

*"I believe in Madisonville and I believe we can have the neighborhood that we all want: a thriving business district, good schools, safe streets. And I have come to learn that the answer to what we want is in this room. We can make Madisonville the neighborhood we all want and desire – if we work together." -Bob Igoe, Community Council President*

### Vision

Madisonville is a diverse community with a deep sense of pride and appreciation for its rich history. The people of Madisonville recognize complex and abiding social, cultural, faith-based, and familial connections. Successful development and community restoration will succeed when the past is recognized and the future is embraced. Long-time residents and newcomers will

come together and make neighborhood renaissance happen.

The vision for Madisonville includes quiet, tree-lined streets with colorful gardens surrounding a safe, clean, and active business district where residents and visitors meet, shop, dine, play, live, connect, and entertain. High-quality schools, cultural organizations, health-based institutions, and employment centers are valued and nurtured.

A thriving local economy, public amenities, cultural assets, recreational opportunities, plentiful green spaces, a variety of housing options, and a supportive social network are the keys to Madisonville's renewal. Residents believe the neighborhood is "The Soul of the City Since 1809" and have the vision, the will, and the plan to unlock Madisonville's future.

### How We Made Our Plan

When Madisonville received word in 2011 that it was selected as a recipient of a planning grant from LISC, the convening agency, MCURC, immediately began working with the Madisonville Community Council and Weed and Seed Sustained, Inc. to establish a Steering Committee to guide the planning process. Residents, business, church, and organizational leaders came together to plan the engagement strategy. From fall 2011 to winter 2012, the team conducted nearly 100 interviews of existing leaders to discover their thoughts about Madisonville, to listen to their ideas, and to recruit new leadership. The results were compiled and analyzed by

the University of Cincinnati Community Design Center, which also provided existing conditions, demographics and a review of previous plans with key recommendations.

After the one-on-one conversations, the Steering Committee brought everyone together to hear ideas and begin making plans for the future. On April 19, 2012 nearly 200 residents and leaders of neighborhood-based organizations, institutions and businesses joined together to create a common vision for the future of Madisonville.

The ideas expressed during the visioning event fell into six categories. Over the summer months, the Steering Committee convened six working

sessions to develop specific strategies for improving the quality of life in Madisonville. Each session had a specific agenda, benchmarks for a successful planning process, and meaningful leadership responsibilities. The groups were also charged with identifying lead agencies or "champions" for each action to ensure accountability and productivity. The neighborhood coined a name for the process - "Madisonville Blooms!" - in an effort to express the positive growth the community was experiencing. By the end of the summer, over 2,000 hours of formal meeting time was spent! Group co-chairs, key volunteers, and staff spent even more time in between sessions working on their strategies.



## Highlights

### The Madisonville Arts & Cultural Center



The Madisonville Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) will become a key anchor for community life and a unique, creativity-based engine for Madisonville's economic development in the years ahead. It will become Madisonville's cultural center and a place where a variety of music, dance, poetry, spoken word, historical exhibits, visual and culinary arts will be promoted and celebrated. It will be an architecturally significant and environmentally friendly place where Madisonville residents and visitors will gather and enjoy a rich cultural life in the heart of a diverse, urban neighborhood. The MACC will work towards incorporating public art and historical markers and trails throughout the neighborhood, in collaboration with neighborhood-based and city-wide organizations.

### School-Community Organizing

During our recent work, we were stunned to learn that only 20% of kindergarten-to-grade-6 children living in Madisonville and Madison Place attend John P. Parker School, our neighborhood public elementary school. The rest of the K-6 students attend over 60 schools throughout the region. We believe this flight from the neighborhood school has a direct impact on community life, the housing market, and the overall stability of the neighborhood.

In light of John P. Parker's recent academic successes, the time is right to begin an organized campaign to recruit more families to attend our neighborhood school. Connecting with young families and providing opportunities to engage with the school will help us to increase enrollment and better connect school and civic life. We envision John P. Parker as an academically rich school where families in Madisonville and beyond choose to enroll their children.

### Key Partners

**LISC** In 2010, Madisonville was chosen to receive funding from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to help with quality-of-life planning. Madisonville was selected based on community need, opportunity and capacity. LISC's mission is to help community residents transform distressed neighborhoods into good places to work, play, do business and raise children. They achieve this goal by providing funds and technical assistance so that neighborhoods can expand investment in housing and other real estate, increase family income and wealth, stimulate economic development, improve education and youth programming, enhance safety and health and support healthy lifestyles. LISC does this work by helping communities build platforms on which they can pursue a citizen-led, asset-based comprehensive quality-of-life plan.

**MCURC** The Madisonville Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (MCURC) is a non-profit community development corporation. For 35 years MCURC existed as a volunteer-driven organization, primarily focused on redevelopment of the neighborhood business district. In order to reconnect with its mission as a community-based development corporation, MCURC initiated an organizing and planning process to develop a vision and plan for the future. This work began in the fall of 2011 with broad participation and strong support from the entire community. For more information about MCURC visit their website at [www.mcurc.org](http://www.mcurc.org).

- ArtsWave**  
 Brandt Retail Group, Kathleen Norris, VP, Urban Focus Community Development Corporations Association of Greater Cincinnati  
 Cincinnati Museum Center  
 Cincinnati Parks  
 Cincinnati Police District Two  
 Cincinnati Public Schools  
 City of Cincinnati Departments  
 - Economic Development  
 - Community Development  
 - Transportation and Engineering  
 - Health  
 - Planning and Buildings  
 - Public Services  
 Civic Garden Center  
 Glaserworks  
 John P. Parker School  
 Keep Cincinnati Beautiful  
 Lighthouse Community School  
 LISC Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky  
 Madisonville Historical Society  
 Madisonville Mission Ministries  
 Madisonville Public Library  
 Madisonville Recreation Center  
 Madisonville Youth Council  
 Madisonville Community Council  
 Madisonville Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation  
 Madisonville Education and Assistance Center  
 National Underground Railroad Freedom Center  
 Queen City Bike  
 Shroder High School  
 The Children's Home of Cincinnati  
 Weed and Seed Sustained, Inc.

# MADISONVILLE

## Quality-of-Life Plan

