

MAD LIBS™



van aken district connections plan

58 Mad Libs were completed at the Van Aken Connections Plan public meeting on June 20, 2016

1. I think _____ would give the Van Aken district a unique Shaker Heights identity.

Most common responses: iconic art and trees/gardens

Multiple responses: historic markers/information, water feature/fountain, local stores

Unique perspectives: sense of clean funkiness, pet-friendly

our people
public art, gardens
iconic artwork, historical
markers/info
unique restaurants
people friendly
signage
trees
local stores
lighting
gardens
independent small businesses
park-like pods
historical
middle + upper middle class
residents
performance/meeting spaces
the park
art
consistent feel
contemporary architecture
design

signs
brewery
art/architecture
color
great signage
interactive water feature
cycling and arts
fountain
variety of quick lunches
sustainable development
trees, greenery, great looking
landscapes, etc.
fountain w/ original Shaker
elements
fresh, new, contemporary
design
local, independently-owned
businesses
art
as many trees/plantings as
possible
art

bookstore
lots of art
unique shopping/dining
a truly good civic square
people
a theater w/ kids movies
art
sense of clean funkiness (not
Coventry/Cedar Lee, but
Fairmount/Taylor)
public art and temporary
installations, murals
local merchants, craft shops
historical story boards
pet friendly facilities
(restaurant patios/dog park)
art & history storyboards
aggressive landscaping
landscaping
art
beer

2. Adding lots of _____ would help make it the best place it can be.

Most common responses: trees/gardens, unique shops

Multiple responses: programming

Unique perspectives: places to sit and eat ice cream, anything but parking

trees

healthy food stores

green space, outdoor eating

housing options

directions

elegant landscaping

bike facilities

easy walking access

restaurants

unique shops

green spaces

restaurants

creative arts galleries, better

restaurants

established

people

greenscaping

restaurants

gardens

restaurants

stores

traffic calming

bike/pedestrian infrastructure

landscaping

light/plants

unique boutiques/dining

unique retail

flowers/greenery

green space

small shops

trees

restaurants/small shops that

meet the needs of residents

seating and reasons to sit

(giant chess board, lighted

benches, kids climbing areas)

anything but parking

activity

(programmed/spontaneous)

mom & pop stores

trees/plantings

trees/plants

foliage

restaurants

local businesses

parks/greenspace

parking sink strategy

plants

places to sit and eat ice cream

venues

trees, shops

opportunities for interactions

Shaker character (brick)

local art

successfully profitable

businesses, movie

nights/concerts

shops

well-maintained landscaping

trees

quality eateries

people

music

3. The district will be most successful if it feels _____.

Most common responses: safe, welcoming, friendly, family-friendly, comfortable
Multiple responses: part of the neighborhood, authentic/real, attractive, vibrant/active
Unique perspectives: sense of history

like it's always been there
family friendly, creative, sense of history
woven into the community, not an island
like an extension of the neighborhood
vibrant and accessible
like a neighborhood
connected
like a gathering place
lively
safe and attractive
comfortable
safe and welcoming
safe, beautiful, friendly (like Eton)
vibrant
unique
welcoming
welcoming/inviting
inviting
like a town center
casual/comfortable
active

prioritized for the pedestrian, safely walkable
dense
welcome
inviting
cohesive/appropriate
purposeful (rest, retail)
convenient and accessible but lovely
inviting, friendly, vibrant
open and green/cool (reduce asphalt and concrete)
"Shaker personality"
safe, comfortable/ stores are viable to residents' needs
both family-friendly and hip-urban
real
safe and authentic
welcoming
shady, cooler, walkable, sit-able
like a place to spend time with family/friends

well-lit, safe, welcoming, attractive, familiar (similar to other parts of Shaker)
welcoming
like a neighborhood gathering place
mixed and very intense, convivial
not too many kids hanging out; Shaker Square was great until shoplifting and loafing closed it
family-friendly
like home
pedestrian-friendly
lively and safe
family-friendly
city-ish
local with a regional draw
safe
natural/authentic
lively
inviting/pedestrian-friendly
like a neighborhood
alive

4. I am most interested in traveling to the Van Aken District via _____.

Note: there were many multiple mode responses

Walking: 48%
Biking: 40%
Driving: 29%
RTA: 13%

5. The addition of _____ would make it more likely for me to WALK to the district and would help make this experience enjoyable.

Most common responses: multi-use paths, wide sidewalks, safer crosswalks, ped signals

Multiple responses: shoveled sidewalks in winter, lighting, benches

Unique perspectives: water bottle filling station

plowed paths in winter

multi-use paths

multi-use paths

multi-use paths

ice cream store

lighting

not too much traffic

benches

benches

signage

lower car speeds

safe street crossing

grass

lighting/crosswalks

multi-use paths

green space

fewer streets

protected crosswalks, wide

sidewalks

traffic calming

short crosswalks

safety lighting and walks

services

attractive wayfinding/paths

green space

nice public bathrooms

multi-use paths

mid-block crosswalks

lit walkways

better cross walks, walk signals

that count seconds

safe cross walks

water bottle-filling stations

Sidewalks + curb

comfortable/shady in summer,

shoveled sidewalks in winter

landscape/ crosswalks with

pedestrian friendly signals

reliable signs, timed cross

walks, more sidewalks

congregation areas

better walking paths on

Warrensville

a safer way to cross Farnsleigh

at Key Bank

good restaurants/bars

clearly marked private walking

paths, separate cars from

walkers when possible

clean pavement

landscaping

street lights (safety)

paths

ped signals that default to

walk (not don't walk, like now)

updated crosswalk timing &

signals

traffic calming, wider

sidewalks

countdown walk signals

6. The addition of _____ would make it more likely for me to BIKE to the district and would help make this experience enjoyable.

Most common responses: multi-use/bike paths, bike lanes, bike racks

Multiple responses: bike repair stations

Unique perspectives: security, lighting

separated bike infrastructure
 multi-use paths (bike/foot)
 bike shop/co-op
 bike paths
 dedicated and protected lanes
 coffee house
 paths and lanes
 not too many cars
 off-road paths
 bike stops and repair stops
 signage
 courteous drivers
 bike lanes
 security
 dedicated, protected
 infrastructure

multi-use paths
 bike lanes
 activity
 bike racks
 off-street paths
 safe bike storage, kid friendly
 clearly marked bike routes
 bike routes/racks
 protected bike lanes
 Warrensville bike lanes
 designated bike lanes
 secure bike stations, minor
 repair stations
 traffic calming
 bike lane/multi-use trail
 bike racks

easily accessible bike racks,
 pleasant walking areas
 bike lanes
 special safe bike paths/racks
 bike paths on Warrensville
 safe bike paths
 separated bike paths
 festivals or craft stores
 bike paths on Warrensville
 bike paths/hoops
 lighting
 multi-use paths
 bike path on Van Aken
 bike path
 bike shop
 covered bike parking

7. I am most looking forward to _____ in the district.

Most common responses: eating and drinking

Multiple responses: hanging out, entertainment/events, shopping

Unique perspectives: local businesses, affordable office space

sense of place
 hanging out
 dining, hanging out
 upscale ambiance
 new retail options
 outdoor dining
 eating and drinking
 shopping and living
 sitting out in the sun
 increased property value
 more shoppers
 action, no more talk
 engaging more dialogue
 living
 vibrancy
 dining
 eating
 eating
 living
 sitting on a patio at a café
 enjoying a cold beverage

helping slow traffic on
 Winslow
 new people
 family dining (something other
 than Pizzazz)
 living near
 healthy convenient food
 spending time
 eating lunch
 retail
 affordable office space for
 small businesses
 cohesiveness
 local businesses
 entertainment as a third space
 for my family
 living
 maximal tree cover/plantings
 to improve health/skin
 protection
 concerts and movies
 biking to, patronizing stores

tax revenue generating
 festivals, outdoor art, music
 dining and drinking
 living
 more people, eating places,
 shops
 people
 neighborhood-like
 entertainment, shopping,
 dining/ enhanced property
 values/ well-maintained,
 clean, landscaping
 discovering new things
 growth
 living, dining, shopping
 eating (restaurant/local bar)
 eating
 drinking a glass of wine after
 work
 eating
 shopping and eating
 variety

8. Tell us anything else you want us to know here: _____

- Opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure
- Art: RTA station art and gardens
- Name something after O.P. or M.J. Van Sweringen
- Must be very upscale in appearance to reflect Shaker values. Must not look like Warrensville/Cedar in University Hts.
- Affordable housing
- I hope the district is designed for the future and tries to lessen the dependence on cars. Even if it means making tough choices regarding the right of way that might be unpopular because of driving majority
- RTA should promote Rapid use for travelling to district
- Want to be able to sit outside in summer AND winter. Need fire pit, shady trees, comfortable seating
- How will traffic be controlled?
- We need to help people find their way.
- Flowerscaping like Eton, art shows/beerfests
- Must attract resident who can afford the kind of retail intended
- Prototypes show very "dull" structures
- Bike/pedestrian access is the best way of making the district connected, rather than an island.
- Make friends with neighboring communities, condos, etc.
- Appeal to all ages
- The connection to Sussex, Thornton Park, and Van Aken Blvd neighborhoods is critical. Density of housing and jobs in the district as well. People make the place, otherwise just a glorified shopping center
- Make it so a large portion of residents and visitors bike, walk, use RTA to district is critical.
- Cross the street at Farnsleigh without cars ready to run you over.
- A diverse set of stores
- Please don't forget us a little farther north—tons of middle school kids, Thornton families, bike/walk to J. Pistone, etc.
- Great opportunity for our city to have a city center anchor on the eastern side of the city
- Shopping and services must include necessities not just luxuries.
- Place for indoor and outdoor theater and concerts
- Bring food trucks during construction. Beer. Should be a place to have a beer after work.
- Sustainability is most critical for all of the development
- Needs to be brightly lit and safe when the sun goes down. Public restrooms!
- Programming is the most important piece - this will activate the space, which will benefit businesses and keep people coming back
- Tax abatement for the new construction homes in order to compete with other cities
- Also contain walking areas, new businesses that have awnings/rain and sun protection. LED lighting facing down; minimize concrete; parking should be interspersed with trees and stormwater control
- The traffic signals at crosswalks are auto-oriented. Pedestrians should not have to push the button to get cross signal. The entire city should be programmed to automatically change for peds—this would be bike and ped friendly
- I want to be able to shop close to home—birthday presents, books, dinner—and not have to leave Shaker. Somehow prevent the downward trend seen in Shaker Towne Centre.
- Stay open late
- A small intimate live music area
- Revisit the look of Warrensville near the parking garage/behind the businesses
- I have been involved in planning for automated vehicles. Plan for auto-autos - slow speed, 20 mph, plan curb space for pick up/drop off
- I live overlooking the Shaker Country Club golf course so I think the Farnsleigh apartments will be a great place for new residences.
- A place for parking strollers would be great. Also, a place for children to climb (big ceramic turtle, dinosaur, etc.).
- Van Aken District should have a venue that no other community has. A great retail space, a great new family affordable restaurant. People. Walkable, playable
- Fun, friendly, artistic environment
- Mayfield Village positioned amphitheater so that evening sun is in the eyes of the audience (west) - total bummer and disappointment in planning
- Activities for kids is desirable, and unique things
- I am very concerned with traffic on Van Aken and Farnsleigh. Bikers should not cause increased traffic for drivers.
- I live on Lytle. I imagine a neighborhood that is akin to parts of Brooklyn Hts, Carroll Gardens, etc. Bring back the movie theater, make signs that tell Shaker history or note famous people who grew up here.
- Add a little urban grittiness or unexpected element like wall art/sign; rooftop patios; lights in trees or string lights
- A pleasant bar would be really nice