaningful green spaces and streets. The redevelopment program offers over 450 new units. Density is concentrated along East 105th Street (Opportunity Corridor) and strategic nodes within the development. Larger multi family / mixed use buildings, paired with stacked townhome units aim to create a balanced streetscape with the anticipated redevelopment of New Economy Neighborhoods 4-6 story construction. Development densities "step down" as connections into the existing urban fabric are made. Townhomes (both rental and for-sale) serve as transitions between the district’s core and the surrounding streets’ single family homes / duplexes.

New streets are proposed as extensions of Hudson and Frank Avenues meet City of Cleveland right-of-way regulations and connect to the existing north-south streets in the district. Their 60' ROW accommodate on-street parking, sidewalks and are complemented with adjacent green areas (including natural stormwater treatment installations / bio-swales). Pedestrian walkways are imagined where back-to-back properties can be acquired, better linking the entire neighborhood to the central community green space, Playwright Park, and providing vital pedestrian connectivity.

Green spaces are imagined to be distributed throughout the neighborhood, offering places for children to play, residents to gather, and community gardens. Each space is intended to further the "brand" of Innovation Square as an inclusive community, rich with outdoor spaces that complement the variety of architecture. Yards are included, offering private spaces that residents will be encouraged to take ownership of and utilize as their own.

**MARKET STUDY SUMMARY**

In 2015, an analysis was done to understand the potential housing market needs. The planning team reviewed the analysis and used its recommendations as a guide in creating the unit distribution and typologies. Summary of the analysis / recommendations include:

1. **Market study does not address / suggest home-ownership potential**
2. **Three major rental markets identified**:  
   - Market-Rate (25%)
   - Affordable Apartments & Single Family Rental (53%)
   - Senior-Restricted Affordable (22%)
3. **Study outlines amenities & desired components for the redevelopment / units**
4. **Analysis creates thresholds & ranges for marketable unit sizes (per bedroom count)**
5. **Phasing & Density Discussion – time frame to bring specific units to market**
6. **Market Demand & Density (406 units v. 812 units):**  
   "...if units were developed in the next two years, an additional supply of similar size could then be supported in approximately five years..."
The neighborhood has suffered from decades of disinvestment. The resulting landscape is riddled with vacancy - both vacant buildings and lots. The high concentration of vacancy offers tremendous opportunities to repurpose large land areas as the new Innovation Square development.

Additionally, through strategic partnerships, FRDC has land-control of approximately half of the parcels in the core study area. The City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga Land Banks have amassed properties, limiting the number of owners and simplifying acquisition and consolidation strategies. The Ownership Map (far right) clearly demonstrates the advantageous position FRDC is current in - red properties (Land Banks) combined with orange (FRDC-owned) account for a majority of the study area. It is strongly recommended that additional acquisition efforts are undertaken. The planning team has identified strategic acquisitions - focusing on creating contiguous redevelopment sites by gaining control of neighboring parcels.

A neighborhood-wide inventory of green spaces, created by FRDC (below), illustrates available public spaces. There is a lack of green space in the Innovation Square footprint, and planning directives have led to the creation of parks and gardens to bring new green spaces to the neighborhood. National market trends identify access to green space as a value-add to properties.
The Innovation Square Plan (facing page) creates multiple living options within a connected and sustainable campus. Healthy Lifestyles are encouraged via walking trails, community gardens and playgrounds. Local arts can be celebrated through plaza designs and the integration of public art as wayfinding and neighborhood branding elements. The plan aims to focus on residents. Public spaces, including new streets, are intended to complement the architecture and provide areas for rest and recreation. Parking areas are located on block interiors to minimize their impact on the overall neighborhood.

A variety of housing types are provided with an underlying goal to increase density around the neighboring employment hubs and transit stations. Development summaries are included in the Plan Notes below:

**GREEN SPACES & LINKS**
1. Crescent Park (highlighting East 103rd Street’s axis)
2. Community Garden (located throughout neighborhood)
3. Bio-Swale (naturally treat stormwater; located throughout)
4. Playground & Grilling Patios (located for each block to provide visible play areas & gathering spaces)
5. Neighborhood Link (connecting core redevelopment areas & surrounding)

**DEVELOPMENT TYPES**
A. 3-Story Stacked Townhomes along East 105th
B. 2-Story Townhomes with 1-Story Flats at corners
C. 3-Story For Sale Townhomes with first floor garage & bonus room, roof deck
6. New Economy Plaza (continues green spaces along East 105th & creates entrance point to Innovation Square Neighborhood)
7. Quebec Avenue Gateway (entrance gateway along East 105th & improves walking experience to the Quincy Transit Station)
8. Playwright Park (main community park & gathering place, programmed via performance space, provides passive recreation options and serves as neighborhood nexus)
D. 4-Story Mixed-Use, Multi-Family Buildings along East 105th
E. For Sale Single Family Homes with attached garages via alley
F. For Sale Single Family Homes with detached garages via individual driveways

**DEVELOPMENT TOTALS**
Innovation Square’s implementation is anticipated to be a phased approach that can be coordinated with public infrastructure / capital improvement investments that can fund the new streets, etc.

There are 472 new units planned for the Innovation Square Fairfax Neighborhood Plan, for a 588 unit overall development.
BOLTON SCHOOL PROPERTY
FUTURE REDEVELOPMENT SITE

FUTURE REDEVELOPMENT SITE

FUTURE REDEVELOPMENT SITE

Quebec Ave

Cedar Ave

Frank Ave

Hudson Ave
PUBLIC SPACES & STREETS
LINKING PEOPLE & PLACE

Because of its urban setting, Innovation Square’s development must create new street connections and enhance existing corridors. With the exception of East 105th Street (Opportunity Corridor), the City’s street grid in this area is relatively narrow. Existing rights-of-way range between 40 and 60 feet. Typical conditions accommodate 2-ways of travel, on-street parking on one side of the roadway and a 3-4 foot tree lawn with 4-5 foot sidewalk. The plan proposes to extend streets to make new east-west connections throughout the site (Frank and Hudson Avenues).

After consulting the Cleveland Complete and Green Streets Typologies Plan and meeting with representatives from the City of Cleveland Planning Commission staff, the plan proposes two street configurations / options that are supported by the City’s departments. The first proposed street section has a 50 foot ROW that allows for on-street parking on one side of the street. This option is very similar to the Small Neighborhood Street proposed in the City’s Typologies Plan. The second proposed street section has a 60 foot right of way. This option is proposed in areas of the plan where it is preferable to increase the housing density and / or allow for larger greenspaces which is accomplished by moving some parking from the blocks’ centers to the street.

For buildings fronting East 105th Street, the plan proposes a 20 foot setback from the sidewalk, since this is a busy, high-trafficked street. On the smaller residential streets throughout the rest of the neighborhood, the plan strives for a more modest and intimate setback of around 12 feet, matching typical setbacks found on those blocks. Where possible, forecourts are provided to offer additional privacy and buffer between the streets and front porches.
Pedestrian view of east 103rd st. towards crescent park

Streets & sidewalks are intended to be public spaces activated by residents.

Pedestrian view of playwright park

Park design creates flexible spaces for gathering, performances and passive recreation opportunities.
Innovation Square’s residential units are varied to provide multiple living options and those variations are dispersed throughout the neighborhood to create an integrated mixture of homes. The sample units (right) are intended to begin a framework for the units’ development and design. During the planning process, FRDC has expressed a desire to partner with a developer. In lieu of fully designing units, the plan outlines unit types and variations that can be updated and adjusted to meet specific requirements that may be requested by the future development partner(s).

Each of the illustrated unit plans have been created for Innovation Square, and are based on City Architecture’s experience and success navigating numerous processes and funding agency requirements (HUD, OHFA, Green Communities, etc.)

**Unit Type Matrix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Types</th>
<th>Building Count</th>
<th>Total Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1B Flat over 1B Flat</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B Flat</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B Townhome</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B Townhome over 1 or 2 car garage</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B Townhome over 1B Flat</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B Townhome</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B Single Family Homes</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Family Building 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B Flat</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B Flat</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Family Building 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B Flat</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B Flat</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total New Units</td>
<td>472</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing Units</td>
<td>116</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Neighborhood</td>
<td>588*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Does not include Bolton School Future Redevelopment Site

**Sample Unit Plans**

Offering a variety of living options

- **1 Bedroom Stacked Flats**
  - Flat Total: 887 SF
- **2 Bedroom Townhome**
  - Total: 1,114 SF
- **3 Bedroom Townhome**
  - Total: 1,350 SF

**Unit Type**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Type</th>
<th>Unit Count</th>
<th>Unit Size %</th>
<th>Market Study Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studio</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>5-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Bedroom</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>40-50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bedroom</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>35-45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bedroom</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bedroom SFH</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Front doors, porches, community rooms and other links all lead to Playwright Park, emphasizing its role as a community gathering place.
INNOVATION SQUARE

AERIAL VIEW OF EAST 105TH & HUDSON INTERSECTION

PLAZAS & GREENWAYS ALONG THE EAST 105TH CONNECTION CREATE GATEWAYS & LINKS TO NEW ECONOMY NEIGHBORHOOD
Innovation Square

Aerial View of Townhome Blocks

Innovation Square's Density & Scale Transitions Into Existing Neighborhood Fabric & Variety of Unit Types
SITE LAYOUT & DESIGN
- Celebrate the African American cultural heritage of the neighborhood through place names, art installations, events and activities
- Community gardens to promote food and garden education as well as healthy eating
- Active and passive public parks – open greenspaces, performance space, playgrounds, pocket parks, exercise equipment for all ages and abilities
- Walking trails with distance markers for recreation and through-block paths to increase neighborhood connections
- Rain gardens and bioswales for on-site stormwater collection and treatment
- On-site renewable energy generation by means of solar panels on south-facing rooftops of homes and the flat roofed multi-family buildings

PROGRAMMING / SERVICES (REQUIRES PARTNERSHIPS)
- Incorporate local arts and theater by developing programs, classes and shows with the Karamu House
- Reuse of Neighborhood Initiative Program-funded site acquired from the county land bank
- Annual free dental and vision services
- Monthly staffed Ohio Benefit Bank
- Free Medicaid/Medicare billing services
- Free access to on-site, licensed physician or nurse practitioner at least once per week
- Dedicated health clinic / Access to health care
BUILDING SYSTEMS & CONSTRUCTION

- Sustainable Deconstruction by disassembling buildings for component re-use, re-purpose, re-sale, or recycling of diverted materials
- Smart Thermostats or resident-controlled smart metering
- Dual-flush toilets and low-flow faucets
- Gray water systems that capture and reuse non-potable water
- Dedicated fitness center with exercise machines
- Dedicated business and work-from-home center
- Dedicated computer room
- Free resident Wi-Fi
- Ensure energy efficient housing by aligning new construction with a sustainable standard, such as Department of Energy Zero Energy-Ready Home (with or without a renewable energy system), Passive House Institute Project Certification, Platinum LEED rating, Emerald NGBS National Green Building Standard, or Enterprise Green Communities