

# HOUGH NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN SUMMARY

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**Description.** In the late 1800s, Hough (which takes its name from the street named after two early landowners, Oliver and Eliza Hough) was a prosperous neighborhood with impressive mansions and wealthy residents. Today Hough is still predominantly residential but also home to a wide variety of institutional uses that are scattered around the neighborhood. Single-family, two-family, townhouse, small and large apartment buildings are also intermixed throughout the neighborhood.



**Assets.** Although much of the neighborhood has suffered deterioration since the riots of the 1960s, a renaissance of new housing construction has shown promise for the neighborhood's future. Other neighborhood assets include:

- *proximity to major employment centers* like the Cleveland Clinic and University Circle
- being within the boundaries of the City's *Empowerment Zone*
- *Rockefeller Park* which makes up the neighborhood's eastern boundary
- *institutional uses* like the African-American Museum, the Ronald McDonald House, the Rainey Institute, Eliza Bryant Village and the Cleveland Society for the Blind
- *League Park*, former home of Cleveland's professional baseball teams
- the *Church Square* shopping center
- Martin Luther King and East High Schools and the Thurgood Marshall Recreation center

**Challenges.** Among the challenges faced by the Hough neighborhood are:

- large numbers of vacant residential lots throughout the neighborhood
- large older homes that are expensive for residents to maintain and heat
- attracting retail and services that accommodate needs of the residents
- capitalizing on the proximity to University Circle, the Cleveland Clinic and Rockefeller Park to match residents with jobs and to make the neighborhood a choice for those already working at these major employers

**Vision.** Promote the combination of economic development and education initiative resulting in jobs and improved quality of life for Hough residents. Among the development opportunities and initiatives proposed are the following:

- offer economic and entrepreneurial opportunities for alternative industries such as music and entertainment using the Agora entertainment complex on Euclid Avenue
- capitalize on and celebrate the neighborhood's rich arts and cultural heritage through developments such as the League Park revitalization, development of an African-American Museum Complex, the little Africa development, and a monument remembering the Hough riots
- take advantage of educational resources to provide the type of education and training needed by youth (ex. Wilson Middle School which will relocate at East 55<sup>th</sup> Street with a curriculum focused on safety, health and public administration)
- develop a community where youth activity and youth opportunities are the cornerstone for long term stability (4 kids foundation)
- clean abandoned and contaminated land and add greenspace
- capitalize on the presence of, and proximity to, educational, medical and cultural institutions in University Circle and create connections to the Hough neighborhood
- continue to make Hough a neighborhood of choice for residents seeking high end and market rate housing while creating affordable housing in appropriate locations
- insure that Hough becomes a center for job creation with both high and lower end employment opportunities
- develop the Upper Chester neighborhood to capture existing employees and future employees of nearby institutions in University Circle and on Euclid Avenue