Meet our Community Partners

Shepherd's Heart Fellowship

Bethlehem Haven

Jubilee Soup Kitchen

Action Housing Inc.

UP Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh

Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh
What’s New in Uptown?

The Uptown EcoInnovation District Plan

The Uptown EcoInnovation District Plan is a comprehensive road map, built by the community, to identify the ways in which redevelopment can improve the environment, support the needs of existing residents, and expand entrepreneurship and job growth. Uptown is strategically located between two of the three largest business centers in Pennsylvania — Downtown and Oakland. New investments in housing and start-up businesses are happening both within and around Uptown. For these reasons, Uptown has an opportunity to encourage investments that support new and growing businesses but also create opportunities for existing residents.

Bus Rapid Transit

The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) will connect Downtown to Oakland and is one of the largest current transit projects in Pennsylvania. The project will provide higher quality, reliable transit service between the region’s two major employment centers and residential communities to the east. The project includes changes to both physical infrastructure and transit operations along the Downtown-Uptown-Oakland portion of the corridor. Changes to transit operations in the East End of the corridor will link Highland Park, Squirrel Hill, and the East Busway to the BRT system. The project will include:

- 40 stations/pairs (80 platforms) with enhanced/branded stations
- Dedicated transit lanes
- Transit signal priority
- Curb bump-outs
- A real-time bus arrival information system
- The purchase of 25 branded battery electric articulated buses and the rebranding of 34 diesel buses.
Community Partners in Uptown

Since 2008, $2.6 Million Awarded to Our Uptown Community Partners:

- ACTION-Housing
- Bethlehem Haven
- Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh
- Jubilee Association
- Shepherd’s Heart Fellowship & Veteran’s Home
- Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh

Uptown Facts: 2010
- 670 residents (not including the jail population or students)
- 50% live below the poverty line
- 51% White; 45% African-American
- 388 housing units; 35% owner-occupied
- 212 new rental units since 2010; 42% affordable; 58% market rate

Source: Pittsburgh City Planning EcoInnovation Data Book

Uptown Public Art Book Bench

In honor of McAuley Ministries’ 10th anniversary, funds were granted to commission a piece of artwork in each of the neighborhood communities served.

This Book Bench was created by Uptown resident and artist James Simon and is located at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Gist Street. The two-person bench will serve as a rotating canvas for public art images, written word, and visual imagery. Currently, the bench features a poem by Pittsburgh poet Yona Harvey about Pittsburgh-born jazz artist Mary Lou Williams displayed in an open book. The painting is a portrait of Williams by painter Luis Castellanos Valui of Mexico.
Up\textbf{town Partners of Pittsburgh} is a community advocacy and development organization of residents, businesses, and institutions working together to build a vibrant, sustainable, and just Uptown neighborhood. The organization achieves its goals by working collaboratively to create a clean, safe, healthy, and green environment while pursuing equitable development; rebuilding a mixed-income population, with an emphasis on affordability; reclaiming blighted, vacant properties, and encouraging new residential housing; supporting existing residents through advocacy and resource linkages; attracting much-needed retail services; fostering quality design in new development; ensuring pedestrian-friendly, multi-modal streets; and, attracting an environment where the arts flourish and are integrated into the urban landscape.

\textbf{ACTION-Housing}

- Provided case management and supportive services for 84 young adults living in Uptown.
- 88\% of all participants were employed and maintained employment.
- 83\% of all participants participated in post-secondary education and/or job training programs.
- 86\% of all participants paid rent on time and in full every month.
- 34 exited/graduated from the program.
- 100\% of graduated participants exited to permanent housing.
- 100\% of graduated participants received health insurance.

\textbf{Bethlehem Haven}

- Acquired two Uptown properties for future development of affordable housing.

\textbf{Shepherd's Heart Fellowship & Veteran's Home}

- Operated a Shuttle Bus Service, providing 500 annual trips and transporting approximately 2,000 riders for medical, mental health, counseling, probation, and welfare appointments.
- Provided residential and other services to 65 veterans. Ninety percent (90\%) transitioned to permanent housing; 87\% were discharged from the Shepherd's Heart Veteran’s Home with competitive employment.
- Operated a Drop-In Center, open 320 days, serving 14,000 persons.
- The Food Pantry supplemented the nutritional needs of 1,400 individuals/families.
- The Resource Center provided blankets, coats, shoes, clothing, and toiletries to more than 1,800 individuals/families.

\textbf{Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh}

- Community engagement regarding the EcoInnovation District, Lower Hill Development, and Bus Rapid Transit.
- Public safety initiatives that reduced crime by 6\%.
- Registered 271 code compliance citations with the City’s 311 line; 138 complaints were resolved.
- Developed the Uptown Available Property Map, a layered digital tool, to identify all underutilized property that is available for redevelopment.
- Transitioned UpBeat! from a hard copy newsletter to digital and increased its presence on social media.
- Coordinated community beautification, including cleanups, streetscape enhancements, public art, trees, benches, and litter receptacles.

\textbf{Community Partners’ Outcomes}

\textbf{Programs Built to Serve the Community}

\begin{itemize}
  \item EcoInnovation District
  \item Clean, Safe, and Green
  \item Residents
  \item Developers
  \item Businesses
\end{itemize}