FAR EASTSIDE
QUALITY OF LIFE PLAN



City-County Building
200 E Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

August 7, 2026

To Whom It May Concern

This letter verifies that the Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan has met all necessary requirements to complete the Department of Metropolitan Development's Certified Plan Program for the City of Indianapolis. This designation remains in effect until August 2031.

This program is designed to encourage excellence in community planning and to maximize the impact of community-sponsored planning initiatives. Certification requirements ensure that the resulting certified plan has met high standards for community engagement, including the creation and execution of a comprehensive engagement plan. Additionally, all certified plans must meet content standards that demonstrate alignment with City policy, and present actionable steps the community can enact.

The partners of this initiative have met all expectations in the creation of a plan which works towards the City of Indianapolis's values of a healthier, more vibrant, more inclusive, and more competitive city.

Respectfully,

Megan Vukusich
Director of the Department of Metropolitan Development
City of Indianapolis & Marion County

Logan Lane
Administrator for Long-Range Planning
City of Indianapolis & Marion County

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Published May 2026.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that this work takes place on the ancestral homelands of Indigenous peoples who stewarded this land long before the city now known as Indianapolis was established. We honor the original caretakers of this region, including the Miami, Delaware (Lenape), Potawatomi, and other Native nations who were forcibly displaced through colonial expansion and federal policy. We recognize that planning and land use systems have historically contributed to dispossession, and we commit to approaches that center restoration, respect, and responsibility.

We also acknowledge the generations of Black and Latino residents — including members of the broader African Diaspora — whose labor, migration, organizing, faith traditions, and cultural production have profoundly shaped Indianapolis and the Far Eastside. Many Black families arrived through the Great Migration seeking safety and opportunity, yet encountered redlining, disinvestment, segregation, and systemic exclusion. Latino residents, including multigenerational families and more recent immigrants, have contributed entrepreneurial energy, cultural vitality, and intergenerational leadership while navigating structural barriers, language inequities, and uneven access to resources.

Acknowledgments

The Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan is the result of deep listening, shared vision, and sustained commitment to community-centered development. We are profoundly grateful to the residents of the Far Eastside whose time, stories, and lived expertise shaped every dimension of this plan. Your generosity in conversation, your candor about challenges, and your clarity about possibility made this work meaningful and grounded in truth.

Thank you to the neighborhood leaders, faith institutions, small business owners, youth advocates, cultural workers, and service providers who participated in surveys, listening sessions, and co-design conversations. Your insights ensured that this document reflects not only metrics and projections, but memory, culture, and lived experience.

The neighborhoods we plan within today are inseparable from these histories of movement, resilience, and community-building under constraint. We honor the ancestors and elders whose perseverance sustained institutions, businesses, homes, and cultural traditions despite systemic inequities. Their legacy calls us toward equitable reinvestment, shared prosperity, and collective care that recognizes the full richness of the communities who have made and continue to make this place home.

Finally, we recognize that this plan builds upon decades of grassroots advocacy, informal leadership, and everyday stewardship carried by residents. We honor those who came before and those who continue the work now.

May this plan serve not as a final document, but as a living framework — evolving through accountability, partnership, and shared responsibility.

Sincerely,
Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan Leadership Team
Community Alliance of the Far Eastside (CAFE)
The Indianapolis Office of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
The Far Eastside Community Council (FECC)

Partner Overview

The Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan is grateful to the following partners who contributed to the process:

RESIDENT LEADERS

Resident Leaders are Far Eastside community members selected to engage in civic leadership training with the goal of equipping participants to step into leadership roles within the Quality-of-Life Plan process and implementation.

Alise Dalstrom
Anastasia Johnson
Annie Smith
Antonia Bailey
Bodler St louis
Claire Katia Valery
Darrell Shaffer
Gregory Henson
Jorden Williams
Keanu Wharton
Lidia Rivas
Melissa Shaw
Patricia Gilbert
Sherry Garcia
Wendy Mejia
Project Leader: Ashley Thomas, ANT Foundation

COMMUNITY ADVISORY CIRCLE (CAC)

The CAC was instrumental in developing every step of the Quality of Life Plan. From input on community engagement methods to offering important insights, this group provided key guidance.

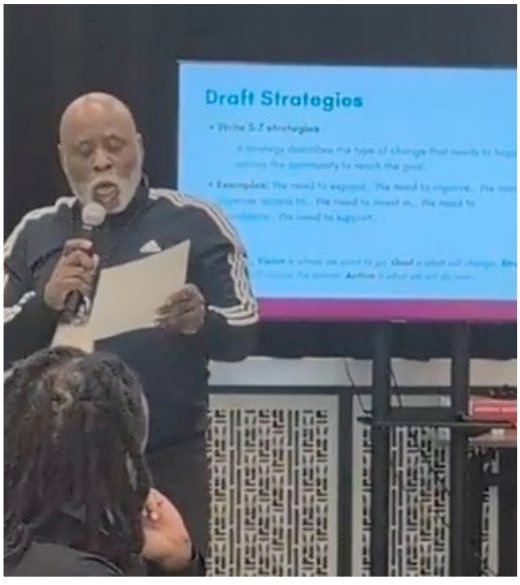
Annie L. Smith
Cheria Caldwell
Dennis Jarrett
Derris Ross
James Taylor
Kendra Nowell
Kia Wright
La Keisha Jackson
Leonce Jean-Baptiste
Miriam Acevedo Davis
Rob Booker
Ron Phillips
Samantha Douglas
Shardae Hoskins
Tamise Cross
TD Robinson
Zenai Savage

FAR EASTSIDE FUTURE LAB

The Far Eastside Future Lab was a two-day collaborative working session that brought together residents, community organizations, businesses, institutions, and public partners to help shape the goals, strategies, and action steps of the Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan.

Alexandra Rollo
Alise Dalstrom
Anastasia Johnson
Annie L. Smith
Ben Tapper
Brandon Taylor
Brenda Kallin
Britt Redd
Claire Valery
Clare Pope
Darrell Shaffer
Gregory Henson
Isaac Mervis
James Taylor
Jasmyne Jordan
Jorden Williams
Karen Sloan
Keanu Wharton
Kelly Evans
Kendale Adams
Koby Estrada
Kristyn Tomlinson
La Keisha Jackson
Leigh Riley Evans
Melissa Shaw
Michael-Paul Hart
Miles Mason
Morgan Bronson
Patricia Gilbert
Richard Gordon
Ron Phillips
Samantha Douglas
Shelley West
Sheryl Richardson
Sherry Garcia
Sibeko Jywanza
TD Robinson
Tim Hanson
Yolanda Jordan
Yvette Markey Markey





PARTNERSHIP BREAKFAST

The Partnership Breakfast brought together community partners and stakeholders to support implementation of the Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan. The event focused on building alignment, identifying opportunities for collaboration, and strengthening the network of organizations committed to helping move the plan forward.

Ahmed Young, Indianapolis Foundation

Amy Nelson, Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana

Alexandra Rollo, Mayor's Action Center

Ali Brown, City-County Council

Andrea Hunley, State Senate

Annie Smith, Resident Leader Program

Arin Schellenberg, Common Ground at Faith

Ashley Thomas, ANT Foundation

Brandon Sweeney, Indianapolis Public Schools

Brandon Taylor, LISC Indianapolis

Brian Parks, Intend Indiana

Britt Redd, Ubuntu Planning Studio

Brittany Laguerre, Indianapolis Foundation

Carly Weidman, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful

Cheria Caldwell, Far Eastside Resident

Danicia Malone, ROKH

Dennis Jarrett, Indy Far East Magazine

Elizabeth Rigney, A Caring Place

Faren Jones, Kuumba Strategies

Greg Henson, Resident Leader Program

Jamarro Johnson, CAFE

Joe Hanson, INHP

Jorden Williams, Resident Leader Program

Karen Sloan, Glick Properties

Keanu Wharton, Resident Leader Program

Kendra Nowell, CAFE

Kraig Kinchen, 100 Black Men of Indianapolis

Kristie Krone, City of Lawrence

Layla Ortas, Common Cause Indiana

Mackenzie Turner, Mayor's Office

Marquisha Bridgeman, Merchants Bank

Marty Posch, JD Sports

Patricia Gilbert, Resident Leader Program

Paula Guynn, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful

Rena Allen, City-County Council

Richard Gordon, Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana

Ron Phillips, Warren Township Development Association

Ryan Brady, Glick Philanthropies

Samantha Douglas, Far Eastside Community Council

Sharla Osuna Rios, National Bank of Indianapolis

Stephanie Haines, Rokh

Suzy Pierce, Restore Hope Indiana

Sydney Starks, Mayor's Office

TD Robinson, Hope CDC

Tim Hanson, MSD Warren Township

Wendy West, Silver Foxx Media


TACO TUESDAY
SIGN-IN
TACO TUESDAY
SIGN-IN



Executive Summary

The Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan is a community-driven roadmap for strengthening stability, opportunity, and overall wellbeing across the neighborhood. It was developed through engagement with residents, community leaders, organizations, and public partners, and reflects both lived experience and a shared vision for the future. The plan is intended to guide decision-making, align efforts, and track progress over time as the community moves from planning into implementation.

The Far Eastside is shaped by long-standing relationships, strong networks, and a deep sense of place. Residents have built their lives here over generations, raising families, supporting neighbors, and creating a community defined by connection and care. Housing costs are rising, access to opportunity is uneven, and outcomes related to safety, health, and economic stability vary across the neighborhood. Investment and change are beginning to reshape parts of the Far Eastside, bringing both opportunity and uncertainty about what that change will mean for current residents.

Residents are actively responding to these conditions. People are working, building businesses, organizing, and creating spaces that support community life. Small businesses and local initiatives are growing, and neighbors continue to rely on one another through both formal and informal networks. However, the systems that shape opportunity, including housing, workforce development, transportation, health, and economic development, are not fully aligned. As a result, many residents do not experience clear or consistent pathways toward long-term stability and growth.

This plan responds to that reality. It is organized around five interconnected focus areas:

- Housing Affordability and Equitable Growth
- Financial Stability and Economic Opportunities
- Safe and Healthy Environments
- Multigenerational Power
- Art, Culture, and Belonging

The plan also takes a systems-based approach. It focuses on how housing, economic opportunity, health, environment, and leadership intersect in daily life. By improving coordination across organizations, aligning investments, and building shared infrastructure for data and accountability, the plan aims to reduce fragmentation and create a more connected and effective ecosystem.

Success will be measured through both long-term outcomes and day-to-day experience. Indicators such as income, housing stability, and health will remain important. It will also be important to understand whether residents can access support when they need it, whether opportunities are easier to navigate, and whether community voices are shaping the decisions that affect the neighborhood. Progress should be visible in both data and lived experience.

The Far Eastside is at a critical moment. The choices made now will shape whether growth leads to greater stability and opportunity or increased displacement and disconnection. This plan provides a path forward that builds on existing strengths, centers resident leadership, and supports a future where people can remain in their community while continuing to grow and thrive.

KEY PRIORITIES

The Quality of Life Plan identifies five strategic focus areas. These priorities are supported by measurable goals, implementation timelines, and identified partners.



Housing Affordability & Equitable Growth



Financial Stability & Economic Opportunities



Safe & Healthy Environments



Multigenerational Power



Art, Culture & Belonging

IMPLEMENTATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

This plan is not a static document. It is accompanied by an implementation framework designed to guide coordinated investment over the next 3–5 years. LISC will continue supporting the work of local leaders through capacity building, access to capital, technical assistance, and partnership alignment to help move these strategies from concept to impact.

A COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

The Far Eastside has long been shaped by both resilience and structural inequities, including redlining, underinvestment, and fragmented infrastructure. This plan acknowledges that history and commits to an approach that prioritizes inclusive growth, community wealth building, and resident ownership of neighborhood change.

Through continued collaboration, targeted investment, and transparent accountability, LISC remains committed to working alongside Far Eastside residents to build a neighborhood that is thriving, connected, and equitable for generations to come.

About the Far Eastside

This section provides an overview of the Far Eastside, including the study area, key demographic patterns, and community assets. Together, these elements offer a shared understanding of who lives in the neighborhood, how people experience it, and the places that support daily life.

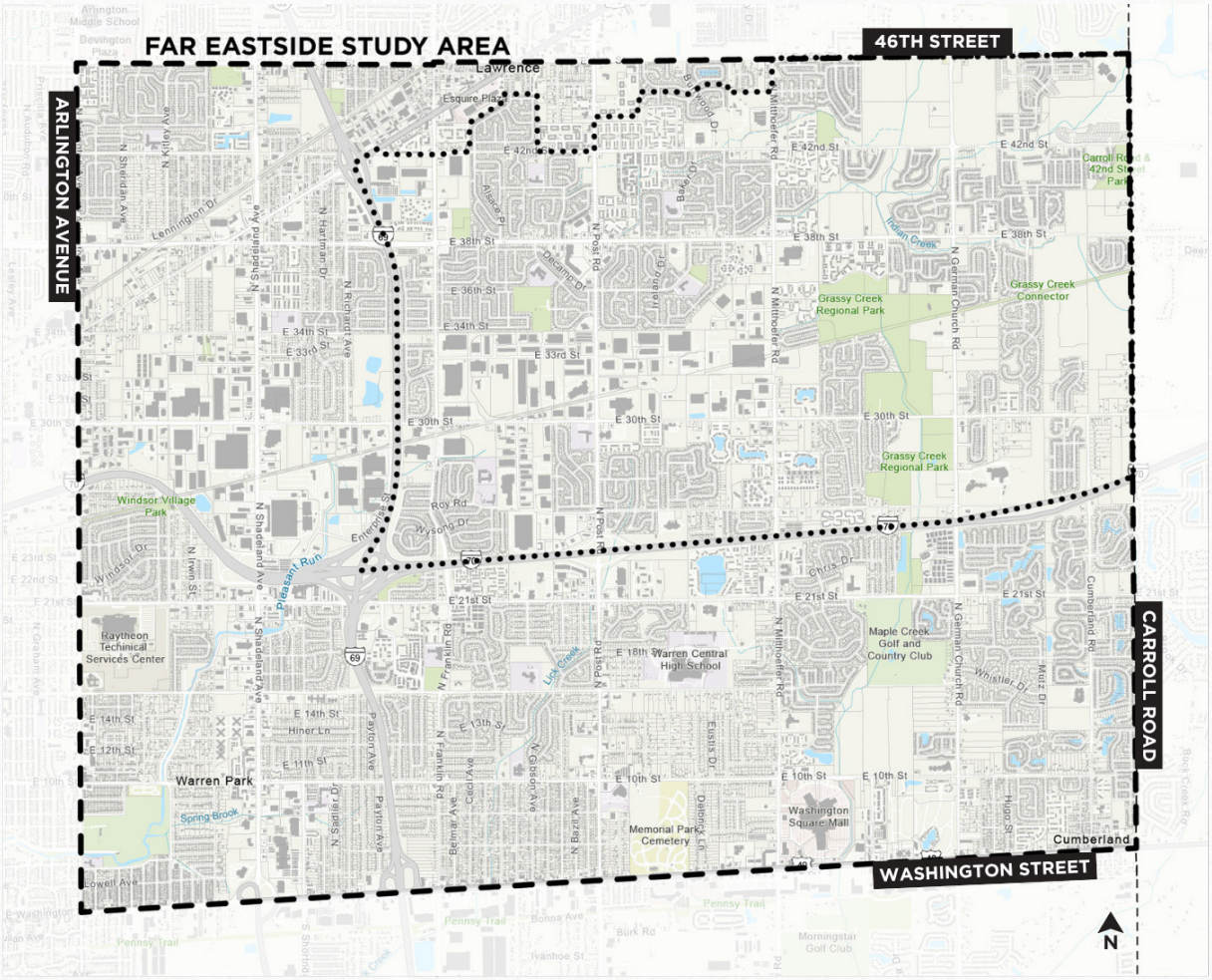
This information helps ground the plan in local context and highlights both the strengths and conditions that shape the Far Eastside today.

Intersection of 38th & Post Rd.

1 Study Area

The study area shows the area this plan focuses on and helps define how we understand the community's needs and priorities. For the Far Eastside Quality of Life planning process, this boundary was shaped by resident input to reflect how people experience daily life, rather than relying only on traditional neighborhood or institutional lines. Through conversations and mapping activities, residents described a Far Eastside connected by shared places—such as schools, parks, faith communities, grocery stores, and service organizations—and by the relationships and routines that link people across the area.

Based on this input, the Far Eastside study area is bounded by 46th Street to the north, Carroll Road to the east, Washington Street to the south, and Arlington Avenue to the west. This boundary reflects how residents experience the Far Eastside as one connected community. It allows the plan to look at things like transportation, housing, services, and daily life together, and helps ensure that strategies respond to how people actually live, move, and stay connected across the neighborhood.



MAP LEGEND

- Study Area Boundary
- Historic Neighborhood Boundary

2 Community Snapshot

The Far Eastside is a community rooted in families, relationships, and shared experience. Many residents have long-standing ties to the neighborhood, while others are newer and adding to its evolving identity. Daily life is shaped by a mix of cultures, including Black, Latino, Haitian, and multiracial communities. This diversity shows up in everyday ways such as gatherings, faith communities, local businesses, and neighborhood events that bring people together.

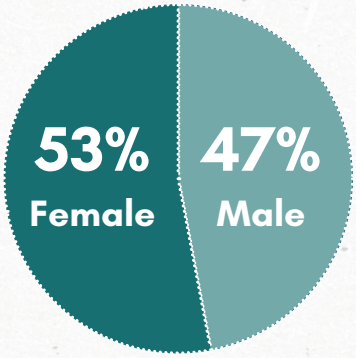
Community life is supported by strong networks of trust and connection. Residents rely on one another, as well as on local organizations and institutions, for support, information, and opportunity. These relationships play an important role in how people navigate daily life and stay connected to the neighborhood.

POPULATION

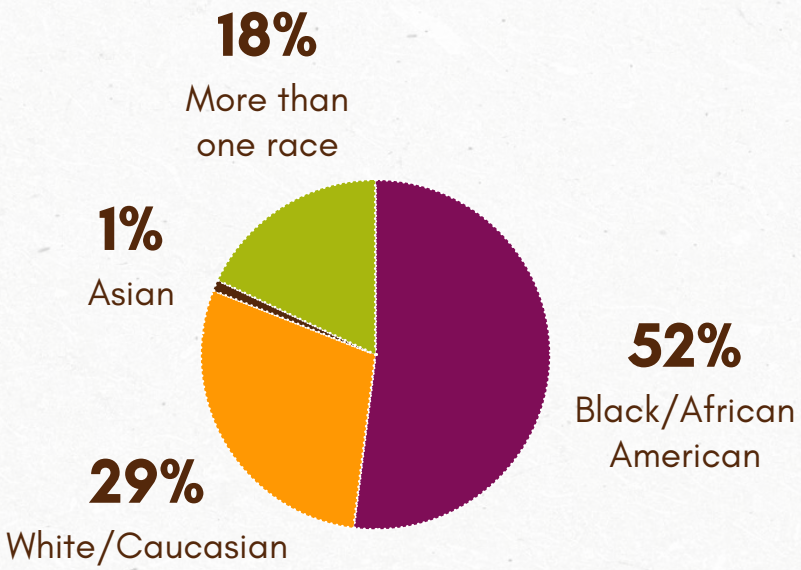
96,824

Far Eastside Population in 2020

SEX DISTRIBUTION



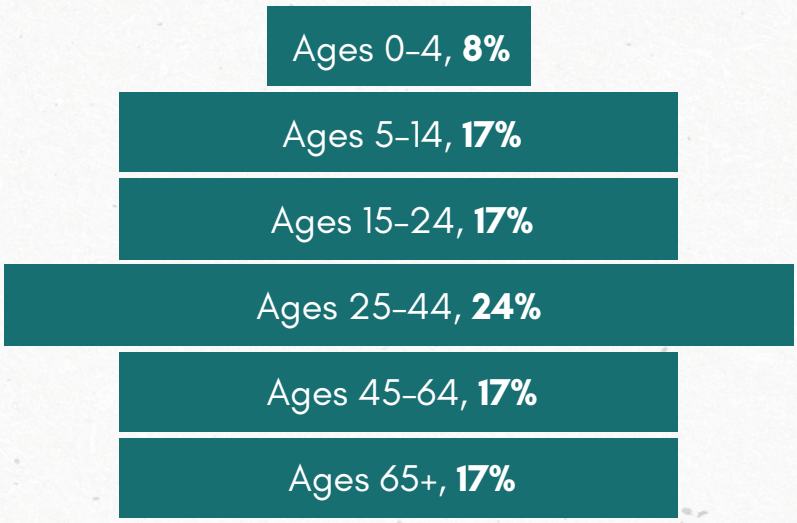
RACE AND ETHNICITY



17%

Hispanic

AGE DISTRIBUTION





2.6 People

Average Household Size

31.8

Median Age

(Compared to 34.3 years in Marion County)

LANGUAGE

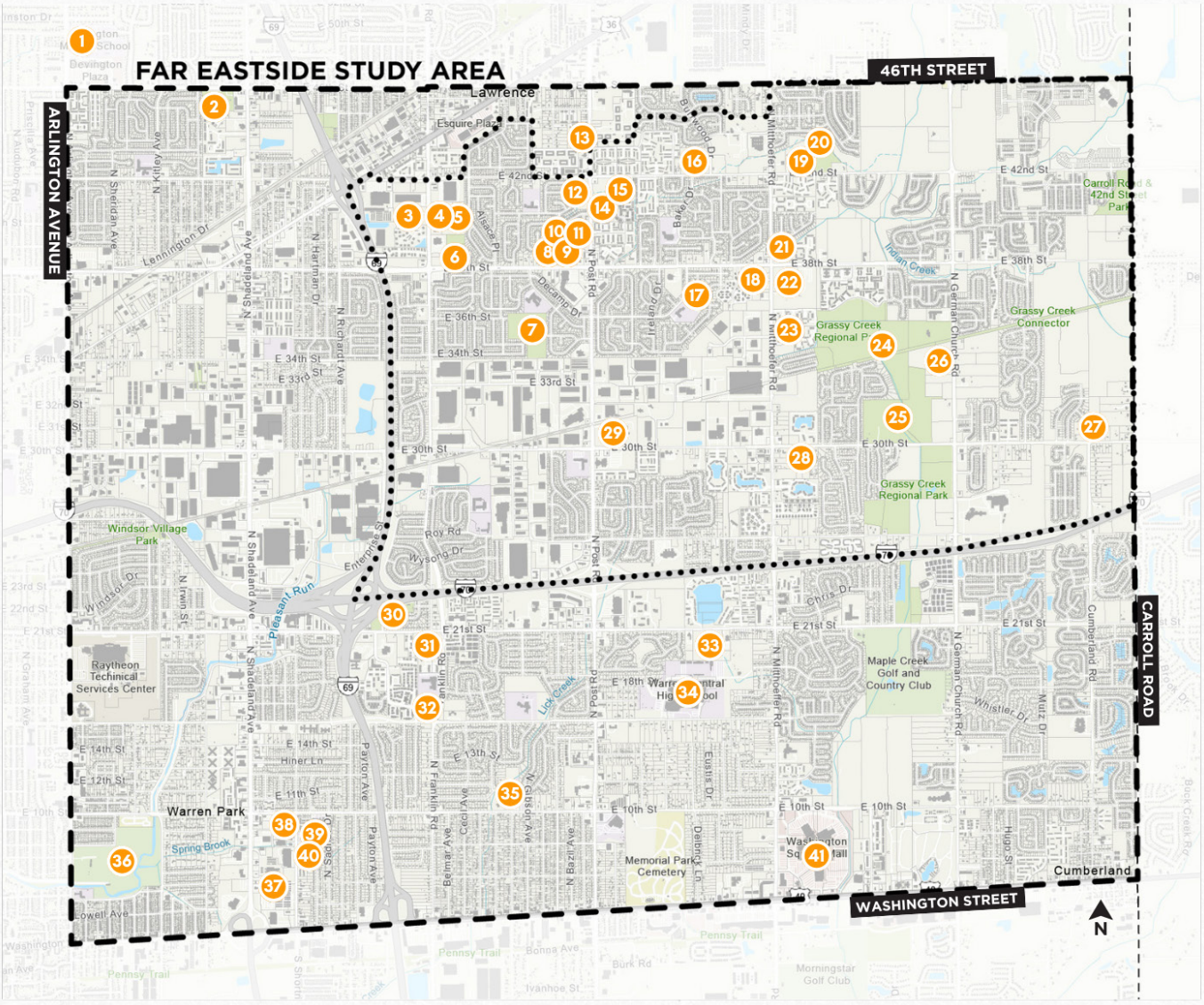
15%

Speak languages other than English at home.

Source: 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Data

3 Community Asset Map

The Far Eastside is home to a wide range of assets that support daily life, connection, and opportunity. These include schools, parks, faith communities, local businesses, and organizations that residents rely on for services, gathering, and support. This map highlights key assets across the Far Eastside, showing how they are distributed throughout the neighborhood. While not exhaustive, it reflects the many places that contribute to the community's strength and serve as important anchors for residents, families, and local networks.



MAP LEGEND

- Community Asset
- Study Area Boundary
- Historic Neighborhood Boundary

Community Assets

1. Arlington High School
2. Gardner Park
3. Circle City Prep
4. Mount Paran Baptist Church
5. Hope Community Development Corporation
6. Franklin and 38th Park
7. Dubarry Park
8. La Plaza
9. CAFE
10. Unity in Christ Church
11. Boys & Girls Club
12. The Ross Community Center
13. Haitian Association of Indiana
14. Oaktree
15. Towne and Terrace
16. Mount Carmel Baptist Church
17. Bellamy Park
18. Supermarcado Rio Grande
19. Carriage House East Resident Success Center
20. Wetlands
21. Plaza Urbana
22. John Marshall High School
23. Pathway Resource Center
24. Grassy Creek Regional Park
25. Grassy Creek Environmental Center
26. Hindu Temple of Central Indiana
27. Broganville's Farm
28. New Liberty Missionary Baptist Church
29. P30
30. Indy Urban Acres Park
31. Old Bethel United Methodist Church
32. Jake Greene Park
33. Walker Career Center
34. Warren Central High School
35. Moorhead Community Resource Center
36. Pleasant Run Golf Course
37. Eastgate Shopping Center
38. Kroger
39. Indiana Black Expo
40. Ransburg YMCA
41. Washington Square Mall

Resident Leaders

The Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan is grounded in the belief that residents should not only shape the vision for their community, but also play a central role in carrying it forward. The Resident Leaders program was created to support that goal by building a foundation of community leadership aligned with the plan's development and implementation.

A cohort of Far Eastside residents participated in a leadership program designed to strengthen their understanding of civic processes, community engagement, and advocacy. Through a series of workshops, participants explored topics such as local government, public speaking, organizing, and the history of the Far Eastside. They also engaged directly with community organizations and institutions, gaining exposure to how decisions are made and how change happens at the neighborhood level.

The cohort was intentionally selected to reflect the diversity of the Far Eastside. Participants include long-time residents, newer community members, parents, young adults, and individuals connected to different cultural and neighborhood networks. Together, they represent a range of perspectives and experiences that are essential to shaping a plan that reflects the full community.

2026 QOL Resident Leaders in CAFE's conference room.





QOL Resident Leaders meeting with local City County Councilors & State Senator LaKeisha Jackson. CCC's from left: Andy Nielsen, Ali Brown, Rena Allen, then State Senator LaKeisha Jackson.

What distinguishes this group is not only what they learned, but why they chose to participate. Many were motivated by a desire to improve conditions for their families, contribute to the future of the neighborhood, and move beyond observing challenges to actively shaping solutions. Their experiences reflect a broader pattern across the Far Eastside, where residents are already engaged in supporting one another and are seeking more direct pathways to influence and leadership.

The Resident Leaders program creates those pathways. Participants are positioned to play an ongoing role in the implementation of the Quality of Life Plan through the Far Eastside Community Council (FECC) and its Action Teams. These structures provide opportunities for residents to continue building leadership skills, contribute to decision-making, and guide the work across each focus area.

By investing in resident leadership early in the planning process, the Far Eastside is strengthening its ability to move from planning to action. The Resident Leaders cohort represents an initial group of community members prepared to help carry this work forward, while also laying the groundwork for broader participation and leadership development over time.



Their leadership reflects a broader truth across the Far Eastside: residents are not waiting for change; they are preparing to lead it.

The Story of the Far Eastside

The Far Eastside of Indianapolis is a neighborhood shaped by movement of people, jobs, and opportunity. Its story is one of change and adaptation, with each generation leaving its mark on the streets, homes, and institutions that define the community today. From farmland and railroads to military posts, factories, and suburban neighborhoods, the Far Eastside has always been a place where residents work, build, and care for one another.

Understanding this history is key to understanding the Far Eastside today. The opportunities and challenges people face now are tied to decisions made decades ago, about where to invest, how to build, and who these systems were designed to serve. This history helps explain why the neighborhood looks and functions as it does and why the choices made now will shape its future.

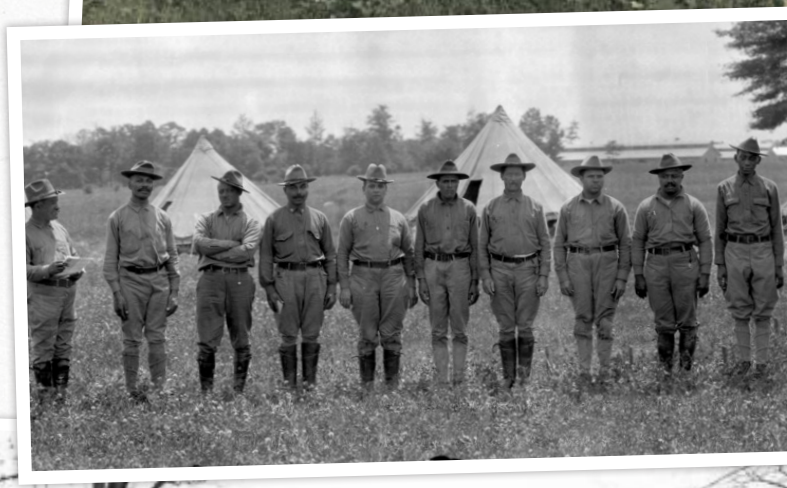
Early Foundations

Before it became a residential community, the Far Eastside was largely agricultural land. The development of the Bee Line Railroad in the mid-1800s connected the area to regional markets, allowing small settlements like Lanesville (later renamed Lawrence) to emerge as service centers for surrounding farms. During this period, daily life revolved around agriculture and local exchange.

That began to shift with the establishment of Fort Benjamin Harrison. The Fort brought steady employment, federal investment, and expanded infrastructure. Military personnel and civilian workers introduced new economic activity, connecting the Far Eastside more directly to the broader Indianapolis economy.

These early patterns of transportation access, institutional employment, and dispersed settlement, laid the groundwork for the rapid growth that would follow.







Top: Traction Station in Lawrence, 1909

Middle: African American National Guard Officers at Fort Harrison, 1910

Bottom: Fort Benjamin Harrison

Building the Suburban Dream

The decades following World War II transformed the Far Eastside into a middle-class suburban community. Large-scale housing development in the 1950s and 1960s brought thousands of new homes, designed for families seeking affordability, space, and upward mobility.

This growth was supported by multiple systems:

- Manufacturing jobs at plants like Western Electric and Chrysler
- Employment at Fort Benjamin Harrison and its Finance Center
- New schools, parks, and neighborhood infrastructure
- Major roadways, including I-70 and I-465, connecting residents to jobs across the region
- Commercial corridors and retail centers like Washington Square Mall

For many families, the Far Eastside represented opportunity. It was a place where stable work, homeownership, and community life felt within reach. Young families populated the community, schools became daily anchors, and commercial corridors offered convenience and connection.

Broader policy decisions also shaped the neighborhood in lasting ways. The creation of Unigov introduced overlapping jurisdictions that continue to affect service delivery. School desegregation and busing policies reshaped enrollment patterns and contributed to demographic shifts that still influence the community today.



April, 1975 Mayor Lugar attends J.C. Penney's opening, Washington Square Mall

1980s–1990s

Disruption and Disinvestment

The 1980s brought economic disruption. Major manufacturing plants, including Chrysler, Western Electric, and later Jenn-Air, closed, eliminating thousands of jobs. The eventual closure of Fort Benjamin Harrison further weakened the economic base.

These changes had widespread effects:

- Loss of stable, middle-income employment
- Decline in local spending and small businesses
- Retail disinvestment, including the departure of anchor stores from Washington Square Mall
- Population shifts and increased housing instability

These changes showed up in everyday life. Families who had relied on stable employment were forced to adapt quickly, often with fewer options and less long-term security.

However, the physical structure of the neighborhood remained largely unchanged. Industrial, commercial, and residential uses continued to sit side by side, and transportation systems prioritized regional movement over local connectivity.

These patterns continue to shape housing conditions, access to opportunity, and the physical layout of the Far Eastside today.

2000s–2010s

Holding On and Building Within

In the early 2000s, local systems faced new challenges. With fewer stable jobs and limited investment, the dissolution of Community Centers of Indianapolis (CCI) removed a shared system of funding, coordination, and administrative support. Neighborhood organizations had to operate independently, often with fewer resources and greater instability, increasing pressure on local groups to meet community needs.

Local institutions stepped in to fill these gaps. The Community Alliance of the Far Eastside (CAFE), which began as a grassroots effort, expanded its role to provide services, advocacy, and neighborhood-based support. The Ross Foundation also emerged as a vital community resource, advocating for residents, addressing systemic poverty, and strengthening support for families.

Hispanic Heritage Month Festival at CAFE.



Neighbors also relied on informal networks of support. Families, neighbors, and community leaders collaborated to meet daily challenges, sharing resources, mentoring young people, and organizing volunteer efforts. These informal connections reinforced the social fabric of the neighborhood, complementing the work of formal organizations.

The 2008 housing crisis added further strain. Foreclosures increased, homeownership declined, and rental housing grew, often under absentee landlords. These changes reshaped demographics, increased housing instability, and required both residents and organizations to adapt quickly to new realities.

The Far Eastside's identity was also evolving. The community became more racially and culturally diverse, with growing African American, Latino, and Haitian populations. This diversity brought new traditions, cultural expressions, and opportunities for gathering. Events such as Haitian Flag Day, Hispanic Heritage celebrations, and the Far Eastside Festival created visible spaces for connection and belonging. These celebrations also demonstrated how residents actively shaped the neighborhood's culture and identity, even amid economic and social challenges.

Despite the pressures of this period, the Far Eastside demonstrated resilience. Local organizations, informal networks, and cultural traditions sustained the community while laying the foundation for future growth. The experiences of these years show that even when formal systems weaken, community leadership, collaboration, and creativity can preserve stability, strengthen identity, and prepare the neighborhood for the next phase of investment and change.

Bottom: Far Eastside Community Council Taco Tuesday.
Right: Haitian Flag Day at CAFE.



2020-Present

Building a Foundation for What's Next

Today, the Far Eastside is experiencing another period of change, shaped by new investment, redevelopment, and infrastructure improvements. Projects like the Purple Line and large-scale housing redevelopment are bringing new attention and resources to the area.

Residents continue to face financial pressures, housing stability challenges, and questions about long-term affordability. Decisions made now will influence who is able to stay, who benefits from investment, and how the neighborhood evolves.

The Quality of Life planning process reflects a growing desire for those decisions to be shaped by the community itself. The Far Eastside has always been defined by its ability to adapt. What is different now is the opportunity for residents to shape the neighborhood's future on their own terms.

What's Happened in the Last 10 Years



Blue and Purple Bus Rapid Transit Lines

Investment in bus rapid transit, including the Purple Line (opened in 2019) and the Blue Line (construction began in 2025), is strengthening connectivity across the Far Eastside. These improvements are linking residents more directly to jobs, services, and regional destinations while also attracting new development along key corridors.



Eskenazi Health Engagement Zone

The Health Engagement Zone is advancing place-based strategies to improve health outcomes on the Far Eastside. The initiative focuses on addressing long-standing disparities in access to care, environmental conditions, and overall community wellbeing.



Far Eastside Community Council

Established in 2018, the Far Eastside Community Council (FECC) has strengthened coordination across neighborhoods and organizations. It creates space for residents to share concerns, build relationships, and advocate for community priorities.



Far Eastside Festival

Launched in 2019, the Far Eastside Festival is an annual event hosted by the Community Alliance of the Far Eastside (CAFE). It brings together hundreds of residents each year to celebrate local culture, connection, and community pride through performances, activities, and shared gathering.



Far Eastside Orchard Green Space

Developed in 2021 on a formerly vacant lot, the Far Eastside Orchard Green Space is a community-led project created in partnership with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and CAFE. Featuring walking paths, trees, and raised gardens, the space has transformed the site into a safe, welcoming place for gathering, recreation, and connection to nature. Recent improvements have also helped reduce soil lead levels.



Grassy Creek Environmental Community Center

Opened in 2025 as part of the expansion of Grassy Creek Regional Park, the Environmental Education Center offers classrooms, community space, and programming focused on environmental learning and nature engagement. It serves as a regional hub for recreation, education, and connection to the surrounding park and trail system.



Grassy Creek Trail Expansion

Beginning in 2025, the Grassy Creek Trail Expansion is extending and connecting the park's trail system to improve access and strengthen connections to surrounding neighborhoods. This effort is part of broader park investments that expand green space, recreation, and access to nature.



John Marshall Redevelopment

Following the school's closure in 2018, the John Marshall site is undergoing a community-informed redevelopment process. In 2025, a task force helped guide a plan to divide the campus into three parcels. While the main building has been sold to a private developer, other portions are planned for community use, including a future community center, park expansion, and continued public access through Indy Parks. The redevelopment reflects ongoing efforts to ensure the site remains a community-serving asset.



Oaktree Redevelopment

The former Oaktree Apartments site has been cleared and repositioned for redevelopment, creating a major opportunity for new housing and community-serving uses along the 42nd Street and Post Road corridor. Planning began in 2025 and is ongoing.



P30 Community and Entrepreneurial Hub

Since opening in 2022, P30 has become a central gathering space on the Far Eastside. It supports small businesses, hosts community events, and strengthens local economic and social networks.



Phalen Leadership Academy Expansion

The continued expansion of Phalen Leadership Academy has increased educational access and brought new investment to the community, serving a growing number of students and families.



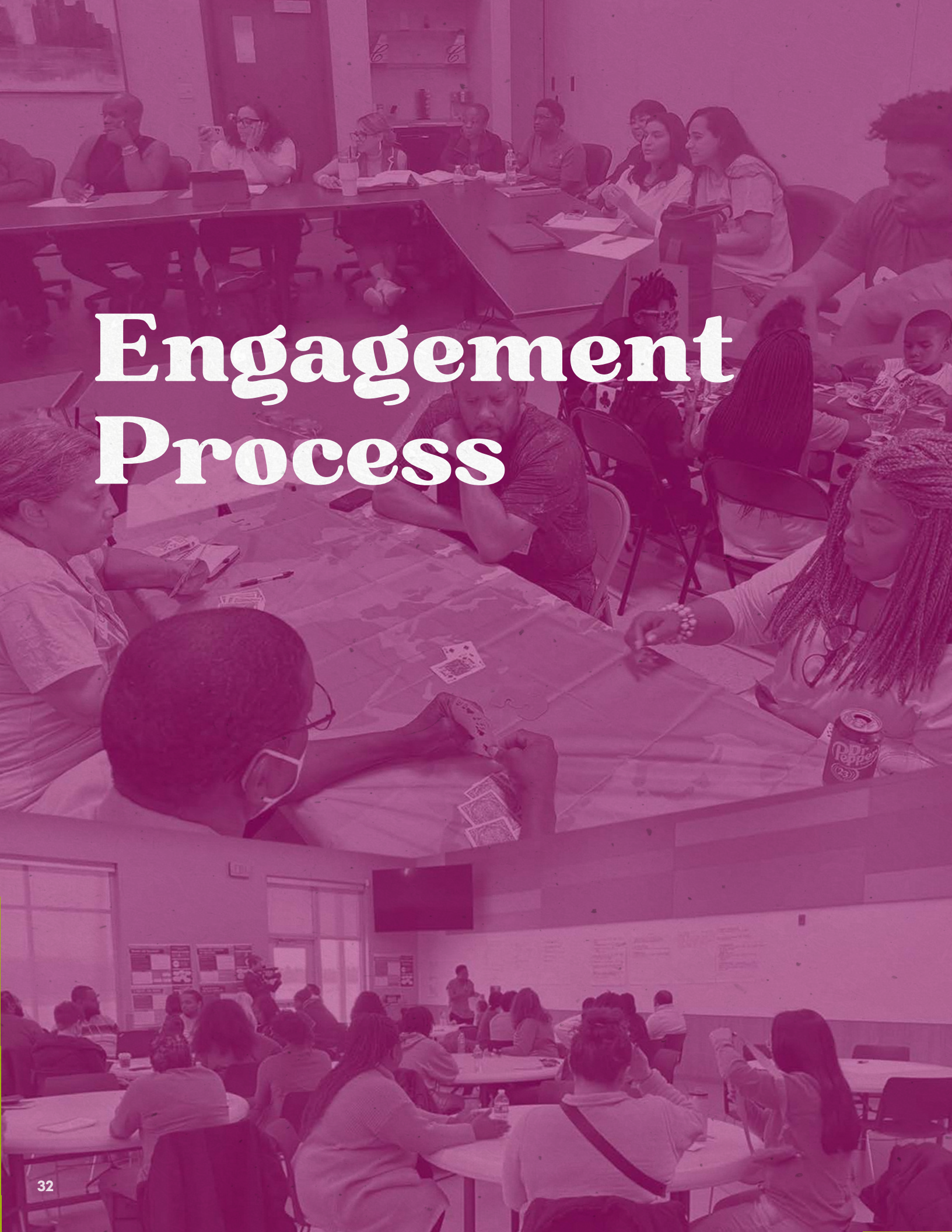
The Ross Center Community Garden

Established in 2021 as part of The Ross Center's holistic therapy and urban agriculture programming, the community garden was developed with support from Land Stewards of Indianapolis. The garden serves as a free community food resource while creating opportunities for residents to connect with nature, wellness, and healthy food access.



Towne and Terrace Redevelopment

The demolition of the Towne and Terrace complex has created one of the largest redevelopment opportunities in the area. With planning beginning in 2024 and still underway, the site has the potential to reshape housing conditions and influence long-term neighborhood stability.



Engagement Process

A Community Centered Planning Approach

The Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan grew from a simple belief. The people who live in a community understand its strengths, challenges, and possibilities better than anyone else. Residents carry deep knowledge of their neighborhoods through daily experience, relationships, and shared memory. For this reason, the planning process treated Far Eastside residents not as participants in a consultant-led project, but as co-creators of the plan itself.

The planning team began by listening. Early conversations focused on learning from the people who already shape life on the Far Eastside. Longtime residents, neighborhood leaders, youth, faith communities, business owners, and local organizations each hold part of the community's story. Together, these perspectives create the most complete understanding of quality of life in the neighborhood.

This approach also recognized that the Far Eastside already contains strong leadership and active community networks. Many organizations, grassroots groups, and resident leaders have worked for years to improve neighborhood conditions. The purpose of this planning effort was not to replace that work. Instead, the goal was to support, connect, and strengthen the efforts already taking place across the community.

Relationship building became a central part of the engagement strategy. Trust develops through consistent presence and honest conversation. It does not grow through a single meeting or survey. For that reason, the planning team participated in neighborhood gatherings and community events rather than relying only on formal public meetings. These informal settings allowed residents to share their ideas in ways that felt natural and welcoming.



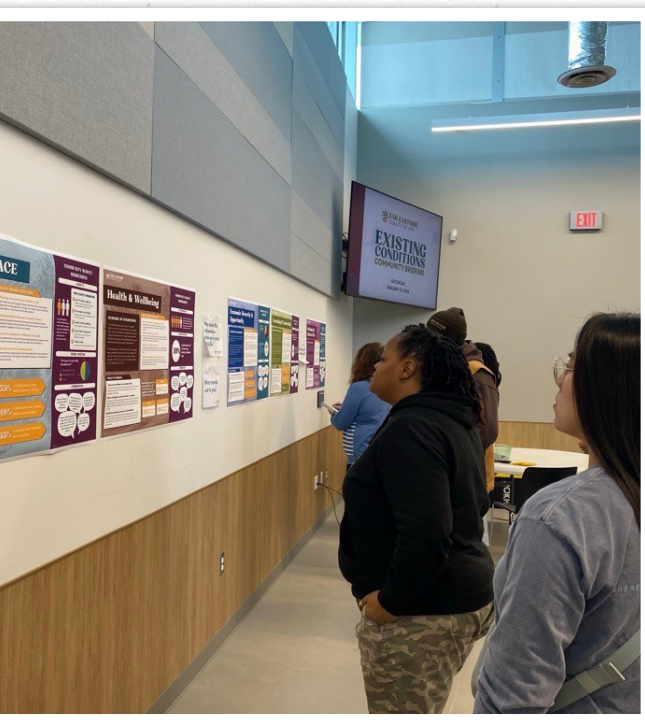
FECC's Taco Tuesday.

Residents also shared clear feedback about how engagement should happen. Many neighbors expressed frustration with traditional town hall meetings that feel disconnected from everyday life. Large meetings often discourage participation and rarely show how community input influences decisions. The Far Eastside planning process responded by creating engagement spaces that felt familiar, flexible, and conversational.

Many activities took place in trusted locations where residents already gather. Community events, neighborhood meetings, and informal conversations allowed the planning team to meet residents where they live, work, and connect with one another. These spaces created an environment that felt more like a community gathering than a formal planning exercise.

The engagement process also celebrated the culture and resilience of the Far Eastside. Residents expressed a strong desire for events that build connection and community pride. Engagement activities included storytelling, creative exercises, and opportunities for reflection about the future of the neighborhood. These activities helped residents share their hopes for the community while strengthening relationships among neighbors.

Accessibility and inclusion remained essential priorities throughout the process. The Far Eastside includes residents from many cultural and linguistic backgrounds, so the planning team worked to ensure that residents from multiple language communities could participate fully. Interpreters supported conversations during key events and discussions.



QOL Existing Conditions Event.

The planning process also connected community knowledge with technical research. Data analysis helped identify trends related to housing, economic opportunity, health, transportation, and neighborhood conditions. Community conversations helped explain how these trends affect daily life. Together, lived experience and data created a fuller picture of quality of life on the Far Eastside.

Through this approach, the planning process became more than a way to gather input. It helped build relationships among residents, organizations, and public partners who will carry the work forward. The Quality of Life Plan reflects the insight, leadership, and aspirations of the Far Eastside community and provides a shared foundation for future action.

The following guiding principles shaped how the planning team designed engagement activities and worked with the Far Eastside community throughout the process.

Outreach Strategy

The outreach strategy for the Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan grew from community insight and local experience. Before launching public engagement activities, the planning team focused on learning how residents prefer to connect, share ideas, and participate in neighborhood conversations. Early discussions with community leaders and members of the Community Advisory Circle helped shape an approach that reflects the culture and rhythms of the Far Eastside. This early listening phase helped the team design engagement activities that feel welcoming, accessible, and grounded in the daily life of the community.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Community First

Residents of the Far Eastside hold deep knowledge of their neighborhood. This process centered their voices, inviting them to share priorities and shape the plan's direction. Community insight guided focus areas, strategies, and long-term goals.



Build on What Works

The Far Eastside already has strong organizations, leaders, and initiatives. This process focused on supporting and connecting existing efforts, building on community strengths to advance shared progress.



Joy and Celebration

Engagement was designed to feel welcoming, creative, and hopeful. Through storytelling, interactive activities, and shared gatherings, residents were able to connect, reflect, and imagine the future together.



Shared Access and Understanding

Engagement was designed to be accessible across languages and backgrounds. Materials, interpretation, and visual tools helped ensure residents could participate in ways that felt clear, comfortable, and inclusive.



Collaboration and Shared Power

Residents, organizations, and institutions worked together to shape the plan. This collaborative approach aligns priorities, strengthens partnerships, and builds shared ownership for implementation.



Learning and Adaptation

The process remained flexible and responsive to community input. Ongoing feedback helped refine engagement and ensured the plan reflects evolving needs and insights.



CAC Members (From Left to Right): Back - Annie L. Smith, Ron Phillips, Cheria Caldwell, Darris Ross, Dennis Jarrett; Middle - Samantha Douglas, Leonce Jean-Baptiste, La Keisha Jackson, Rob Booker, Kia Wright, Zenai Savage; Front - Kendra Nowell, Miriam Acevedo Davis, James Taylor, Shardae Hoskins, Tamise Cross, TD Robinson

COMMUNITY ADVISORY CIRCLE INSIGHTS

The Community Advisory Circle (CAC) served as the community-based steering committee for the Far Eastside Quality of Life planning process. The group consists of trusted neighborhood leaders with long standing commitments to the Far Eastside. CAC members represent a range of community perspectives and relationships across the neighborhood. Throughout the process, they provided guidance, helped shape engagement strategies, and supported key decisions as the plan developed.

The CAC played an important role in shaping the outreach strategy. Their experience and relationships within the community offered valuable insight into neighborhood dynamics and the ways residents prefer to gather and communicate.

At the beginning of the planning process, prospective CAC members completed a short survey about engagement in the community. Participants reflected on past planning efforts and shared their observations about what encourages residents to participate. They also described barriers that sometimes prevent neighbors from attending meetings or engaging in community processes.

Several clear themes emerged from these responses. Residents participate more actively when conversations happen in familiar settings rather than formal meeting environments. Informal gatherings and community events often create more comfortable spaces for honest dialogue. CAC members also emphasized the importance of visible progress. Many residents have contributed to planning efforts in the past but have not always seen tangible results. As a result, neighbors want engagement activities that feel purposeful and connected to real outcomes.

These insights guided the design of outreach methods and communication strategies throughout the planning process:

Keep It Local and Personal

Community leaders consistently emphasized the importance of keeping engagement local and personal. Large town hall meetings often create distance between planners and residents. Many neighbors feel more comfortable sharing their perspectives in smaller and more informal settings where conversation can happen naturally.

The outreach strategy therefore focused on connecting with residents in places and spaces that feel familiar and accessible. Informal gatherings and neighborhood-based conversations helped create an environment where residents could share ideas in ways that felt natural rather than procedural.

This approach also supported relationship building. When residents encounter the planning process in spaces they already trust, participation becomes easier and more authentic.

Outreach Activities That Encourage Conversation

The outreach strategy prioritized engagement methods that encourage dialogue rather than one directional presentations. Many activities used interactive formats that invited residents to respond to prompts, share stories, and reflect on their experiences in the neighborhood.

Visual displays, maps, and discussion prompts helped residents contribute ideas without needing technical planning knowledge. These tools also created opportunities for residents who may not feel comfortable speaking in a formal meeting environment.

Flexible engagement formats also allowed residents to participate at their own pace. This approach made it easier for neighbors with busy schedules to share input without committing to long meetings.

Communication Through Trusted Channels

Trusted relationships play a central role in how information travels across the Far Eastside. Many residents learn about community activities through neighbors, faith communities, and local organizations rather than through formal announcements.

The outreach strategy therefore relied on community partners and neighborhood advocates to help share information about engagement opportunities. Flyers, talking points, and outreach materials helped trusted messengers invite residents into the planning process.

This network-based communication approach helped expand participation and ensured that engagement efforts reached a wider cross section of the community.

Removing Barriers to Participation

The planning team also worked to remove barriers that often limit participation in community planning efforts. Accessibility remained a priority throughout the outreach strategy.

Engagement activities prioritized welcoming environments that allow residents to participate comfortably with family members and neighbors. Language access also remained essential. Materials and discussion tools appeared in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole so that residents from multiple language communities could participate fully.

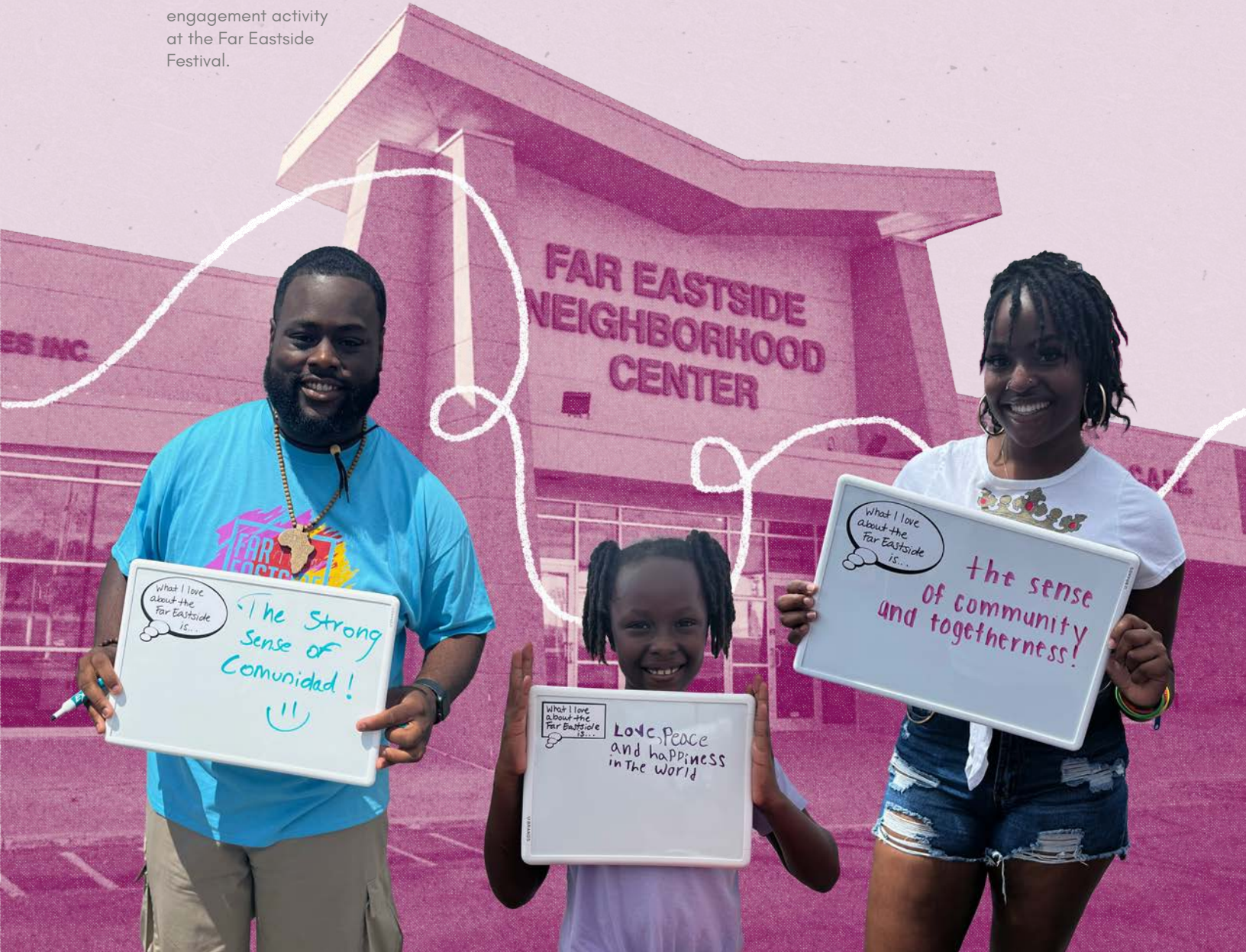
Together, these outreach strategies created an engagement process that feels accessible, relational, and grounded in the lived experience of Far Eastside residents. The approach helped the planning team reach a broad range of community voices while building the trust necessary for meaningful participation.

How Community Voice Shaped This Plan

Community voice shaped the Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan from the beginning. Rather than being a single step, it was part of how decisions were made throughout the process. Residents, neighborhood leaders, and community partners shared their perspectives through conversations, surveys, workshops, and community gatherings.

These moments created opportunities for people to bring their lived experience into the process and name the priorities that shape quality of life on the Far Eastside. What was shared during engagement helped guide key parts of the plan, including how the study area was defined, how the vision took shape, how focus areas were identified, and how strategies were developed and aligned for implementation.

Below: FECC's engagement activity at the Far Eastside Festival.



DEFINING THE FAR EASTSIDE STUDY AREA

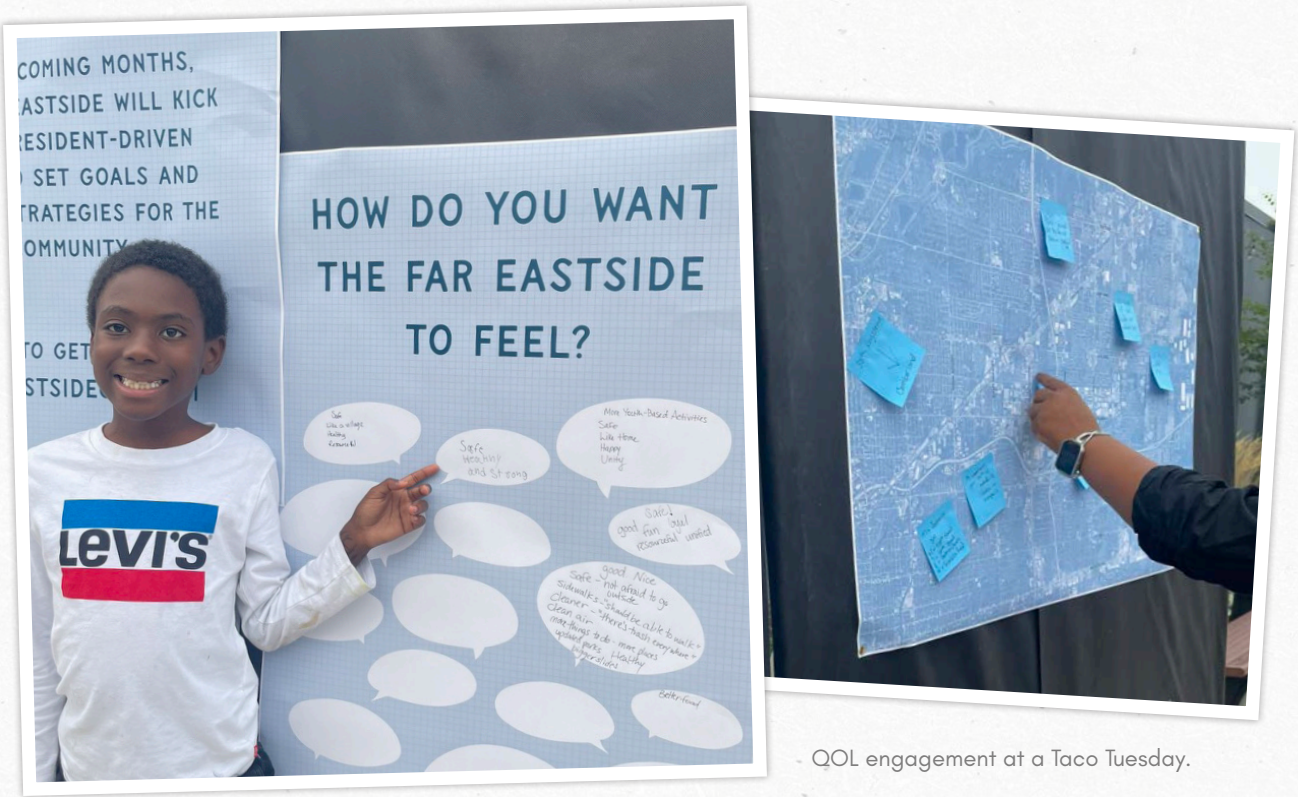
Community input played an important role in defining the study area for the Quality of Life Plan. Rather than relying only on past planning documents or official boundaries, the planning team invited residents to describe how they understand the Far Eastside.

During an activity at a Far Eastside Community Council gathering, residents gathered around a large map of the area and shared their perspectives. Guiding prompts explored what people view as the Far Eastside boundaries. People placed notes on the map and talked through the places that matter to them, including landmarks, corridors, community spaces, and everyday destinations that shape their sense of belonging.

As the conversation unfolded, it became clear that the Far Eastside is not defined by fixed lines alone. Residents described it through relationships, community spaces, and the rhythms of daily life. Longtime residents also spoke about how the area has grown over time as new housing developments have been built and more families have moved into the neighborhood.

Additional opportunities for input were available through feedback map stations at P30 and CAFE, where residents and community members could respond to the same prompt and share their perspectives over time. These stations made it possible for more people to contribute, including those who were not able to attend a formal meeting.

The planning team looked at these perspectives alongside previous neighborhood plans and city planning documents. Together, this helped establish a study area that reflects both the history of past planning efforts and the way residents experience the Far Eastside today.



QOL engagement at a Taco Tuesday.

SHAPING THE VISION STATEMENT

Community voice played a central role in shaping the vision that guides this plan, starting with the Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan Kickoff Celebration. The event was designed to feel welcoming and familiar, more like a gathering than a meeting, so residents could share their hopes for the future in ways that felt natural and comfortable.

The kickoff included interactive activities like vision boarding, small-group conversations, storytelling, and creative expression. People moved through the space at their own pace, stopping to reflect, talk, and share what "quality of life" means to them. Music from a DJ and food from His Place Eatery helped create a relaxed and inviting atmosphere where people could connect and speak openly. Families also had the opportunity to take free portraits, capturing the faces of the Far Eastside and offering a small token of appreciation for the time people spent contributing to the process.



Community photos from the QOL Kickoff Event.

As part of the event, residents created individual vision boards that reflected their hopes for the Far Eastside. These were later brought together into a single community vision board, creating a shared picture of what people want the future to look and feel like.

As people spent time in conversation, a shared picture of the future began to take shape. Residents talked about wanting to feel safe, supported, and connected. Many spoke about stronger relationships across cultures and generations, along with more opportunities for families to thrive. Others pointed to the need for local businesses, accessible services, and welcoming spaces where people can gather.

These ideas shaped the Vision Statement that guides the Quality of Life Plan. It reflects how residents want the Far Eastside to feel, a place where people are connected to one another, where families have access to opportunity and stability, and where neighbors work together to build a stronger future.

IDENTIFYING FOCUS AREAS

Community engagement helped bring clarity to the issues that matter most to Far Eastside residents. Responses to the Far Eastside Community Council's Community Priorities Survey provided an early picture, highlighting concerns related to housing stability, economic opportunity, neighborhood conditions, access to services, and overall health and wellbeing.

These insights were combined with community data to create the Existing Conditions Report, which laid out what is happening across the neighborhood. Rather than leaving the data on the page, residents and community partners were invited to review and talk through the findings together.

A series of Existing Conditions events, including an in-person gathering and virtual sessions in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, gave people the opportunity to engage with the information directly. As people discussed the data, they connected it to their own experiences and began to point out what felt most urgent, what has been overlooked, and where change is most needed.

Through these conversations, priorities started to take shape. People named the issues that continue to affect daily life and shared ideas about where the plan should focus and what kinds of approaches might make a difference.

The Focus Areas that organize the Quality of Life Workplan grew out of this process. They reflect both the patterns shown in the data and the priorities raised by residents, grounded in a shared understanding of the conditions facing the Far Eastside.



QOL Existing Conditions Event.

INFORMING THE WORKPLAN

Community input continued to shape the plan during the strategy development phase through the Far Eastside Future Lab. This two-day working session brought together residents, community partners, and local stakeholders to build the Quality of Life Workplan.

People spent time reviewing what had been learned so far, including community input, neighborhood conditions, and key opportunities. From there, the focus shifted to what should happen next. In small groups, participants worked across focus areas, sharing ideas, asking questions, and building on each other's thinking.

As the conversations developed, priorities became clearer and ideas began to take form. Participants worked through what would actually make a difference, what might be possible, and what challenges would need to be considered. Strategies were shaped through discussion, tested against real conditions, and refined based on the experience and insight in the room.

Residents also spoke about the barriers that affect access to housing, jobs, transportation, and community resources. These conversations helped ground the work in everyday realities and made it easier to understand how policies and programs show up in people's lives.

By the end of the Future Lab, ideas had been shaped into clear directions for action. The strategies included in the Quality of Life Workplan reflect both what the community wants to see and what it will take to move that work forward.



Far Eastside Future Lab at Moorhead Community Resource Center.

ALIGNING PARTNERS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Engagement throughout the planning process helped clarify how organizations and institutions can work together to advance the goals of the plan. Stakeholder interviews and questionnaires allowed partners to describe the work they currently lead and the resources they can contribute to future initiatives.

These conversations helped identify organizations that can serve as lead partners for specific strategies while also highlighting opportunities for collaboration across sectors such as housing, health, education, workforce development, and neighborhood services.

This alignment work continued through a Partnership Breakfast hosted by LISC, which brought together key partners to review the revised workplan and discuss opportunities for coordination and implementation. During this session, partners identified where their work already aligns with plan strategies and where they can play a role moving forward. The conversation also created space for institutional partners to consider how they can make meaningful commitments to the work ahead.

These efforts helped align community priorities with the organizations best positioned to advance them and provided a strong foundation for the development of the Implementation Plan.



Partnership Breakfast hosted by LISC.

Engagement Activities and Process Timeline

The engagement process for the Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan unfolded through a series of phases that built on one another over time. Each stage created opportunities for residents, organizations, and partners to contribute to the Quality of Life Plan.



LAUNCH

(Jul 2025 – Nov 2025)

The launch phase focused on relationship building, early listening, and establishing the governance structure for the planning process. During this time, the planning team connected with residents through existing neighborhood gatherings while forming the Community Advisory Circle, which serves as the plan's community based steering committee.

Key Engagement Milestones

August 26, 2025
Far Eastside Community Council Taco Tuesday
Listening and Trust Building

September 23, 2025
Far Eastside Community Council Taco Tuesday
Study Area Activity

September 29, 2025
Community Advisory Circle participants confirmed

October 10, 2025
First Community Advisory Circle meeting

October 25, 2025
Daptober Fest community engagement table

October 28, 2025
Far Eastside Community Council Taco Tuesday
Branding Activity

November 3, 2025
Community Advisory Circle meeting

November 17, 2025
Community Advisory Circle meeting



ENGAGE

(Nov 2025 – Jan 2026)

The engagement phase began with the community kickoff celebration, which invited residents to share their hopes and ideas for the future of the Far Eastside. The event introduced the planning process to the broader community and helped gather early input that informed the Vision Statement.

Key Engagement Milestones

- **November 21, 2025**
  Community Kickoff Celebration
- **January 20, 2026**
  Community Advisory Circle meeting
- **January 28, 2026**
  Community Advisory Circle meeting



ANALYZE

(Jan 2026 – Feb 2026)

During the analysis phase, the planning team shared research and data about current neighborhood conditions while inviting residents to reflect on what the information means for daily life on the Far Eastside. These discussions helped identify the focus areas that guide the Quality of Life Plan.

Key Engagement Milestones

- **January 31, 2026**
  Existing Conditions Community Event (in person)
- **February 11–12, 2026**
  Existing Conditions Virtual Event (English)
- **February 17–18, 2026**
  Existing Conditions Virtual Event (Spanish and Haitian Creole)



STRATEGIZE

(Mar 2026 – May 2026)

The strategy phase brought residents, partners, and stakeholders together to develop goals, strategies, and actions for the plan's focus areas. Participants reviewed data, discussed potential solutions, and identified opportunities for collaboration.

Key Engagement Milestones

- **March 9–20, 2026**
  Stakeholder interviews
- **March 12, 2026**
  Community Advisory Circle meeting
- **March 28–29, 2026**
  Far Eastside Future Lab
- **March 30, 2026**
  Community Advisory Circle meeting
- **April 18, 2026**
  Draft Plan Open House
- **April 16–29, 2026**
  Draft Plan Public Comment Period
- **April 27, 2026**
  Community Advisory Circle Meeting
- **May 11, 2026**
  Partnership Breakfast



EXECUTE

(May 2026 and Beyond)

The final phase focuses on completing the Quality of Life Plan and celebrating the community's shared work. The final document incorporates feedback from residents, partners, and stakeholders gathered throughout the process.

Key Engagement Milestones

- **June 5, 2026**
  Community Celebration Event

Community Engagement Summary

The Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan engagement process included public events, stakeholder meetings, surveys, targeted conversations, and digital outreach to gather broad community input and participation.

IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT

More than **1,200 residents and stakeholders** participated through community events, neighborhood meetings, interviews, and public planning activities.

STAKEHOLDER & ORGANIZATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The planning process included:

73 one-on-one conversations and interviews

Engagement with **60+ community organizations and partners**

SURVEYS & QUESTIONNAIRE FEEDBACK

188 total responses via community feedback that was collected through multiple engagement tools, including the Community Priorities Survey, Draft Plan Survey, and Workplan Questionnaire.

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

Project outreach efforts expanded participation opportunities through both digital and print communications, including:

4,000 magazine distributions

More than **6,200** Facebook impressions

1,062 text outreach contacts

822 Substack engagements

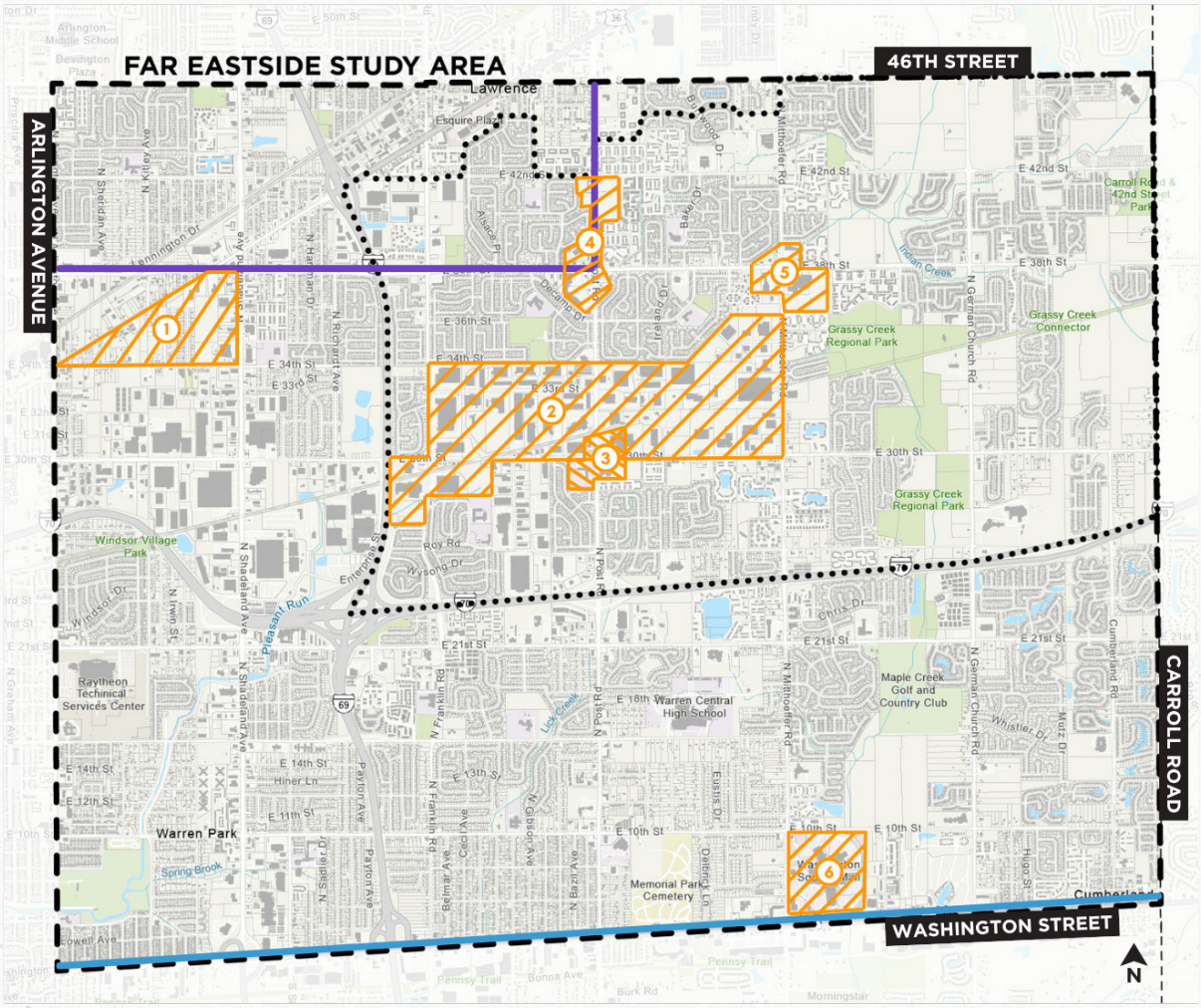
430 virtual event views

Future Land Use and Development



Overview

This section presents a series of Areas of Interest to support an understanding of existing physical, environmental, and land use conditions across the study area. These locations highlight where factors such as land use patterns, infrastructure, environmental conditions, and community-serving uses intersect and shape how different parts of the Far Eastside function today. They include major corridors, neighborhood activity nodes, transit-connected areas, and large redevelopment sites. These areas also reflect community-identified priorities related to safety, access, environmental conditions, and the need for spaces that support daily life, economic opportunity, and connection.



MAP LEGEND

- Study Area Boundary
- Historic Neighborhood Boundary
- FEQOL Area of Interest
- Purple Line Bus Route
- Blue Line Bus Route

Areas of Interest

1. Shadeland Avenue and 34th Street

(34th Street to Pendleton Pike)

The area generally bounded by Pendleton Pike, Shadeland Avenue, and 34th Street includes a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial land uses located close together. Within this area, an established residential enclave of more than 50 homes exists in close proximity to industrial and heavy commercial land uses on multiple sides, creating ongoing land use compatibility challenges.

While portions of the western area are designated for low-density residential use, these areas directly abut recommended industrial and heavy commercial designations to the north, south, and east. This configuration highlights a long-term tension between preserving residential stability and accommodating continued industrial investment in the surrounding corridor.

State environmental records further indicate the presence of multiple environmental conditions in the vicinity, including underground storage tanks, hazardous waste sites, voluntary remediation sites, and properties with environmental use restrictions. While these designations reflect ongoing management and remediation efforts, their concentration near residential areas underscores the importance of continued monitoring and careful land use coordination.



Intersection of Shadeland Avenue and Pendleton Pike.

Together, these conditions present an important environmental justice consideration. Existing residents have remained in place despite long-term exposure to surrounding industrial activity, and the area reflects a sustained overlap between residential living environments and higher-intensity land uses. This pattern reflects ongoing questions about how land use, environmental conditions, and neighborhood stability are experienced at this location.

Considerations for the Future

- The relationship between existing residential areas and surrounding industrial and heavy commercial land uses
- The extent to which current land use designations reflect long-term residential stability in this area
- The concentration of environmental conditions, including regulated and remediated sites, in proximity to homes
- How transitions, or the absence of transitions,between land use types influence exposure, perception of safety, and quality of life
- The cumulative impact of corridor activity, industrial use, and environmental conditions on residents who have remained in place over time

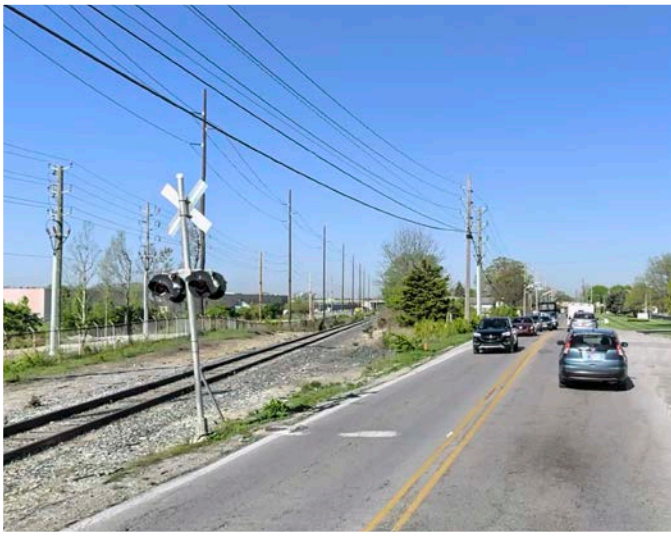
2. North 30th Street Corridor

(Franklin Road to Post Road)

This corridor reflects a legacy land use pattern shaped by historic rail-oriented industrial development. Existing zoning and land use designations allow for a mix of industrial activities, including heavier industrial uses, directly adjacent to established residential neighborhoods, parks, and institutional uses.

As the surrounding community has evolved, this pattern presents ongoing land use compatibility challenges. Residents have expressed concerns related to traffic, noise, environmental conditions, and overall quality of life. Portions of the corridor include underutilized or transitioning industrial properties, creating opportunities for reinvestment and more context-sensitive development.

Current policy guidance presents a mixed framework, with future land use recommendations supporting both heavy and light industrial uses in close proximity to residential areas. This suggests a continued tension between legacy industrial land use patterns and the evolving residential, institutional, and recreational context of the surrounding neighborhood.



Rail line along North 30th Street.

Considerations for the Future

- The relationship between existing industrial land use designations and adjacent residential neighborhoods, parks, and institutional uses
- The extent to which current policy guidance reflects present-day community conditions along the corridor
- The presence of underutilized or transitioning industrial properties and how these sites function within the broader corridor context
- How land use patterns influence exposure to traffic, noise, and environmental conditions for nearby residents
- The role of this corridor within the neighborhood, including how it supports or constrains connectivity, quality of life, and long-term stability

3. 30th Street and Post Road Intersection

The intersection of 30th Street and Post Road functions as a key community hub within the study area, anchored by a mix of institutional, health, and community-serving uses. The northeast corner is home to P30, an entrepreneurial and community hub that has experienced significant growth and has become an important gathering space for residents and small businesses.

Additional uses at this intersection further reinforce its role as a neighborhood center, including an adult day services provider on the northwest corner, the Jane Pauley Community Health Center on the southwest corner, and A Caring Place on the southeast corner. These uses serve a wide range of community members, including seniors, families, and individuals accessing health and social services.



The Caring Place at the intersection of 30th Street and Post Road.

This area reflects a concentration of community-serving uses that function as a neighborhood hub, particularly for populations accessing health, care, and social services. However, surrounding land use patterns introduce conditions that may not fully align with the role this intersection plays in the daily life of the community.

Considerations for the Future

- The relationship between the concentration of community-serving uses and surrounding higher-intensity industrial and commercial land uses
- How current land use designations align with the presence of health, care, and gathering spaces serving vulnerable populations
- The extent to which existing land use patterns reflect the level of community activity occurring at this intersection
- How environmental conditions and corridor activity influence safety, comfort, and accessibility for residents using this area
- The role of this intersection within the broader neighborhood as a center of activity and connection

4. Post Road Purple Line Nodes

(38th Street & 42nd Street)

The intersections of 38th Street and Post Road and 42nd Street and Post Road represent two of the most significant reinvestment and growth areas within the study area. Shaped by recent transit investment, publicly controlled redevelopment sites, and a growing concentration of community assets, these corridors are becoming increasingly important destinations for residents and visitors alike. Located along the IndyGo Purple Line corridor, both intersections serve as key connection points linking Far Eastside residents to employment centers, services, recreation, and regional destinations.

At 42nd Street and Post Road, the former Oaktree Apartments site and former Towne and Terrace complex are redevelopment projects led by the City of Indianapolis Department of Metropolitan Development. Together, these sites represent transformational opportunities for the Far Eastside. Future plans emphasize mixed-use, transit-oriented development that could include housing, neighborhood-serving uses, public gathering spaces, and open space designed to support long-term community vitality.



Purple Line Station on 38th Street and Post Road.

At 38th Street and Post Road, a strong network of civic and community anchors further reinforces the area's role as an emerging neighborhood destination. Organizations such as Community Alliance of the Far Eastside and the JD Finish Line Boys & Girls Club provide important spaces for youth engagement, neighborhood services, and community gathering. Community-led environmental improvement initiatives have also contributed to ongoing reinvestment in the area. The Far Eastside Orchard Green Space at CAFE, developed through a partnership between Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and CAFE, included soil remediation efforts and expanded access to green space within the neighborhood. Additional commercial sites in the area present opportunities for future reinvestment, adaptive reuse, and community-oriented development.

Both intersections also experience a high incidence of severe and fatal pedestrian-involved crashes, highlighting opportunities for improved safety, walkability, and traffic calming measures. Residents have consistently identified environmental health, safe mobility, and access to welcoming community spaces as important priorities for future development. The relationship between land use and health remains central to the community's broader focus on environmental justice. Community members have expressed interest in encouraging development patterns that better support neighborhood well-being, pedestrian activity, and long-term public health outcomes.

These conditions reflect a convergence of public investment, community leadership, transit access, and evolving development patterns. As these corridors continue to change, there is an opportunity to strengthen connectivity, expand access to community amenities, and support resident-centered growth that advances long-term neighborhood stability and quality of life.

Considerations for the Future

- The relationship between recent public investment, including transit and land assembly, and existing land use designations at these locations
- How current land use patterns support or constrain the role of these intersections as neighborhood hubs and regional connection points
- The extent to which surrounding development patterns reflect the presence of community anchors, gathering spaces, and redevelopment sites
- How pedestrian safety conditions, including crash patterns and roadway design, influence access to transit and nearby destinations
- The concentration of auto-oriented uses and environmental conditions, including underground storage tank sites, in proximity to areas of community activity
- How these nodes function within the broader network of housing, services, and economic opportunity across the Far Eastside

5. 38th Street and Mitthoeffer Road Intersection

The intersection of 38th Street and Mitthoeffer Road serves as a key neighborhood destination anchored by a mix of local retail, residential density, and a major institutional redevelopment site. Located at the southeast corner, the former John Marshall Community High School campus represents a significant transition area and long-term opportunity for community-focused reinvestment.

Following the school's closure in 2018, the site has been the focus of a community-informed redevelopment process. A 2025 planning effort established a framework for dividing the campus into multiple parcels to support a range of future uses. While the main building has transitioned to private ownership, other portions of the site are planned to remain publicly accessible and community-oriented, including a potential community center, expanded park space, and continued public access through Indy Parks. In addition, the ongoing Grassy Creek Greenway expansion will strengthen trail connectivity, improve access to open space, and further reinforce the site's role as an important neighborhood asset.

Surrounding the intersection, existing conditions already reflect its importance as a center of daily neighborhood activity. A mix of grocery retail, small businesses, and nearby multifamily housing contributes to consistent activity throughout the area and provides residents with access to essential goods and services. Recent reinvestment in nearby commercial properties has also strengthened the corridor's role as a local destination and community gathering area.

The intersection experiences a high number of severe and fatal pedestrian-involved crashes, creating opportunities for significant safety, accessibility, and pedestrian environment improvements. Residents have also identified environmental health, walkability, and safe access to community destinations as important considerations for future growth. The relationship between land use and health remains an ongoing community priority, particularly in areas with existing gas station infrastructure and underground storage tanks. Community members have expressed interest in encouraging future development patterns that support neighborhood health, safety, connectivity, and long-term community well-being.



John Marshall redevelopment site at the intersection of 38th Street and Mitthoeffer Road.

Ongoing redevelopment efforts, expanded trail access, and continued reinvestment activity position the intersection as an important area for neighborhood stabilization, improved connectivity, and community-centered growth.

Considerations for the Future

- The relationship between existing land use designations and the presence of nearby residential areas and community-serving destinations
- How current land use patterns align with the scale of activity and reinvestment occurring at this intersection
- The role of the John Marshall redevelopment site within the broader neighborhood context and how it connects to surrounding uses
- The relationship between the Grassy Creek greenway and adjacent development patterns, including connectivity and access
- How pedestrian safety conditions, including crash patterns and roadway design, affect movement between housing, retail, and community spaces
- The presence of environmental conditions, including gas station infrastructure and underground storage tanks, in proximity to areas of daily activity

6. Washington Square Mall Area

Washington Square Mall is a large, privately owned commercial property located at Washington Street and Mitthoeffer Road that has historically functioned as a major retail anchor for the Far Eastside. Once a regional shopping destination with multiple department stores and smaller retail tenants, the site played a significant role in supporting local employment, economic activity, and community gathering.



Washington Square Mall.

Today, the property is characterized by significant vacancies, evolving ownership structures, and visible signs of deferred maintenance. Despite these challenges, Washington Square Mall remains a strategically important site due to its size, visibility, and location along a high-traffic corridor. Its future redevelopment will have a substantial influence on surrounding commercial activity and long-term corridor conditions.

A privately funded planning and feasibility study is currently underway to evaluate site infrastructure conditions and explore future redevelopment opportunities. This process includes consideration of utilities, transportation access, internal circulation, and potential land use scenarios. Community members from the Far Eastside have been actively engaged in providing input on priorities such as infrastructure improvements, multimodal connectivity, transit access, and the potential for mixed-use redevelopment.



Washington Square Mall.

The site's location along the developing IndyGo Blue Line corridor introduces a new layer of connectivity and visibility within the broader transportation network. However, existing site conditions, ownership structure, and surrounding land use patterns create uncertainty in how the property functions within the neighborhood and how it connects to nearby residential areas and commercial corridors.

Considerations for the Future

- The relationship between transit investment and existing site conditions, including vacancy, circulation, and internal configuration
- How the scale and layout of the site align with surrounding neighborhood patterns and nearby residential areas
- The extent to which current conditions support or limit connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods, including pedestrian and bicycle access
- The role of the site within the broader corridor, including how it influences surrounding commercial activity and long-term development patterns
- How ongoing planning and feasibility efforts relate to community input and locally identified priorities
- The relationship between reinvestment at this site and access to services, employment, and community-serving spaces for Far Eastside residents



Vision Statement

On the Far Eastside our collective voice matters. Residents, businesses, partners, and all who care about the community work together. Our power to create positive change is respected and protected. Our diverse cultures are celebrated and passed on with pride.

We envision a Far Eastside rooted in care, strength, and shared purpose. Where neighbors look out for one another, families feel safe and supported, and every resident has the freedom and opportunity to thrive.

We invest in accessibility, joy, opportunity, and meaningful connection. We're building a Far Eastside that is not only thriving today, but can flourish for generations to come.

Focus Areas



Overview

The Focus Areas for the Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan come from what the data and the community shared together. The Far Eastside Quality of Life Existing Conditions Report showed that many of the realities people experience are connected. Housing costs affect financial stability. Transportation affects access to jobs, food, and health care. Safety, youth opportunities, and neighborhood conditions influence whether families feel secure and supported. These issues do not happen separately, and they cannot be solved separately.

For that reason, the focus areas are meant to support change at a systems level. Each one looks at a different part of community life, but they are designed to work together to improve stability, opportunity, and quality of life across the Far Eastside.

Youth voices and youth outcomes were especially important in shaping these areas. Young people are often the ones most affected when systems do not work well, and they are also key to the future of the neighborhood. Creating better conditions for youth means strengthening the whole community, including housing, economic opportunity, safety, culture, and shared leadership. Each section explores the challenges residents face, the opportunities the community is already building, and the strategies that can drive meaningful, long-term change.

THE FOCUS AREAS ARE:



Housing Affordability & Equitable Growth



Financial Stability & Economic Opportunities



Safe & Healthy Environments



Multigenerational Power



Art, Culture & Belonging

Housing Affordability and Equitable Growth

What Residents Experience

Home on the Far Eastside is something many residents have worked hard to hold onto. Families have built their lives here over time, often across generations, and there is a strong desire to remain rooted in the neighborhood. Blocks include a mix of long-term homeowners, renters, and extended families living near one another, creating a sense of familiarity and connection. People talk about raising children, supporting neighbors, and staying close to the relationships that make the community feel stable.

That stability often depends on making careful choices within limited options. Renters describe rising costs and uncertainty tied to lease changes or property ownership shifts, especially in areas where homes are being purchased by out-of-state landlords or converted to rentals. Some households share space or adjust living arrangements to stay in the neighborhood. Others are managing aging homes that require repairs they cannot always afford. Differences between renting and owning shape how secure people feel, and even small changes in cost or condition can determine whether a household is able to remain.



Change is becoming more visible across the Far Eastside. New development, corridor improvements, and reinvestment along key areas are bringing attention and opportunity to the neighborhood. Residents express interest in better housing options and improved conditions, but also raise concerns about affordability and displacement. Many want to see growth that allows current residents to benefit and stay rooted rather than be pushed out. Community organizations, faith groups, and local leaders are already working to support housing stability and expand pathways to ownership, even as uncertainty continues for many households.

What the Conditions Reveal

Current conditions show a neighborhood that remains relatively stable but is increasingly sensitive to shifts in cost, ownership, and development. Many households are able to stay, yet that stability often depends on limited financial margin, a high share of renters, and a housing supply that does not always align with residents' needs. Aging housing stock, uneven property conditions, and gaps in affordability create ongoing pressure, particularly when costs rise or maintenance needs increase. As a result, stability is often maintained through effort rather than built into the system itself.

The physical and regulatory structure of the neighborhood also shapes housing outcomes. Residential areas are closely connected to commercial corridors, high-traffic streets, and legacy industrial uses, and infrastructure gaps affect how people experience their surroundings. Housing activity is also increasing. Large redevelopment sites, corridor improvements, and public and private investment are beginning to reshape parts of the Far Eastside. These changes create the potential to improve housing quality and expand options, but they also introduce uncertainty about who will benefit and how quickly change will occur.

Housing efforts are already underway through community organizations, developers, and public programs, but they are not always aligned around a shared strategy. Without coordination, new development may not fully address existing gaps or support long-term affordability. This creates a critical moment: the direction of growth will influence whether the neighborhood remains accessible to current residents or becomes more difficult to remain in over time.

STRENGTHS

- Large redevelopment sites create opportunities for change
- Transit investments such as the Purple Line can improve access to jobs, services, and housing opportunities
- Many residents want to stay in the neighborhood and build long-term stability
- Population stable and growing
- Homeownership increasing slightly in recent years

CHALLENGES

- Lack of separation between industrial, commercial, and residential land uses
- Property conditions, absentee landlords, and inconsistent enforcement affect housing quality
- Rising housing costs combined with low incomes create affordability pressure
- Renters vulnerable to increases

DATA POINTS

Housing Burden for Renters

(More than 30% of income)

2014-2018



2019-2023



Housing Burden for Homeowners

(More than 30% of income)

2014-2018

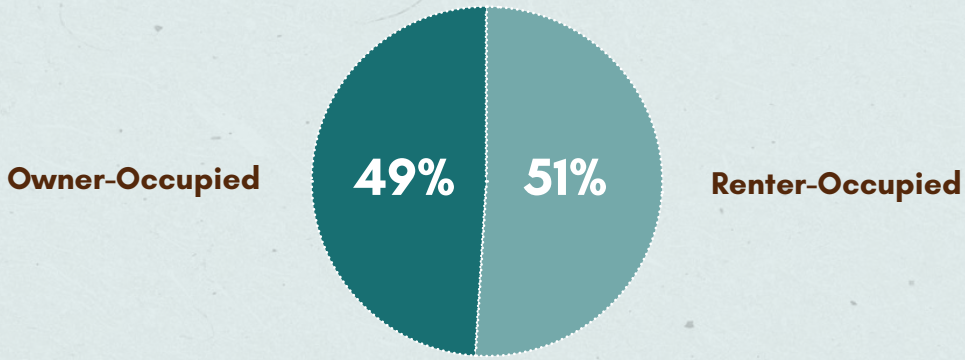


2019-2023



Homeownership

(2019-2023)



Overcrowding Rate

2014-2018	2019-2023	Change
1.4%	2.1%	+ 0.6pp

Source: 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Data

Where We're Headed

This focus area centers on helping residents remain in their homes, expanding access to housing that meets a range of needs, and guiding growth in ways that support long-term stability. The goal is to ensure that current residents can benefit from changes taking place on the Far Eastside while maintaining the relationships and connections that make the neighborhood feel like home. This includes supporting both renters and homeowners, creating clearer pathways to ownership, and ensuring that housing options reflect the size, income, and life stages of residents. It also prioritizes improving the overall quality and condition of housing, so people can live in safe and stable environments without ongoing uncertainty.

Achieving this will require a more coordinated approach to housing, development, and investment. Stabilization efforts must work alongside the creation of new housing options, and redevelopment must be guided by clear community priorities. This includes addressing displacement risk early, aligning organizations and resources, and ensuring that new development contributes to affordability and access. With investment already underway along key corridors and sites, the decisions made during this period will shape whether the Far Eastside becomes more stable and inclusive over time.

The following workplan outlines the goals, strategies, and actions that will help move this work forward.



Towne and Terrace Redevelopment Site.

WORKPLAN

We envision a Far Eastside where all residents have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing, and where growth supports long-term stability, expands pathways to homeownership, and reflects the priorities of the people who call the neighborhood home.

Goal 1 Help People Stay in Their Homes

Strategy 1: Expand Home Repair and Aging-in-Place Programs

Strategy 2: Strengthen Tenant Stabilization and Protection

Strategy 3: Improve Access to Housing Stability Resources and Support Systems

Goal 2 Create More Affordable Housing Options

Strategy 1: Define Housing Needs and Production Targets

Strategy 2: Develop Housing That Meets Identified Community Needs

Strategy 3: Advance Innovative and Non-Traditional Housing Solutions

Goal 3 Advance Equitable Development

Strategy 1: Define Community-Guided Development Priorities

Strategy 2: Assess and Monitor Displacement Risk

Strategy 3: Ensure Residents Benefit from Development

Goal 4 Build the Structure to Deliver Housing and Development

Strategy 1: Establish a Coordinated Development Network

Strategy 2: Create a Housing and Economic Development Strategy

Strategy 3: Build Capacity for Community-Based Housing and Development

SUCCESS METRICS

Housing Stability & Affordability (Long-Term Outcomes)	▸ % of households that are cost-burdened (spending >30% of income on housing) ▸ % of households that are severely cost-burdened (>50%) ▸ Eviction filing rate ▸ Homeownership rate ▸ Median rent and median home value (track trends over time)
Access to Housing Stability Supports	▸ # of households receiving home repair or aging-in-place support ▸ # of renters accessing tenant stabilization services (legal aid, rental assistance, mediation) ▸ % of residents who report they can find and access housing support when needed ▸ # of households connected to housing resources through the Far Eastside Resource & Navigation System
Housing Supply & Availability	▸ # of new housing units created (by type: affordable, workforce, market-rate) ▸ % of new units aligned with identified community needs (family size, price point, etc.) ▸ # of affordable units preserved (not just created) ▸ # of innovative or non-traditional housing units developed (e.g., ADUs, small-scale, shared models)

Equitable Development & Displacement Prevention	▸ # of development projects aligned with community-defined priorities ▸ # of projects reviewed through a community-informed process (FECC / Action Teams) ▸ # of residents engaged in development decision-making processes ▸ Displacement indicators (track trends): • % of renter turnover • property ownership changes (especially absentee ownership) ▸ # of residents benefiting from development (e.g., jobs, housing access, programs)
Housing Quality & Conditions	▸ # of housing units repaired or improved ▸ # of code enforcement complaints and resolution rates ▸ % of residents reporting safe and stable housing conditions ▸ # of properties with repeated violations (track reduction over time)
System Coordination & Housing Delivery Capacity	▸ # of organizations participating in the Far Eastside housing network ▸ # of coordinated housing initiatives across organizations ▸ # of joint funding applications or collaborative development efforts ▸ # of community-based organizations (CDCs, etc.) participating in development projects ▸ Existence and use of a shared housing strategy for the Far Eastside

Financial Stability and Economic Opportunities

What Residents Experience

Making a living on the Far Eastside often requires more than a single job. Residents work, adapt, and find ways to generate income through multiple streams, whether through formal employment, side businesses, or entrepreneurial efforts. There is a strong culture of resourcefulness and self-reliance, shaped in part by years of limited access to stable, higher-wage opportunities. It is common to meet residents who run small businesses, offer services, or are building something of their own while managing other responsibilities. This entrepreneurial spirit is not new, but it is becoming more visible as local spaces and networks begin to support it.

Places like the P30 campus have become hubs where small businesses, creatives, and entrepreneurs are growing together. Residents are not only building businesses, but also supporting one another through shared knowledge, mentorship, and collaboration. Still, not all residents are connected to these opportunities. Many are navigating long commutes, inconsistent work schedules, and the challenge of finding jobs that align with their skills or goals. Even as educational attainment has increased in recent years, incomes have not kept pace, leaving many households with limited financial margin.

Daily life reflects this imbalance. Residents are working, learning, and creating, but the systems around them do not always translate that effort into financial stability. Transportation, childcare, and access to information continue to shape what opportunities are realistic. For some, the lack of consistent economic opportunity contributes to broader instability, including conditions that can influence safety and wellbeing. Even so, there is a clear desire to move beyond short-term survival and toward long-term growth, with many residents actively seeking ways to build income, expand businesses, and invest in their community.



His Place Eatery.

What the Conditions Reveal

Current conditions show a disconnect between the skills, effort, and potential of residents and the economic outcomes they are able to achieve. Educational attainment has improved, and many residents are actively working or pursuing new opportunities, but wages and income growth have not kept pace. This gap suggests that access to opportunity is not only about preparation, but about how well systems connect residents to jobs, industries, and markets that offer long-term stability and advancement.

The structure of opportunity across the Far Eastside plays a significant role in shaping these outcomes. Jobs, services, and economic activity are distributed across the city, requiring residents to travel to access them. Investments such as the bus rapid transit lines are beginning to improve connectivity and expand access to employment centers, yet gaps remain in how easily residents can move between training, jobs, and business opportunities. Workforce programs, small business supports, and financial services are often not aligned, making it difficult for residents to navigate a clear path from entry-level work to higher-wage careers or successful business ownership.

The entrepreneurial ecosystem emerging on the Far Eastside highlights both a strength and an opportunity. Residents are already creating businesses, building networks, and supporting one another, but these efforts are not yet fully connected to broader economic systems or scaled to reach more people. Without stronger alignment, many residents will continue to experience limited returns on their effort. These conditions point to the need for a more coordinated approach that connects existing energy and talent to sustained economic growth.

STRENGTHS

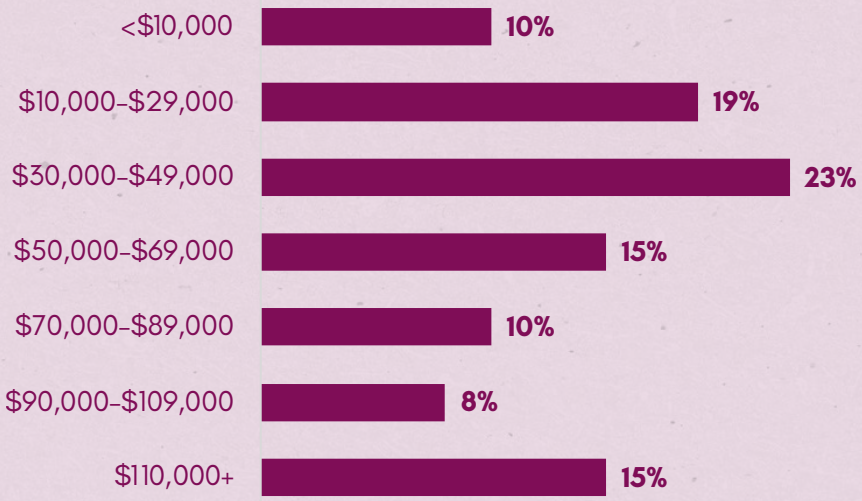
- More residents are working compared to previous years, with declines in unemployment and fewer adults without work
- Homeownership rose from 46% to 49%
- Organizations like CAFE, Carriage House, and P30 provide workforce training, entrepreneurial support, social services
- Active entrepreneurial and informal economy

CHALLENGES

- Median income: $47,500 vs. $63,450 countywide
- High unemployment relative to the county 9% vs. 3% countywide
- 19% below poverty; many just above it
- Many workers are commuting 90+ minutes
- Educational gains not translating into career advancement

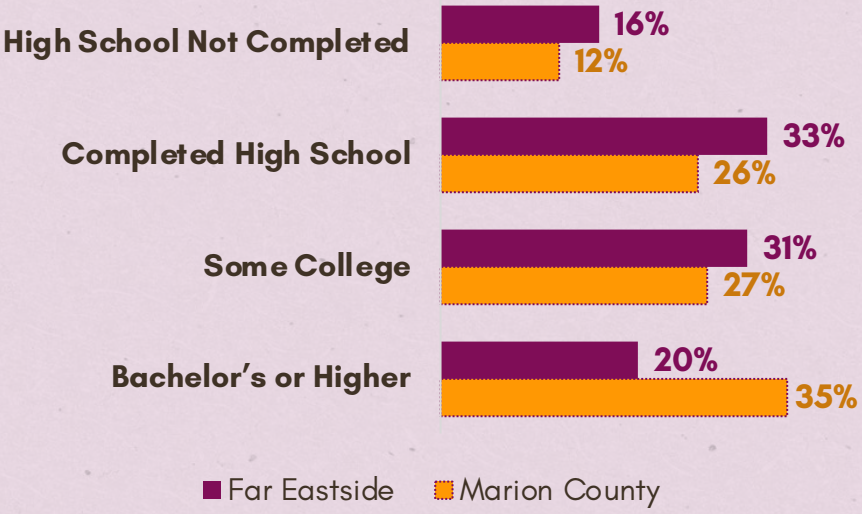
DATA POINTS

Annual Income



Employment

(2019–2024)



$47,500

Median Household Income

(Compared to $63,450 in Marion County)

Income Below Poverty Threshold

2014–2018

25%

2019–2023

19%

9%

Unemployment Rate

(Compared to 3% in Marion County, 2019–2023)

Source: 2014–2018 and 2019–2023 ACS 5-Year Data

Where We're Headed

This focus area centers on strengthening pathways that allow residents to turn effort into long-term stability and growth. The goal is to better connect education, workforce development, and entrepreneurship to real economic opportunities, so that residents can access jobs, start businesses, and build income in ways that are sustainable over time. This includes supporting the entrepreneurial energy that already exists in the Far Eastside, expanding access to capital and business support, and aligning training programs with industries that offer higher wages and advancement.

This work also requires improving how residents access opportunity across the city. Investments in transportation, including bus rapid transit, can play a key role in connecting residents to jobs and resources, while local economic development can bring more opportunities closer to home. Strengthening coordination across workforce programs, small business support, and financial services will help create clearer pathways for residents to move forward without navigating disconnected systems. As these efforts take shape, they can contribute not only to financial stability, but also to broader community wellbeing by addressing underlying conditions that influence safety and long-term opportunity.

The following workplan outlines the goals, strategies, and actions that will build on the Far Eastside's existing strengths, support residents in growing income and assets, and create a more connected and accessible economic system.



38th & Post Rd Intersection.

WORKPLAN

We envision a Far Eastside where residents can move safely, access essential resources with ease, and live in neighborhoods that support their well-being.

Goal 1 Help Households Become More Financially Stable

Strategy 1: Improve Access to Financial Stability Supports

Strategy 2: Reduce Household Financial Pressure

Strategy 3: Strengthen Income Stabilization and Financial Resilience

Goal 2 Connect Residents to Good jobs and Wealth-Building Opportunities

Strategy 1: Align Opportunities with Labor Market Needs

Strategy 2: Connect Residents to Quality Jobs and Career Pathways

Strategy 3: Support Entrepreneurship and Alternative Income Pathways

Strategy 4: Expand Wealth-Building Opportunities and Asset Development

Goal 3 Strengthen the Local Economy

Strategy 1: Align Commercial Development with Community Needs and Market Opportunities

Strategy 2: Expand Access to Commercial Space

Strategy 3: Strengthen Local Wealth Circulation

Goal 4 Improve Collective Impact

Strategy 1: Establish Shared Priorities and Outcomes Across the Economic Ecosystem

Strategy 2: Strengthen Coordination and Collaboration Across Organizations and Sectors

Strategy 3: Align Funding and Investment to Support Shared Priorities

Strategy 4: Improve Data Sharing, Tracking, and Accountability Systems

SUCCESS METRICS

Income & Financial Stability (Long-Term Outcomes)	▸ Median household income ▸ % of households earning above $50,000 ▸ % of residents below the poverty line ▸ % of households experiencing severe cost burden (housing + transportation combined, if possible)
Access to Financial Supports & Stability Tools	▸ # of residents accessing financial coaching, asset-building, or stabilization services ▸ % of residents who report being able to access financial support when needed ▸ # of residents participating in income stabilization or financial resilience programs (e.g., pilots, lending alternatives) ▸ # of residents accessing safe financial products (banking, credit-building tools, small-dollar loans)
Access to Quality Jobs & Career Pathways	▸ Unemployment rate ▸ % of residents in full-time employment ▸ % of jobs held by residents that pay a living wage (or above a defined wage threshold) ▸ # of residents enrolled in workforce training or career pathway programs ▸ # of residents placed into jobs with advancement potential (track if possible)
Entrepreneurship & Small Business Growth	▸ # of new businesses started on the Far Eastside ▸ # of small businesses receiving support (technical assistance, mentorship, funding) ▸ # of entrepreneurs participating in programs (e.g., microenterprise initiative) ▸ Total capital deployed to Far Eastside businesses (grants, loans, investments) ▸ # of businesses accessing commercial space (including pop-ups, shared spaces, storefronts)

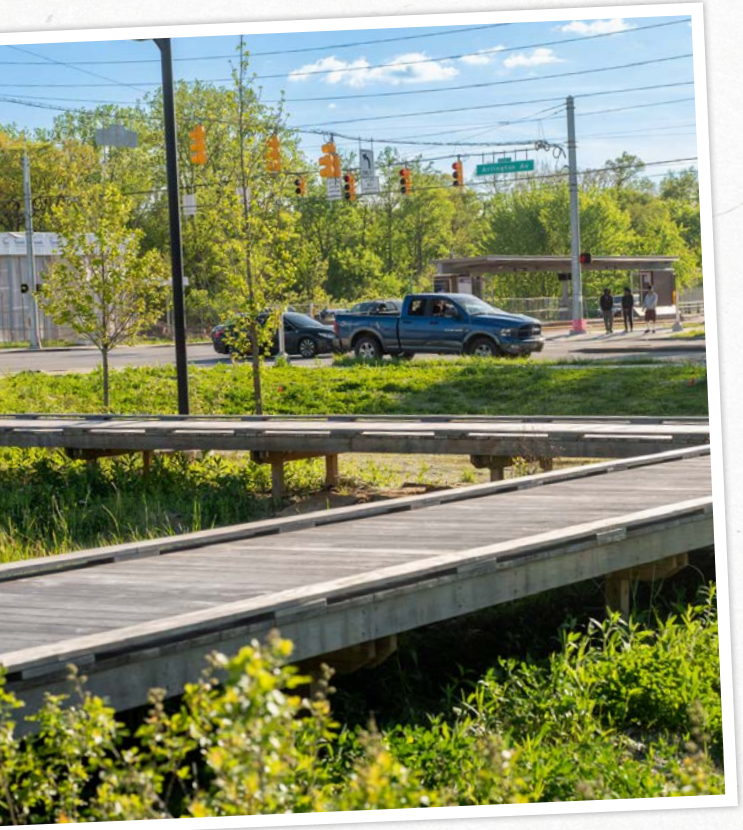
Local Economy & Wealth Circulation	▸ # of local businesses participating in "Buy Local Far Eastside" campaigns or events ▸ % of residents reporting they regularly support local businesses ▸ # of contracts awarded to Far Eastside-based businesses (public or institutional, if trackable) ▸ # of cooperative, collective, or community-based economic models launched
System Coordination & Collective Impact	▸ # of organizations participating in the Far Eastside economic development network ▸ # of joint initiatives or partnerships across workforce, business, and financial systems ▸ # of coordinated funding efforts (joint applications, pooled funds, etc.) ▸ Existence and use of a shared data tracking system (yes/no + usage level) ▸ Frequency of convenings and participation across sectors

Safe and Healthy Environments

What Residents Experience

Daily life on the Far Eastside requires attention to safety, access, and health in ways that are often taken for granted elsewhere. Residents think about how to cross busy streets, whether a sidewalk is available, and whether lighting is strong enough to feel comfortable walking in the evening. Certain intersections and corridors are widely known for crashes or near misses, shaping how people move through the neighborhood and where they choose to walk, bike, or wait for transit.

Health is experienced through these same daily conditions. Residents are managing chronic health concerns such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes, and complications related to maternal health while also navigating the demands of work, childcare, and transportation. Environmental factors are part of this experience, including exposure to traffic, proximity to industrial uses, and areas where land uses sit close together without clear separation. These conditions are not always visible in a single moment, but they shape how people feel over time.



Eskenazi Health Center Grande.

Many residents describe how these challenges overlap in their daily routines. Getting to work may involve unsafe crossings, limited transit access, and long travel times. Accessing healthy food or healthcare can require additional planning and coordination. These patterns can increase stress and influence how often people are able to walk, gather, or spend time outdoors. Residents frequently point to improvements like better lighting, safer sidewalks, and more connected routes as changes that would make a noticeable difference in how the neighborhood feels.

There are also visible efforts to improve these conditions. Community-led projects such as the CAFE orchard and the Ross Community Center garden are creating spaces for gathering, food access, and mental wellbeing. Residents are participating in programs and initiatives that support health, connection, and safety, and there is a strong interest in seeing these kinds of improvements expand across the Far Eastside.

What the Conditions Reveal

Health and safety outcomes on the Far Eastside are shaped by cumulative exposure to multiple conditions rather than by isolated factors. Economic pressure, environmental conditions, infrastructure gaps, and access to resources reinforce one another. When these conditions occur together, they increase long-term risk and contribute to disparities in health outcomes across the community.

The built environment plays a central role in this pattern. Street design, traffic volume, sidewalk availability, lighting, and land use relationships influence both safety and access. In many areas, infrastructure reflects earlier patterns of development and has not kept pace with current conditions, contributing to higher crash rates and barriers to mobility. Recent investments, including bus rapid transit and planned trail and greenway networks, demonstrate how infrastructure improvements can begin to address these challenges by improving connectivity and safety.

Environmental conditions add another layer of impact. Issues such as air quality, proximity to industrial uses, and the presence of leaking underground storage tanks contribute to long-term exposure that affects physical health. These factors are unevenly distributed, creating place-based differences in risk across the Far Eastside.

Efforts to improve health and safety are already underway through healthcare providers, community organizations, and public initiatives such as the Health Engagement Zone. However, these efforts are often not fully aligned. Addressing the social determinants of health, including housing, income, environment, and access, will require a more coordinated approach that connects these systems and reduces the burden on residents to navigate them individually.

STRENGTHS

- Initiatives like the Eskenazi Health Engagement Zone are expanding preventive and community-based care.
- Nearly 60 miles of planned trails and bikeways will significantly improve connectivity to parks, transit, and daily destinations.
- The Marion County Public Health Department now recognizes that health is shaped by environment, access, and daily conditions—not just healthcare.
- Projects like Oaktree, and Towne & Terrace are improving housing conditions and neighborhood environments.
- The Purple and Blue Lines bring sidewalk and crosswalk improvements

CHALLENGES

- Significant health disparities and chronic disease burden
- Higher ER usage and ~15% uninsured population.
- Incomplete sidewalks (≈38% of streets lack them)
- Severe and fatal crashes occur across the entire area—not isolated locations.
- Environmental hazards embedded in neighborhoods
- Limited access to healthy food and daily necessities

DATA POINTS



38%

of streets lack sidewalks

Nearly 60 miles of bikeways are planned.



Only 48%

of the area within a 10 minute walk to a park

The Far Eastside has elevated chronic disease rates and mental health distress compared to the rest of the city.

Asthma	Diabetes	Heart Disease	Mental Health
+ 25%	+ 30%	+ 18%	+ 12.5%

Sources: IndyGIS (data.indy.gov) Updated March 2025 and Marion County Hospitalization Data



Eskenazi Health - Grande location at 38th & Arlington.

Where We're Headed

This focus area is centered on improving the conditions that shape safety and health across the Far Eastside by addressing them together rather than in isolation. The goal is to create environments where residents can move safely, access resources more easily, and experience less daily stress. This includes safer streets, improved lighting, more complete sidewalk networks, better access to food and healthcare, and stronger connections between neighborhoods, corridors, and community spaces. It also means addressing environmental concerns and land use patterns so that residents are not exposed to conditions that negatively affect their health over time.

Moving in this direction will require a coordinated approach that brings together transportation, public health, environmental action, housing, and community-based efforts. Infrastructure improvements such as bus rapid transit, trails, and greenways can be aligned with investments in food access, preventive care, and community wellness. Building on existing efforts led by local organizations will be essential for ensuring that improvements are rooted in the community and responsive to resident needs. By addressing the underlying conditions that shape both safety and health, this work can contribute to broader outcomes, including reduced stress, improved wellbeing, and progress toward addressing root causes of crime.

The following workplan outlines the goals, strategies, and actions that will help create safer, healthier, and more connected environments across the Far Eastside.

WORKPLAN

We envision a Far Eastside where residents can move safely, access essential resources with ease, and live in neighborhoods that support their well-being.

Goal 1 Make It Safer and Easier to Get Around

Strategy 1: Identify and Prioritize the Most Critical Safety Improvements

Strategy 2: Deliver Visible Safety Improvements

Strategy 3: Improve Transit Access and Connectivity to Daily Destinations

Strategy 4: Equip Residents to Advocate for Safer Streets

Goal 2 Improve Health Outcomes

Strategy 1: Expand Preventative Care and Early Intervention

Strategy 2: Increase Access to Healthy Food and Health Education

Strategy 3: Strengthen Community-Based and Culturally Relevant Health Supports

Strategy 4: Expand Access to Health Benefits Through Small Business Growth

Goal 3 Improve Environmental Conditions

Strategy 1: Identify Environmental Health Risks

Strategy 2: Address Environmental Hazards

Strategy 3: Expand Access to Green Space and Environmental Assets

Strategy 4: Align Land Use and Environmental Conditions to Support Health and Safety

Goal 4 Build the Infrastructure for Collective Impact

Strategy 1: Align Partners Around Shared Priorities and Outcomes

Strategy 2: Strengthen Shared Data, Learning, and Accountability Systems

Strategy 3: Coordinate Resources and Investment to Support Collective Action

SUCCESS METRICS

Safety & Mobility (Long-Term Outcomes)	▸ Number of traffic crashes (especially pedestrian and cyclist-related) ▸ % of residents who feel safe walking in their neighborhood (day/night) ▸ Miles of new or improved sidewalks, trails, or safe routes ▸ # of intersections or corridors improved for safety (lighting, crossings, calming)
Access to Safe Transportation & Daily Destinations	▸ % of residents within a 10-minute walk of safe transit stops ▸ # of residents using community-based transportation programs (e.g., Driven2Success) ▸ # of identified transit access gaps addressed ▸ % of residents who report being able to safely reach jobs, food, and services
Health Access & Preventative Care	▸ # of residents participating in preventative health screenings or programs ▸ % of residents with access to primary or preventative care ▸ # of community-based health events or pop-ups hosted annually ▸ % of residents reporting improved access to health resources
Food Access & Healthy Living	▸ % of residents within a 10-minute walk of healthy food options ▸ # of culturally relevant food programs or initiatives (e.g., classes, workshops) ▸ # of local food providers engaged in community initiatives (e.g., grocers, markets) ▸ % of residents reporting improved access to healthy food

Environmental Health & Conditions	▸ # of environmentally impacted sites identified and tracked ▸ # of sites remediated or addressed ▸ % of residents living near environmental hazards (track reduction over time if possible) ▸ # of environmental complaints reported and resolved ▸ # of community-led environmental monitoring or advocacy efforts
Green Space & Environmental Assets	▸ Acres of new or improved green space ▸ # of trees planted or green infrastructure projects implemented ▸ % of residents within walking distance of parks or green space ▸ # of community programs activating green space (events, wellness, recreation)
System Coordination & Collective Impact	▸ # of organizations participating in cross-sector initiatives (health, transportation, environment, safety) ▸ # of joint initiatives addressing multiple conditions (e.g., health + mobility + environment) ▸ Frequency of cross-sector convenings (e.g., Health Summit follow-ups) ▸ Existence and use of shared data tracking system across sectors ▸ # of coordinated funding or investment efforts across sectors

Multigenerational Power

What Residents Experience

There is no shortage of people on the Far Eastside who care about what happens in their neighborhood. Residents show up to meetings, volunteer through churches and community organizations, support youth programs, and organize around issues that matter to them. Many have deep ties to the area and a clear sense that the future of the neighborhood depends on the people who live there. This commitment is visible across generations, from young people looking for opportunities to get involved to long-time residents who have been holding the community together for years.

At the same time, it is not always clear how to move from showing up to shaping outcomes. Residents often participate in programs or events without a clear path into leadership roles or decision-making spaces. Opportunities to lead can feel informal, inconsistent, or dependent on who you know. People who are already active are often asked to do more, which can lead to burnout, while others who want to get involved may not know where to start. For youth in particular, there is interest in leadership and community involvement, but fewer visible pathways that connect early engagement to long-term opportunity.

Daily interaction with public systems can also be difficult to navigate. Residents encounter multiple organizations, agencies, and programs that are not always connected, making it hard to understand how decisions are made or how to influence them. Information about opportunities, meetings, and resources is not always easy to find or consistent across the neighborhood. In this environment, relationships become the primary way people stay connected. Churches, neighborhood groups, and community leaders help bridge gaps, share information, and support participation, but much of this work depends on informal effort rather than a clear and supported structure for leadership.



Top: Samantha Douglas(FECC) & Ms. Annie(Resident Leader) at FECC Far Eastside Festival Basketball Tournament

Bottom: Jamarro Johnson & Cheria Caldwell with community resident Jeffery Ezell in the middle at the Far Eastside Festival

What the Conditions Reveal

Current conditions show that the Far Eastside has strong civic energy but limited pathways that connect participation to long-term leadership and influence. Educational and workforce systems shape access to opportunity, but they are not always aligned with civic engagement or leadership development. As a result, residents may be active in their community without having clear access to roles that influence decisions, investments, or implementation. The ability to lead is often shaped by access to information, networks, and institutional systems that are not equally visible or accessible to all residents.

Civic systems themselves are complex and distributed across multiple agencies, jurisdictions, and organizations. Decision-making processes can be difficult to follow, and responsibility for outcomes is often shared across entities that do not operate in a coordinated way. Community leaders and organizations are actively working to support residents and advocate for change, but these efforts are frequently under-resourced and not always connected to formal decision-making structures. At the same time, there is a strong emphasis on youth development and a recognition that long-term community stability depends on preparing the next generation to lead. However, opportunities for mentorship, leadership development, and advancement are not consistently available across age groups.

These conditions indicate that the strength of the community's leadership is not in question. The challenge is how to build clearer, more accessible systems that allow residents to move from participation to influence, and how to support leadership in a way that is sustained across generations rather than concentrated in a small number of individuals or organizations.

STRENGTHS

- 94% voter registration
- Youth, programs, mentoring, and services already exist
- 40% of surveyed residents want stronger community connection
- Household patterns reflect family and multigenerational living
- Active community council

CHALLENGES

- Low voter turnout (~40%)
- 43% of surveyed residents report not enough programs for youth
- Concentration of leadership and risk of burnout
- Underdeveloped systems for shared power
- Limited physical spaces for gathering and engagement

Where We're Headed

This focus area is about building the structure that allows residents to guide the future of the Far Eastside, not just participate in it. The goal is to create clear and accessible pathways that connect education, workforce development, community involvement, and civic decision-making so that residents can grow into leadership roles over time. This includes making it easier to understand how decisions are made, how to get involved, and how to move from early engagement into positions where residents can shape priorities, investments, and outcomes.

It also means supporting the people who are already doing this work. Community leaders, organizers, and volunteers need resources, coordination, and shared infrastructure so that leadership is not dependent on a small group of individuals carrying a disproportionate load. Creating opportunities for youth, adults, and seniors to learn from one another and lead together will be essential for building long-term capacity. Leadership on the Far Eastside should reflect the full community and be supported in a way that allows it to grow and sustain itself over time.

This focus area is directly connected to every other part of the plan. Decisions about housing, economic opportunity, public safety, and neighborhood development will only reflect community priorities if residents are able to influence them. The Far Eastside Community Council has played a central role in organizing residents and shaping priorities, including leading early outreach and gathering input before the planning process began. That foundation of community voice continues through efforts such as the Resident Leaders initiative, where a cohort of local residents has been trained and supported to take on stronger roles as organizers and leaders. These residents have helped shape the workplan and will play an important role in carrying it forward.

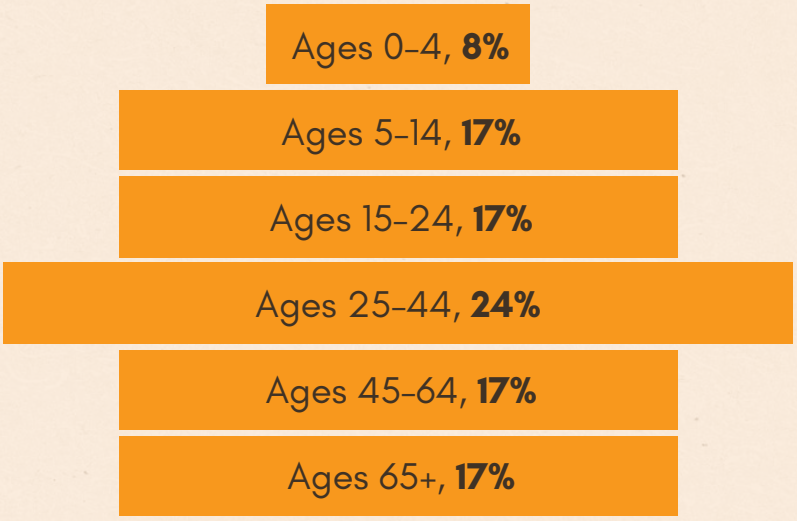
As implementation begins, there is an opportunity to build on this momentum by ensuring that resident leadership is embedded in how decisions are made, how progress is tracked, and how accountability is maintained. The following workplan outlines the goals, strategies, and actions that will strengthen these pathways and support resident leadership across the Far Eastside.



Right: Kendra Nowell(Back right) CEO of CAFE with residents at CAFE's orchard

DATA POINTS

Age Distribution



31.8

Median Age

(Compared to 34.3 years in Marion County)

43%

of surveyed residents say there are **not enough programs for kids and teens**

Voter registration is high, but turnout is low.





2.6 People

Average Household Size

Sources: 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Data, FECC Community Priorities Survey, Common Cause Indiana

WORKPLAN

We envision a Far Eastside where residents of all ages are engaged in leadership, connected across generations, and able to shape decisions that affect their lives.

Goal 1 Build Resident Leadership to Guide QOL Plan Implementation

Strategy 1: Establish a Clear Resident-Led Governance Structure

Strategy 2: Establish Focus Area Action Teams

Strategy 3: Define Shared Decision-Making and Accountability Processes

Strategy 4: Align Roles of Key Implementation Partners

Goal 2 Equip Residents with the Support to Lead

Strategy 1: Build a Resident Leadership Pipeline

Strategy 2: Align Funding and Institutional Support for Resident Participation

Strategy 3: Establish Systems for Inclusive and Culturally Responsive Engagement

Strategy 4: Create Clear and Accessible Participation Infrastructure

Goal 3 Strengthen Organized Leadership Across the Far Eastside

Strategy 1: Establish and Support Youth Leadership with Real Decision-Making Power

Strategy 2: Strengthen Neighborhood-Based Organizing and Local Leadership

Strategy 3: Build Collective Voice and Community Alignment

Goal 4 Make Systems Accessible, Navigable, and Responsive to Residents

Strategy 1: Identify Barriers to Navigating City Processes

Strategy 2: Develop Clear, Accessible Navigation Tools

Strategy 3: Activate a Community-Based Navigation System

SUCCESS METRICS

Multigenerational Power (Long-Term)	▸ % of residents who feel they can influence decisions ▸ % of residents who feel their voice is heard ▸ % of residents who trust community leadership structures ▸ % of residents who believe the community can influence its future ▸ % of decision-making bodies that reflect the community
Civic Participation & Engagement	▸ # of residents participating in community meetings, events, or engagement activities ▸ % of residents who report being aware of opportunities to get involved ▸ % of residents who feel welcome in community spaces and initiatives ▸ Participation rates across age groups (youth, adults, seniors)
Leadership Development & Pathways	▸ # of residents participating in leadership development programs (e.g., Resident Leaders initiative) ▸ # of residents moving from participation into leadership roles (committee leads, organizers, facilitators) ▸ # of youth engaged in leadership or civic pathways ▸ % of participants who report increased confidence in their ability to lead or influence decisions
Resident Influence & Decision-Making Power	▸ % of residents who feel they can influence decisions in their community ▸ # of decisions, plans, or investments shaped by resident input ▸ # of residents participating in formal decision-making structures (FECC, Action Teams, advisory bodies) ▸ Evidence of resident-led initiatives (projects, advocacy efforts, campaigns)

Multigenerational Leadership & Connection	▸ # of initiatives or programs that intentionally connect youth, adults, and seniors ▸ % of residents who report meaningful connection across generations ▸ # of mentorship relationships or intergenerational leadership opportunities ▸ Representation of different age groups in leadership roles
Leadership Infrastructure & System Strength	▸ # of active FECC committees (Action Teams) ▸ # of residents serving in leadership roles within FECC structures ▸ Consistency of meeting cadence and participation across Action Teams ▸ # of partnerships between FECC and organizations or institutions ▸ Existence and use of clear leadership pathways (entry → leadership → decision-making)
Access to Information & Civic Navigation	▸ % of residents who report they understand how decisions are made in their community ▸ % of residents who report they know how to get involved or take action ▸ # of residents accessing the Far Eastside Resource & Navigation System ▸ # of tools or platforms created to improve access to information

Art, Culture, and Belonging

What Residents Experience

A strong sense of pride and identity is present in the Far Eastside, shaped by long-standing families and a diverse mix of cultures and traditions. Residents often refer to the community simply as "The Far," a name that reflects both familiarity and connection. The neighborhood includes a majority Black population along with growing Latino and Haitian communities, and this diversity is visible in the events, traditions, and relationships that define daily life. Cultural celebrations, neighborhood gatherings, and community-led events create opportunities for residents to come together and share space across generations.

Events like the Far Eastside Community Festival, which continues to grow each year, highlight the energy and diversity of the neighborhood. Festivals, youth programs, and community celebrations bring together music, food, and cultural expression from different groups, creating moments where the community feels unified and visible. Many of these activities take place in parks, church campuses, school spaces, and other shared environments that are adapted for gathering rather than designed for it. While these spaces play an important role, they are not always consistent or easy to access across the full geography of the neighborhood.



At the same time, the identity that residents experience is not always reflected in the physical environment. Public art, cultural markers, and visible storytelling are limited, and many commercial corridors do not clearly communicate the history or diversity of the community. Residents describe a disconnect between the pride they feel and what is visible to others. This gap is reinforced by external narratives that often focus on negative stories, even as residents experience a community that is active, connected, and invested in its future.

Left: Winners of first FECC Far Eastside Festival Basketball Tournament.

What the Conditions Reveal

Current conditions show that cultural identity on the Far Eastside is strong but not consistently represented in visible or permanent ways. Much of the neighborhood's cultural life is expressed through events, relationships, and community-led efforts rather than through dedicated spaces or physical features. While this allows culture to remain flexible and community-driven, it also means that it can be difficult to sustain, expand, or communicate beyond those who are already connected to it.

The gap between lived experience and public perception is a defining condition. Residents describe pride, connection, and cultural richness, while external narratives often emphasize disinvestment or challenges without reflecting the full picture. Efforts like Indy Far East Magazine play an important role in shifting this narrative by highlighting positive stories, local leadership, and community assets. However, these efforts are not yet matched by consistent visual representation in the built environment or coordinated storytelling across institutions and media.

Access to space also shapes how belonging is experienced. The size of the Far Eastside and the uneven distribution of gathering places affect how often residents are able to participate in events or connect with one another. Parks, schools, and community organizations continue to serve as important hubs, but they are often shared, temporary, or limited in capacity. At the same time, many of the relationships that support connection depend on informal networks that operate with limited resources. These conditions suggest that belonging is sustained through strong community effort, but would benefit from greater visibility, more consistent space, and stronger support for the people organizing this work.

STRENGTHS

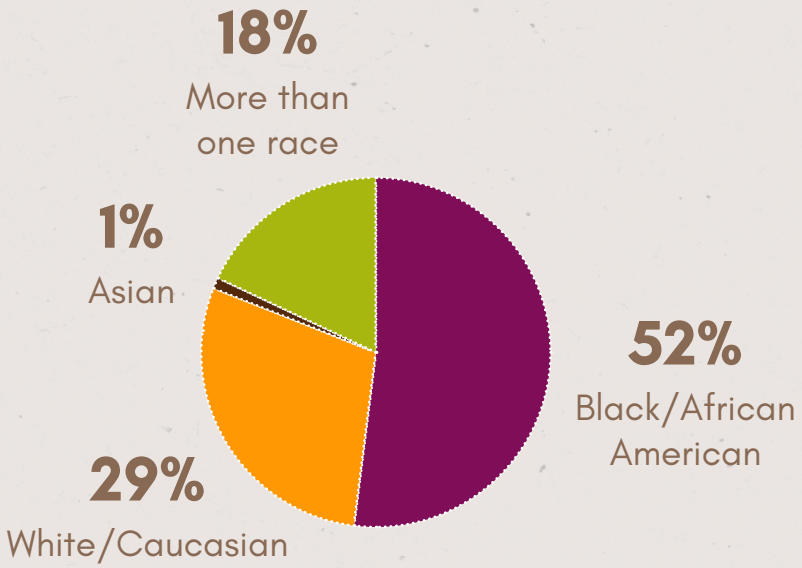
- Events like Far Eastside Festival, Haitian Flag Day, and Latino Heritage celebrations create visibility, pride, and connection
- Parks, churches, and flexible spaces (like parking lots) are actively used for gatherings
- Culture is actively practiced in everyday life not confined to formal venues
- Residents are proud of the neighborhood
- Platforms like Indy *Far East Magazine* document local stories, leaders, and identity
- There is a shared sense of identity connected to "The Far"

CHALLENGES

- Cultural visibility is low in the built environment
- No clear civic or cultural "center"—spaces are spread out and disconnected
- Cultural work depends on volunteer leadership, informal networks, and limited funding
- Internal identity is strong, but external narratives often focus on crime and deficit
- Limited everyday "third places" for connection
- Lack of formal historic designation and recognition

DATA POINTS

Race and Ethnicity



17%
Hispanic

15% Speak languages other than English at home.

40% of surveyed residets emphasized stronger community connection and shared responsibility.

The Far Eastside holds **~10%** of the population but **less than 4%** of public art...

Sources: 2019-2023 ACS 5-Year Data, FECC Community Priorities Survey, Marion County Public Art Census

Where We're Headed

This focus area centers on making culture, identity, and connection more visible and accessible in everyday life. The goal is to ensure that residents can see their histories, cultures, and contributions reflected in the places they move through and the activities they take part in. This includes expanding public art, storytelling, and cultural markers, as well as creating more consistent opportunities for events, programming, and shared experiences. It also means developing spaces where people can gather regularly, build relationships, and participate in creative and cultural activities close to where they live.

Moving in this direction will require stronger support for the people and organizations that already sustain cultural life on the Far Eastside. Artists, cultural leaders, community organizations, and faith groups play a central role in creating connection, and their work will need resources, coordination, and visibility to grow over time. Integrating culture into redevelopment, public space improvements, and community programs will be important for ensuring that growth reflects the identity of current residents. As investment continues across the neighborhood, there is an opportunity to create a more connected and recognizable community where belonging is supported through both relationships and the physical environment. The following workplan outlines the goals, strategies, and actions that will help move this direction forward.



Ashley Raines, CAFE Youth Specialist working with STEM CAMP Art Project

WORKPLAN

We envision a Far Eastside where the community's diverse cultures are visible and celebrated, and every neighbor feels seen, connected, and at home.

Goal 1 Document and Share Community Culture and History

Strategy 1: Document Cultural and Historical Assets

Strategy 2: Capture Living Culture and Community Narratives

Strategy 3: Translate and Share a Collective Community Story

Strategy 4: Strengthen and Coordinate Local Media and Communication Platforms

Goal 2 Make Culture Visible and Part of Everyday Life

Strategy 1: Integrate Culture into Public Art and the Built Environment

Strategy 2: Create and Sustain Spaces for Culture and Connection

Strategy 3: Expand Opportunities for Cultural Expression and Participation

Goal 3 Support Creatives and Expand Opportunities

Strategy 1: Expand Access to Resources and Income Opportunities for Creatives

Strategy 2: Increase Visibility and Access to Audiences

Strategy 3: Strengthen Creative Networks and Collaboration

Goal 4 Build the Structure to Sustain Arts, Culture, and Belonging

Strategy 1: Establish Leadership and Coordination

Strategy 2: Align Funding and Investment

Strategy 3: Integrate Arts, Culture, and Belonging into Community Systems

Strategy 4: Strengthen Accountability, Communication, and Shared Direction

SUCCESS METRICS

Community Identity & Sense of Belonging (Long-Term Outcomes)	▸ % of residents who feel a strong sense of belonging in the Far Eastside ▸ % of residents who feel their culture and identity are represented in the community ▸ % of residents who feel connected to people across cultures and backgrounds ▸ % of residents who feel proud of the Far Eastside
Cultural Visibility & Representation in the Built Environment	▸ # of public art installations, murals, or cultural markers across the Far Eastside ▸ # of culturally significant sites identified, preserved, or activated ▸ % of residents who report seeing their culture reflected in public spaces ▸ # of development or public space projects that incorporate cultural design elements
Participation in Arts, Culture, and Community Life	▸ # of cultural events, festivals, or programs hosted annually ▸ # of residents attending or participating in cultural activities ▸ Participation rates across different demographic groups (age, culture, neighborhood) ▸ % of residents who report regularly attending community or cultural events
Support for Artists, Creatives, and Cultural Leaders	▸ # of artists and creatives receiving funding, space, or technical support ▸ # of creatives participating in programs, showcases, or initiatives ▸ # of creative businesses or cultural enterprises started or sustained ▸ Total funding or investment directed to Far Eastside creatives

Creative Economy & Opportunity	▸ # of income-generating opportunities for creatives (markets, exhibitions, commissions) ▸ # of creatives earning income through local opportunities ▸ # of partnerships between creatives and businesses, organizations, or public projects ▸ # of creatives connected to regional or citywide opportunities
Community Narrative & External Perception	▸ % of residents who feel the Far Eastside is positively represented ▸ # of media stories, campaigns, or platforms highlighting Far Eastside stories ▸ % of residents who believe perceptions of the Far Eastside are improving ▸ Engagement with storytelling platforms (e.g., magazine, campaigns, social media reach)
Cultural Infrastructure & System Support	▸ # of active cultural spaces (formal and informal) ▸ # of partnerships supporting arts and culture (organizations, institutions, funders) ▸ # of coordinated cultural initiatives across organizations ▸ Existence and use of a Far Eastside cultural asset inventory or directory

Full QOL Work Plan



Grassy Creek Park Trail.



Housing Affordability and Equitable Growth

Goal 1

HELP PEOPLE STAY IN THEIR HOMES

Strategy 1: Expand Home Repair and Aging-in-Place Programs

- Expand home repair programs for owner-occupied homes in priority areas through funding, partnerships, and program delivery
- Launch an Estate Planning Program in partnership with legal service providers
- Implement aging-in-place support programs for seniors (e.g., home modifications, in-home support)

Strategy 2: Strengthen Tenant Stabilization and Protection

- Expand eviction prevention and tenant assistance programs
- Launch a Tenant Education Campaign to increase awareness of rights and available housing resources
- Develop and pilot flexible affordability support programs (e.g., sliding scale assistance) to help residents maintain housing stability

Strategy 3: Improve Access to Housing Stability Resources and Support Systems

- Develop and maintain a centralized, publicly accessible housing resource database that is easy to navigate and available in multiple languages
- Create clear referral pathways between organizations to reduce duplication and ensure residents are connected to the right resources quickly
- Provide navigation support (e.g., housing navigators or trained community-based staff) to help residents move through systems and access services effectively

Goal 2

CREATE MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS

Strategy 1: Define Housing Needs and Production Targets

- Conduct a Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment, including affordability levels, housing types, and population-specific needs
- Identify gaps in the current housing market (e.g., rental, homeownership, senior, multigenerational housing)
- Establish clear housing production and preservation targets aligned with identified needs and use findings to guide development priorities, funding decisions, and partnerships

Strategy 2: Develop Housing That Meets Identified Community Needs

- Develop and support housing projects aligned with identified needs (e.g., affordable rental, homeownership, senior, multigenerational housing)
- Establish partnerships with service providers and developers to integrate housing with access to support services (e.g., healthcare, transportation)
- Develop strategies to preserve existing affordable housing where possible through rehabilitation, acquisition, or strategic investment

Strategy 3: Advance Innovative and Non-Traditional Housing Solutions

- Explore modular, prefabricated, or incremental housing approaches to reduce development costs and timelines
- Support “missing middle” housing types (e.g., duplexes, triplexes, small multi-family) that increase density while maintaining neighborhood character
- Explore and pilot flexible housing options (e.g., accessory dwelling units, live-work housing, shared housing models)

Goal 3

ADVANCE EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

Strategy 1: Define Community-Guided Development Priorities

- Conduct a Land Use and Development Analysis of zoning patterns, market activity, development trends, and redevelopment potential
- Produce a Land Use and Development Framework that translates analysis findings into clear priorities and site-specific recommendations
- Create a guide outlining community expectations for new development (e.g., mixed use, human scale)
- Develop coordinated community positions on rezoning requests, variances, and development proposals

Strategy 2: Assess and Mitigate Displacement Risk

- Conduct and regularly update a housing displacement risk analysis using key indicators such as rent increases, property tax trends, eviction filings, and expiring affordability periods to identify high-risk areas and populations.
- Require displacement mitigation plans for new developments (particularly subsidized or large-scale projects) and establish a process to monitor and enforce compliance over time
- Identify naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH) and implement strategies to preserve at-risk properties (e.g., acquisition, long-term affordability protections)

Strategy 3: Ensure Residents Benefit from Development

- Expand access to affordable housing and homeownership opportunities tied to new development (e.g., set-asides, right-to-return)
- Promote local hiring, workforce training, and participation of local and minority-owned businesses in development and construction
- Use community benefit agreements and public incentives (e.g., TIF*) to establish and enforce clear community benefit requirements

Goal 4

BUILD THE STRUCTURE TO DELIVER HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

Strategy 1: Establish a Coordinated Development Network

- Identify or establish a lead organization or coordination structure to guide housing and economic development efforts
- Convene housing and development partners regularly to align priorities, share information, and coordinate action
- Define clear roles for organizations across housing, development, services, and financing to reduce duplication and strengthen collaboration

Strategy 2: Create a Housing and Economic Development Strategy

- Align development decisions, project pipelines, and investments with identified housing needs, land use priorities, and displacement risks
- Coordinate housing and economic development efforts to support income, business development, and wealth-building opportunities for residents
- Use shared priorities to guide partnerships, funding decisions, and implementation across organizations
- Advocate for targeted use of incentives and financing tools (e.g., Housing Trust Funds, LIHTC,* TIF,* HOME,* CDBG*) to support development

Strategy 3: Build Capacity for Community-Based Housing and Development

- Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to community-based organizations to participate in housing development, including project financing, deal structuring, and compliance
- Support organizations in developing the capacity to access and manage federal and state housing resources (e.g., CHDO certification,* LIHTC,* HOME,* NMTC*)
- Facilitate partnerships between developers, community organizations, and financial institutions (e.g., CDFIs, tax credit syndicators) to advance development projects

*See acronyms and definitions on page 112.

Financial Stability and Economic Opportunities

Goal 1

HELP HOUSEHOLDS BECOME MORE FINANCIALLY STABLE

Strategy 1: Improve Access to Financial Stability Supports

- Conduct a financial stability study and produce a report that identifies key drivers of financial stress, gaps in service, and recommended interventions and investment priorities
- Expand delivery of financial stability supports in priority areas and for underserved populations, including addressing barriers related to language, trust, system navigation, and eligibility
- Embed financial stability supports into high-touch programs (e.g., housing, workforce, family services) where residents already seek help, especially for populations with low engagement in existing financial programs

Strategy 2: Reduce Household Financial Pressure

- Expand neighborhood-based transportation solutions (e.g., Driven2Success) in areas with the greatest need
- Pilot childcare solutions that address gaps in affordability, availability, and alignment with work schedules

Strategy 3: Strengthen Income Stabilization and Financial Resilience

- Establish partnerships with banks, and community lenders to expand access to safe financial products, credit-building tools, and short-term liquidity options
- Pilot income stabilization programs targeting households identified as most at risk of financial instability (e.g., guaranteed income pilots and alternatives to payday lending)

Goal 2

CONNECT RESIDENTS TO GOOD JOBS AND WEALTH-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

Strategy 1: Align Opportunities with Labor Market Needs

- Conduct a labor market and workforce program analysis to identify in-demand industries, effective practices, and gaps
- Use findings to define priority industries, career pathways, and investment targets

Strategy 2: Connect Residents to Quality Jobs and Career Pathways

- Develop targeted strategies to connect residents to industries and employers offering stable wages, benefits, and advancement opportunities
- Scale career pathway programs that link entry-level jobs to higher-wage opportunities through training, certification, and on-the-job learning
- Adapt successful youth workforce models for adult pathways

Strategy 3: Support Entrepreneurship and Alternative Income Pathways

- Launch a Community Microenterprise Initiative to help residents monetize skills, creative work, and home-based enterprises into sustainable income
- Create pathways for small and emerging businesses to access customers, local markets, and commercial space
- Expand business development support, mentorship, and technical assistance for entrepreneurs

Strategy 4: Expand Wealth-Building Opportunities and Asset Development

- Pilot strategies that position homeownership as a long-term wealth-building tool (e.g., structured resale)
- Explore shared equity models that support long-term affordability and reinvestment (e.g., community land trusts, limited-equity cooperatives)
- Develop targeted strategies to expand access to asset-building opportunities (e.g., ownership, business equity)

Goal 3

STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Strategy 1: Align Commercial Development with Community Needs and Market Opportunities

- Conduct a commercial market analysis to identify gaps in retail, services, and business types
- Develop targeted support programs to help entrepreneurs start or expand businesses that meet unmet local demand and essential community needs (e.g., grocery, childcare, healthcare services)
- Partner with lenders and philanthropic funders to deploy tools that support early-stage and growing businesses (e.g., microgrants, revolving loan funds)

Strategy 2: Expand Access to Commercial Space

- Develop a commercial development strategy that identifies priority corridors, sites, and opportunities for investment and business growth
- Develop targeted strategies to increase access to affordable commercial space (e.g., flexible, shared, and small-scale options)
- Partner with property owners, public agencies, and mission-driven lenders to secure, preserve, and create affordable commercial spaces (e.g., acquisition funds and public-private partnerships)
- Pilot affordable commercial space models for creatives and microenterprises (e.g., pop-up retail, shared storefronts, gallery/retail hybrids)

Strategy 3: Strengthen Local Wealth Circulation

- Launch a "Buy Local Far Eastside" campaign and use coordinated events and markets to increase visibility and spending at local businesses (e.g., Melanin in May)
- Partner with major employers and public agencies to expand contracting opportunities for Far Eastside businesses
- Support economic models that keep wealth circulating locally (e.g., cooperatives, collective enterprises)

Goal 4

IMPROVE COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Strategy 1: Establish Shared Priorities and Outcomes Across the Economic Ecosystem

- Use findings from key analyses to define shared priorities, target populations, and outcomes across organizations and sectors
- Align organizational strategies, programs, and investments around these shared priorities and outcomes

Strategy 2: Strengthen Coordination and Collaboration Across Organizations and Sectors

- Convene organizations across workforce development, small business support, financial services, and community development to coordinate efforts and share information
- Create structured opportunities for collaboration to reduce duplication and improve alignment across programs (e.g., joint programs, shared outreach, coordinated service delivery)

Strategy 3: Align Funding and Investment to Support Shared Priorities

- Develop coordinated investment strategies to support shared priorities (e.g., joint applications, pooled funds, community investment vehicles, and place-based economic development funds)
- Build the capacity of community-based organizations to access and manage funding by providing targeted support in financial management, deal structuring, and compliance requirements

Strategy 4: Improve Data Sharing, Tracking, and Accountability Systems

- Develop shared systems for tracking progress on key outcomes related to financial stability, income, business growth, and wealth-building
- Use data and community input to monitor progress, identify gaps, and adjust strategies over time

Safe and Healthy Environments

Goal 1

MAKE IT SAFER AND EASIER TO GET AROUND

Strategy 1: Identify and Prioritize the Most Critical Safety Improvements

- Host a Community Walk Audit Day to document infrastructure needs and high-risk corridors
- Use resident input, RequestIndy, and City data to map priority areas and develop a ranked list of infrastructure needs to guide investment and funding decisions
- Conduct a lighting assessment to identify poorly lit areas

Strategy 2: Deliver Visible Safety Improvements

- Facilitate a Community Design Workshop Series to identify temporary, low-cost traffic calming concepts
- Launch Tactical Urbanism Pilot Projects to test traffic calming concepts and document outcomes to inform long-term infrastructure investments
- Submit lighting improvement requests for publicly owned sites in identified areas
- Launch a community-led lighting initiative to install supplemental lighting on private and semi-public property in high-need areas (e.g., garages, fences, buildings)

Strategy 3: Improve Transit Access and Connectivity to Daily Destinations

- Identify gaps in access to transit stops and advocate for improvements that better connect residents to jobs and services
- Expand and support flexible, community-based transportation solutions (e.g., Driven2Success) to improve access to jobs, healthcare, and essential services

Strategy 4: Equip Residents to Advocate for Safer Streets

- Launch a Community Traffic Safety Campaign to build awareness and encourage safer travel behaviors
- Coordinate and track community advocacy efforts by submitting and monitoring requests through systems like RequestIndy

Goal 2

IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES

Strategy 1: Expand Preventative Care and Early Intervention

- Launch a Pop-up Preventative Health Screening Initiative for diabetes, heart disease, and maternal health risks in trusted community settings (e.g., churches, barbershops/beauty salons)
- Establish partnerships with health providers to offer in-event education, resource navigation, and direct linkage to care at community screening events

Strategy 2: Increase Access to Healthy Food and Health Education

- Launch a "Know Your Neighborhood Grocers" Initiative to support existing food providers (e.g., supermercados) in serving broader community needs through coordinated outreach, mapping, and community engagement
- Develop culturally relevant nutrition and healthy living programs in trusted community spaces (e.g., cooking classes, wellness workshops)

Strategy 3: Strengthen Community-Based and Culturally Relevant Health Supports

- Map existing grassroots and community-led wellness activities (e.g., fitness classes, walking groups, mental health circles)
- Connect grassroots wellness initiatives to funding, partnerships, and capacity-building resources
- Train community-based organizations and service providers in trauma-informed care and culturally responsive practices

Strategy 4: Expand Access to Health Benefits Through Small Business Growth

- Create a Benefits Readiness Initiative that supports small businesses in transitioning from early-stage operations to providing employee health benefits
- Pilot shared or pooled health benefit models (e.g., group purchasing, reimbursement models, partnerships) to reduce cost and administrative barriers for small businesses

Goal 3

IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Strategy 1: Identify Environmental Health Risks

- Conduct analysis to document environmentally impacted sites with the greatest environmental health risks using resident input and available data
- Use findings to develop targeted recommendations for advocacy, enforcement, and investment

Strategy 2: Address Environmental Hazards

- Coordinate community reporting, advocacy, and follow-up with key agencies (e.g., IDEM) to ensure timely investigation and remediation
- Partner with environmental organizations to support testing, public education, and access to remediation resources

Strategy 3: Expand Access to Green Space and Environmental Assets

- Conduct a community-informed assessment to identify priority areas for parks, green space, and trees
- Support community-led greening efforts through funding, partnerships, and coordination
- Integrate green space into redevelopment through planning and design guidance
- Activate green spaces through programming that supports recreation, wellness, and community use

Strategy 4: Align Land Use and Environmental Conditions to Support Health and Safety

- Develop community recommendations for buffering, land use transitions, and compatible development patterns
- Integrate environmental health considerations into land use and development decisions
- Provide residents with tools and guidance to understand and participate in land use decisions

Goal 4

IMPROVE COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Strategy 1: Align Partners Around Shared Priorities and Outcomes

- Host a Far Eastside Health Summit to convene partners across sectors (health, transportation, environment, public safety) to align priorities and strategies
- Establish shared goals and outcomes grounded in the social determinants of health
- Develop a common framework to guide coordinated action across sectors

Strategy 2: Strengthen Shared Data, Learning, and Accountability Systems

- Develop a centralized resource platform for health, food, public safety, and environmental services
- Establish a shared system to understand layered challenges and measure collective impact across sectors
- Share data and insights across organizations to inform decision-making
- Create mechanisms for transparency and accountability, including regular public updates

Strategy 3: Coordinate Resources and Investment to Support Collective Action

- Align public, private, and philanthropic funding with shared priorities and outcomes
- Pursue collaborative funding opportunities across organizations and sectors
- Support joint initiatives and pilot projects that address multiple issues simultaneously
- Leverage partnerships to maximize impact and reduce duplication of efforts

Multigenerational Power

Goal 1

BUILD THE STRUCTURE TO GUIDE QOL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Strategy 1: Establish a Clear Resident-Led Governance Structure

- Formalize the Far Eastside Community Council (FECC) as the resident-led organization responsible for overseeing implementation of the Quality of Life Plan
- Develop clear operating guidelines, including meeting structure, how decisions are made, participation expectations, and communication practices

Strategy 2: Establish Focus Area Action Teams

- Establish resident-led Action Teams aligned with each QOL focus area to lead implementation efforts
- Define the role of Action Teams in planning, decision-making, and implementation
- Establish a regular meeting cadence and coordination structure to ensure alignment, information sharing, and progress across Action Teams

Strategy 3: Define Shared Decision-Making and Accountability Processes

- Clarify which decisions are resident-led, shared with partners, or led by specific institutions
- Create systems to track commitments, progress, and outcomes across Action Teams and partner organizations
- Establish regular reporting from Action Teams to the FECC to ensure transparency and alignment

Strategy 4: Align Roles of Key Implementation Partners

- Define the role of core implementation partners in supporting coordination, capacity, and implementation across the Quality of Life Plan
- Align partner contributions with shared priorities, timelines, and implementation strategies
- Establish clear processes for communication, coordination, and reporting between partners to support transparency, trust, and shared accountability

Goal 2

EQUIP RESIDENTS WITH THE SUPPORT TO LEAD

Strategy 1: Build a Resident Leadership Pipeline

- Establish a system to connect trained Resident Leaders to paid roles, stipends, and leadership opportunities across neighborhood initiatives and partner organizations
- Partner with organizations and institutions to create consistent opportunities for resident leaders to contribute to planning, outreach, and implementation efforts

Strategy 2: Align Funding and Institutional Support for Resident Participation

- Secure funding to support resident stipends, participation supports, and leadership development efforts
- Establish shared funding strategies where multiple organizations contribute to and utilize a common pool of resident leaders, spreading costs and increasing opportunities

Strategy 3: Establish Systems for Inclusive and Culturally Responsive Engagement

- Co-develop and pilot culturally specific engagement approaches with community partners and residents, and adapt strategies based on feedback and participation outcomes
- Establish a system to provide consistent, high-quality language access across all engagement and leadership activities, including hiring and compensating multilingual residents and partnering with organizations with expertise

Strategy 4: Create Clear and Accessible Participation Infrastructure

- Develop and maintain a centralized system (e.g., shared calendar, communications platform) that outlines participation opportunities
- Design participation opportunities to align with residents' daily lives, including flexible scheduling and accessible locations
- Establish structured systems for ongoing support for resident leader engagement and retention

Goal 3

STRENGTHEN ORGANIZED LEADERSHIP ACROSS THE FAR EASTSIDE

Strategy 1: Establish and Support Youth Leadership with Real Decision-Making Power

- Establish a Far Eastside Youth Council with a clear structure, defined roles, and direct connection to FECC
- Partner with schools and youth-serving organizations to recruit, support, and sustain youth participation

Strategy 2: Strengthen Neighborhood-Based Organizing and Local Leadership

- Strengthen existing neighborhood associations (e.g., Dubarry Determined) by providing coordination support, leadership development, access to resources, and clear connections to QOL Plan implementation
- Identify priority areas and rental communities without organized representation and support the formation of new neighborhood and tenant groups through targeted outreach, organizing support, partnerships with advocacy organizations, and leadership development
- Support the development and use of community spaces for organizing and engagement

Strategy 3: Build Collective Voice and Community Alignment

- Host a Far Eastside Community Forum before the legislative session to define shared priorities and prepare residents to engage with elected officials and institutions
- Develop a coordinated framework that integrates input from youth and neighborhood groups into a shared community agenda, with clear roles and processes for contribution

Goal 4

MAKE SYSTEMS ACCESSIBLE, NAVIGABLE, AND RESPONSIVE TO RESIDENTS

Strategy 1: Identify Barriers to Navigating City Processes

- Conduct targeted outreach with residents and community organizations to identify common points of confusion and barriers in navigating city systems (e.g., zoning, code enforcement, public hearings, service requests)
- Partner with relevant city agencies and departments to clarify processes, roles, and responsibilities, ensuring accurate and up-to-date information
- Use findings to prioritize which systems, processes, and issues require the most immediate clarification and support

Strategy 2: Develop Clear, Accessible Navigation Tools

- Develop clear, user-friendly tools that help residents navigate common issues and processes (e.g., "Who Do I Call?" guides)
- Distribute tools through trusted and widely used channels, including community organizations, events, neighborhood networks, digital platforms local media and physical locations (e.g., FECC website, Mirror Indy, service providers)

Strategy 3: Activate a Community-Based Navigation System

- Train and support Resident Leaders to serve as community-based navigators who help neighbors understand systems, access services, and resolve issues
- Leverage and promote existing city tools and resources, including the Mayor's Action Center, RequestIndy, and Mayor's Neighborhood Advocates, to improve access and effectiveness
- Partner with community organizations to serve as trusted access points for navigation support, helping residents report issues, follow up, and navigate systems over time

Art, Culture, and Belonging

Goal 1

DOCUMENT AND SHARE COMMUNITY CULTURE AND HISTORY

Strategy 1: Document Cultural and Historical Assets

- Conduct a cultural and historical asset inventory to identify important people, places, stories, traditions, and landmarks across the Far Eastside
- Gather, map, and organize existing materials, archives, and sites of cultural significance through partnerships with libraries, universities, and cultural institutions
- Create accessible tools (e.g., maps, digital archives, summaries) to share findings with residents, artists, and partners

Strategy 2: Capture Living Culture and Community Narratives

- Document current community experiences and neighborhood change, including the histories and contributions of immigrant and underrepresented communities
- Develop and carry out community-based storytelling initiatives (e.g., oral histories, interviews, resident-led documentation projects)
- Support intergenerational storytelling to preserve knowledge, memory, and identity across time

Strategy 3: Translate and Share a Collective Community Story

- Synthesize findings into a clear and inclusive story about the Far Eastside's identity, history, and evolution
- Create a shared set of themes and priorities based on the Far Eastside's culture, history, and identity to guide public art, programming, and community design decisions
- Create accessible materials (e.g., story summaries, visual tools, digital platforms) that communicate the community's story to residents, artists, and partners

Strategy 4: Strengthen and Coordinate Local Media and Communication Platforms

- Align communication across organizations to reinforce a consistent and community-driven narrative
- Develop a coordinated communication strategy that leverages both community-based and citywide media platforms

Goal 2

MAKE CULTURE VISIBLE AND PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE

Strategy 1: Integrate Culture into Public Art and the Built Environment

- Develop design guidelines based on the Far Eastside's culture, history, and identity to guide the placement and design of public art and to ensure markers and storytelling features are accessible and multilingual
- Establish partnerships with artists, designers, and community members to co-create culturally relevant public art and neighborhood features
- Integrate culturally reflective design elements into everyday infrastructure (e.g., parks, bus stops, and streetscapes
- Install culturally relevant signage, markers, and storytelling elements that highlight important people, places, and events

Strategy 2: Create and Sustain Spaces for Culture and Connection

- Activate underutilized or vacant spaces for temporary cultural use (e.g., pop-ups, exhibitions, performances)
- Assess and identify priority sites and corridors for cultural and creative space development, including vacant properties and underutilized buildings
- Develop and pilot a multi-use cultural hub or third space that supports creative work, programming, and community gathering
- Evaluate pilot projects and temporary activations to guide long-term investment in permanent cultural and creative spaces

Strategy 3: Expand Opportunities for Cultural Expression and Participation

- Create a coordinated Far Eastside cultural event series by building on existing efforts (e.g., Far Eastside Festival, P30 rotating gallery) to increase participation and reach
- Launch a coordinated Far Eastside First Fridays program that aligns galleries, businesses, and creative spaces with extended hours, programming, and promotion
- Develop shared tools (e.g., event calendars, maps, promotional platforms) to increase awareness of cultural activity

Goal 3

SUPPORT CREATIVES AND EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES

Strategy 1: Expand Access to Resources and Income Opportunities for Creatives

- Conduct an assessment of needs and barriers faced by creatives to inform priorities
- Create programs that help creatives monetize their work and build sustainable income streams
- Develop clear pathways to connect Far Eastside creatives to existing resources, directories, and economic development opportunities

Strategy 2: Increase Visibility and Access to Audiences

- Create structured opportunities for creatives to sell their work (e.g., markets, exhibitions, performances, media platforms)
- Include creatives in the "Buy Local Far Eastside" campaign and business directory to connect creatives with audiences and opportunities
- Align recurring arts events with local business corridors to increase foot traffic and sales

Strategy 3: Strengthen Creative Networks and Collaboration

- Establish and sustain networks that connect artists, creatives, and cultural practitioners across disciplines
- Create opportunities for collaboration between creatives, community organizations, and neighborhood initiatives
- Create structured pathways for creatives to contribute to public projects, storytelling, and community-building efforts across the Far Eastside

Goal 4

BUILD THE STRUCTURE TO SUSTAIN ARTS, CULTURE, AND BELONGING

Strategy 1: Establish Leadership and Coordination

- Define a coordination structure (e.g., coalition or lead organization) to guide arts, culture, and belonging efforts
- Develop a plan to establish a lead entity or backbone organization to coordinate implementation and long-term efforts
- Clarify roles for community organizations, creatives, partners, and institutions to ensure shared ownership without overburdening any single group
- Create a shared set of priorities to guide projects, programming, and investment decisions

Strategy 2: Align Funding and Investment

- Align public, private, and philanthropic funding sources to support arts, culture, and belonging initiatives (e.g., National Endowment for the Arts, Indiana Humanities, and the City's Community-Powered Infrastructure Program)
- Develop collaborative strategies (e.g., joint applications) for Far Eastside organizations to secure
- Build the capacity of community-based organizations to access funding through support with grant writing, financial management, and compliance

Strategy 3: Integrate Arts, Culture, and Belonging into Community Systems

- Pilot approaches that incorporate cultural expression into community-based work to support healing, connection, and well-being (e.g., artist residencies within community organizations, healing circles that incorporate creative practices, culturally rooted workshops)
- Promote approaches that center joy, culture, and belonging as part of everyday community life (e.g., incorporating culturally relevant music, art, and media into program spaces; celebrating milestones within existing programs; and creating welcoming, culturally reflective environments)

ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

CDBG (Community Development Block Grant): A federal funding program that supports a wide range of community development activities, including housing rehabilitation, public infrastructure improvements, the development and improvement of community facilities, small business development, and the expansion of public services that benefit low- and moderate-income communities.

CDFIs (Community Development Financial Institutions): Mission-driven financial institutions that provide flexible loans, investments, and financial services to underserved communities and community development projects that may not qualify for traditional financing. CDFIs often support affordable housing, small business development, community facilities, and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

CHDO Certification (Community Housing Development Organization Certification): A federal designation that allows qualified nonprofit organizations to access specific HOME funding for affordable housing development and community-based housing initiatives.

HOME (HOME Investment Partnerships Program): A federal housing program that supports affordable housing development, rehabilitation, rental assistance, and homeownership opportunities.

LIHTC (Low-Income Housing Tax Credit): A federal program that provides tax incentives to support the development and preservation of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households.

NMTC (New Markets Tax Credit): A federal program that encourages private investment in underserved communities by providing tax credits for projects that support economic and community development.

TIF (Tax Increment Financing): A public financing tool that uses future increases in property tax revenue to support infrastructure, redevelopment, and community improvements in designated areas.

Conclusion

The Far Eastside Quality of Life Plan is not the beginning of this work, it is a continuation of the longstanding heart equity that neighbors, caretakers, and stewards have poured into this community.

For generations, residents of the Far Eastside have built, sustained, and reimagined this corner of the city through periods of growth, disruption, and renewal. From early settlement to suburban expansion, through disinvestment and into today's moment of reinvestment, the neighborhood has remained defined not by circumstance alone, but by the people who call it home.

This plan follows in that legacy.

It reflects the voices, experiences, and aspirations of residents who contributed their time, insight, and care throughout this process. It is grounded in the understanding that those closest to the challenges are also closest to the solutions. It's grounded in the principle that lasting change happens when communities are resourced to lead their own futures.

At the same time, this plan is not an endpoint. It is a framework for coordinated action.

The priorities outlined — Housing Affordability & Equitable Growth, Financial Stability & Economic Opportunities, Safe & Healthy Environments, Multigenerational Power, and Arts, Culture & Belonging — represent both immediate needs and long-term investments in the social, cultural, and economic fabric of the Far Eastside. They call for alignment across residents, organizations, institutions, and public partners to move from vision to implementation.

The responsibility moving forward is shared.

It requires sustained commitment, transparent accountability, and continued collaboration. It requires that investment be guided not only by data, but by lived experience. And it requires that growth be measured not only in development, but in stability, belonging, and opportunity for those who have long sustained this community.

Closing Acknowledgments

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Indianapolis office of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) for stewarding this process and investing in long-term neighborhood vitality. LISC's commitment to equitable development and cross-sector collaboration created the structure within which this collective vision could emerge.

We are deeply appreciative of our collaborating partners — The Far Eastside Community Council, Community Alliance of the Far Eastside, ANT Foundation Consulting, Yuquilima Solutions, Rokh Research & Design Studio, Ubuntu Planning Studio, YARD & Company, Storyboard, our design and photography contributors Isidor Studio, WildStyle Paschall, and Dennis Jarrett, and the extended team of facilitators, data analysts, designers, and engagement leads — whose expertise strengthened this process. Your work ensured that engagement was thoughtful, inclusive, and reflective of the neighborhood's complexity. From community workshops and stakeholder interviews to data synthesis and strategy design, your contributions shaped a plan that is both technically rigorous and community-rooted.

Convened by:

LISC INDIANAPOLIS

CAFE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF THE FAR EASTSIDE

THE Far Eastside Community Council

Planning Team:

ROKH

UBUNTU PLANNING STUDIO

Accessibility Partners:

YUQUILIMA SOLUTIONS

ant FOUNDATION CONSULTING

P30

Commissioned by:

THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

Published May 2026.