



Laney-Walker

Harrisburg

AUGUSTA'S CHOICE



Agenda

- 1 What is the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative?
- 2 Project Timeline
- 3 Project Update

WHAT IS CNI?



ABOUT THE CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE.

Sponsored by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), this program supports neighborhood revitalization that is centered around a public housing site, Allen Homes, in need of renovation.

- + Through this initiative, the City of Augusta and Augusta Housing Authority received a 2-year planning grant.
- + The goal of the planning process is to **bring Allen Homes residents and residents of the larger community together with local partners to create a shared vision for the future of the neighborhood.**
- + The initiative aims to rebuild neighborhoods by focusing on 3 areas: **Housing, People, Neighborhood.**



HOUSING

Replacing distressed public and assisted housing (Allen Homes) with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood.



PEOPLE

Improving the lives of households living in Allen Homes with regard to employment and income, health, and children's education.



NEIGHBORHOOD

Improving conditions and access through public and private investment to amenities and services such as good schools, grocery stores, banks, barbers, public transportation, parks, and safety.

AUGUSTA'S CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD.

Our neighborhood covers historic Laney Walker and Harrisburg, the Medical Campus, and Downtown.

There are several significant assets to build on (history, art, river, canal) as well as restaurants and stores, schools, medical services, and public transit.

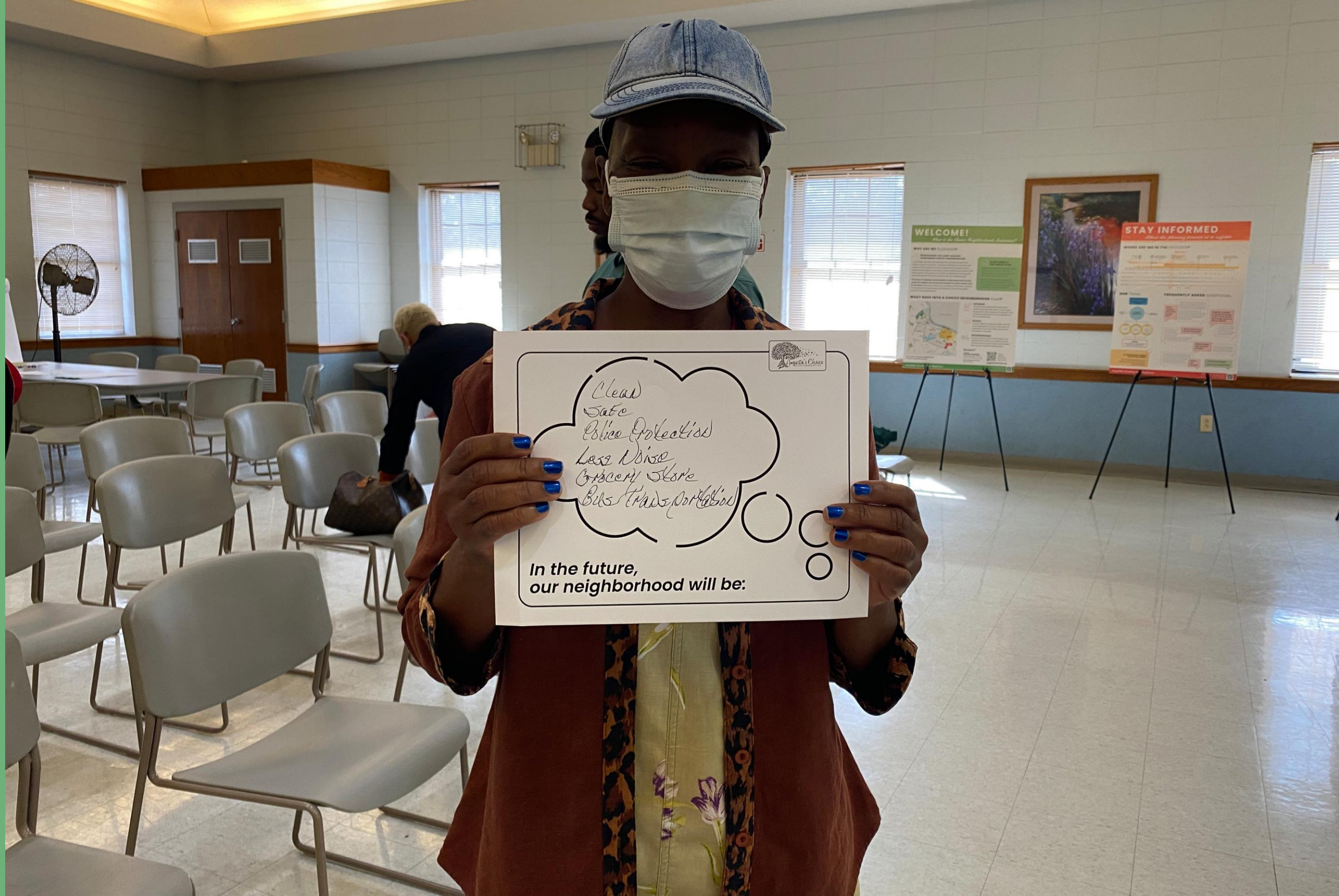
A main focus of the plan exploring ways to improve the quality of life for Allen Homes residents.



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PROJECT TIMELINE



MAJOR DELIVERABLES.

Complete

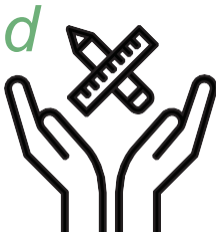
Upcoming



HUD SITE VISIT

Mar 10 + 11, 2022

A 2-day virtual event to introduce the “plan for the plan,” to HUD. The event included key partners, their roles, and details of the process.



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

July - Aug 2022

A comprehensive assessment of Allen Homes residents was required by HUD, and a neighborhood survey was elected. The findings helped identify issues & create a baseline for the plan strategies and metrics to measure progress.

Heard from **66% of Allen Homes residents** and **4.7% of neighborhood residents**. *exceeded our goal*



OUTLINE WITH CONTENT

Nov 22, 2022

This document outlined the plan with a summary of existing conditions, findings from the Needs Assessment, and a vision for transformation describing a preliminary set of goals and strategies. The final document submitted to HUD is available on the website: AugustasChoice.org



DRAFT PLAN

May 22, 2023

The Draft Plan builds on the Outline with Content with goals and strategies that have been prioritized and refined, and conceptual graphics illustrating the vision.

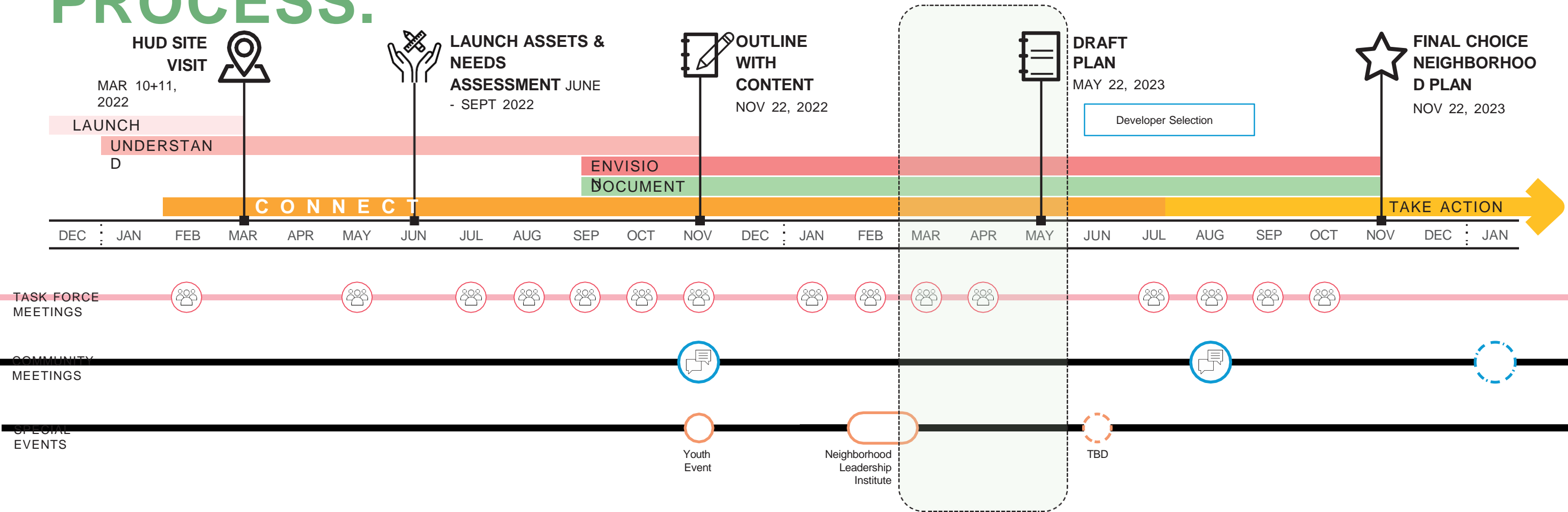


FINAL PLAN

Nov 22, 2023

The Final Plan offers a clear step by step roadmap for neighborhood revitalization with timelines, responsible parties, and metrics to track progress.

WHERE WE ARE IN THE PROCESS.



WE ARE AT A CRITICAL POINT

to receive direction on what this plan should be striving to achieve

PROJECT 30 UPDATES



HOUSING OBJECTIVES.



The Housing Plan focuses on transforming housing so that it is:

+ **Well-Managed and Financially Viable:**

Developments resulting from CNI will have budgeted appropriately for the rental income that can be generated from the project and meet or exceed industry standards for quality management and maintenance of the property.

+ **Mixed-Income:** Housing will be affordable to families and individuals with a broad range of incomes including low-income, moderate-income, and market rate or unrestricted.

+ **Energy Efficient, Climate Resistant, and Sustainable:**

Housing will have low per unit energy and water consumption and be built to be resistant to local disaster risk.

+ **Accessible, Healthy, and Free from**

Discrimination: Housing will be well-designed, meet the requirements of accessible design and embrace concepts of visitability and universal design. It will also have healthy indoor air quality, affordable broadband Internet access, and be free from discrimination.

As part of the final plan, we are expected to develop performance metrics based on these objectives and a plan for implementation.

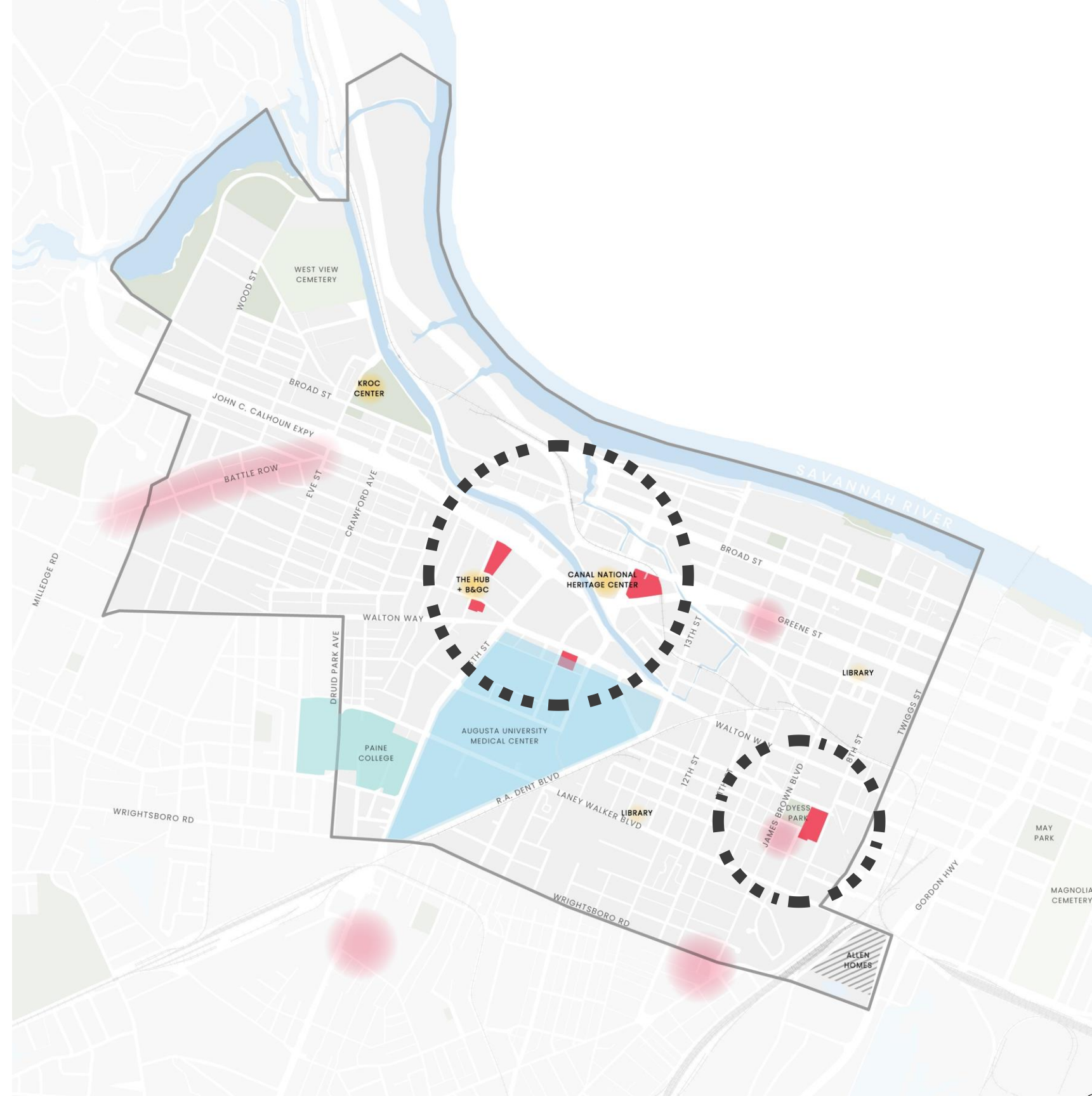
HOUSING WHERE WE ARE.

Identifying core areas to focus investments

Clustering development and investments will create a larger positive impact in both neighborhoods.

Identified two core areas within the choice boundary:

- + Dyess Park + Canal Trailhead
- + The HUB, Walton Way + Canal



NEIGHBORHOOD OBJECTIVES.



The overarching goal is to **enhance the quality and accessibility of amenities and assets** that are important to people in choosing where to live.

- + **Private and Public Investment in the Neighborhood:** Catalyzing investment so that neighboring housing has a very low vacancy/abandonment rate, the housing inventory is of high quality, and the neighborhood is mixed income and maintains a mixture of incomes over time.
- + **Amenities:** Basic services are located in or nearby the neighborhood. These include grocery stores, banks, health clinics and dentist offices, public transit, and high-quality early learning programs and services.

- + **Effective Public Schools:** Public schools in the target neighborhood are safe and welcoming places. In addition, schools have test scores that are as good as or better than the state average. *(Note: generally, enhancing programs and services related to improving children's educational performance falls under the People Plan).*
- + **Safety:** Residents are living in a safer environment as evidenced by the revitalized neighborhood having significantly lower crime rates than the neighborhood had prior to redevelopment and maintaining a lower crime rate over time.

As part of the final plan, we are expected to develop performance metrics based on these objectives and a plan for implementation.

NEIGHBORHOOD WHAT WE NEED.

GUIDANCE ON THE CITY'S OVERALL VISION AND PRIORITY

- + The neighborhood plan strategies should support citywide efforts
- + What does the future of Augusta look like?
- + What should this plan focus on?
 - + *For example - parks / open space network, improved streetscapes, recreational amenities, development and activity around the canal / canal trail, improving public transit access and mobility?*

NOTE: neighborhood investments should relate to the housing site locations

QUESTIONS FROM SPRING 2023

ENGAGEMENT:

Throughout the neighborhood, **WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL SAFER / HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT?**



Youth + Police
Athletic League



Monthly Meetings
with the Sheriff



Neighborhood
Watch



Vacant Lot Clean
Green



Better Lighting &

Something else?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO USE THE



For Recreation
(walking, biking,
enjoying outdoors)



As a Connector to
Other Destinations



As a Destination
(with shops, food,
park spaces)



As a Historical /
Cultural Trail



As an Exercise /
Wellness Loop

Something else?

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS DO YOU WANT TO SEE ON CORRIDORS (Walton Way, Laney Walker Blvd, 15th St)?



Banners, Signage,
Wayfinding



Bike Lanes



Street Furniture
(benches, trash cans)



Enhanced
Sidewalks +
Crosswalks



Enhanced Bus
Stops (benches,
shelters/shade)

Something else?

PEOPLE OBJECTIVES.



The People Plan aims to **improve the lives of people** who **live in the neighborhood**, with a primary focus on residents of **Allen Homes**.

- + **Focus on:** education for children, employment and income, health and wellness, and youth.
- + **Effective Education:** A high level of resident access to high-quality early learning programs and services so children enter kindergarten ready to learn and quality schools and/or educational supports that ultimately prepare students to graduate from high school college- and/or career-ready.
- + **Employment Opportunities:** The income of residents of the target housing development, particularly wage income for non-elderly/non-disabled adult residents, increases over time.
- + **Quality Health Care:** Residents have increased access to health services and have improved physical and mental health over time.

As part of the final plan, we are expected to develop performance metrics based on these objectives and a plan for implementation.

PEOPLE WHAT WE NEED.

COMMUNITY AND RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

- + The People Task Force includes many local organizations and service providers who are dedicated to improving lives, but need resident input and guidance around the specific barriers and challenges they are facing.



EARLY ACTION ACTIVITIES.

“DOING WHILE PLANNING”

EAA's are designed to respond to issues and show physical neighborhood improvements during the planning phase that demonstrate the commitment to change and generate build momentum.

EDIBLE GARDENS

- + To address food access, vacancy, neighborhood fabric, and digital divide.
- + The committee is exploring ways to include free public WiFi, public art (generated with the community), shade, and urban agriculture education.
- + Three locations in the neighborhood: Allen Homes, Mother Trinity Church, and a yet to be confirmed Harrisburg site.



\$100,000 of the grant funding + additional \$30,000 leveraged funds are earmarked for the Early Action Activities.

Questions?

AugustasChoice.org