



### What's Happening

Thank you to those who attended our first two community meetings on Dec. 17 and March 4. We discussed the areas strengths, weaknesses and opportunities; developed initial policy recommendations and created a Vision Statement and Primary Plan Objectives.

### Vision Statement

*We must build on the areas extensive assets to become a model urban community and reaffirm the central city as the rightful and vibrant "heart of the city".*

*The Heart of the City will be a community where investments in people occur along with investments in desirable urban neighborhoods; where density supports needed services and amenities; where people and businesses are treated as the customers – and the community is treated as the product; and where jobs are plentiful and accessible.*

### Primary Plan Objectives

**People First** – Focus on human investments, creating residents that are productive, healthy and caring.

**Create Jobs** – Increase employment opportunities within the Heart of the City and provide job skills.

**Promote Sustainability** – Use sustainable practices to guide policy recommendations and development decisions.

**Repopulation** – Increase population and focus on rebuilding desirable urban neighborhoods.

### What's Next

Additional analysis (market analysis, transportation system, analysis etc.) and refinement of recommendations continues. The next round of meetings (to be scheduled in May/June) will focus on choosing alternatives, reaffirming goals, and prioritizing actions.

### What is an Area Plan?

An area plan establishes a clear statement of a community's desires for the future. It is a long range vision that addresses general issues shared by the entire planning area, such as land use, housing, transportation and infrastructure. The area plan is a framework to evaluate future initiatives as they arise.

### We Need Your Input

The plan process began in November, 2009 and will include extensive research and gathering feedback from the people that live or work in the project area. If you missed our previous public meetings, please click here to see the presentation and questions we asked. Send your comments to Randy Dunn, (816) 513-2869 or Gerald Williams, (816) 513-2897. Visit the project website for more information.

# News Worthy...

## KCATA Applies for Grant in HOTC

The Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) has applied for a grant that would allow for transportation improvements at Linwood/31<sup>st</sup> St. and Prospect Ave. and Linwood/31<sup>st</sup> St. and Van Brunt Blvd., two key intersections identified through the planning process.

The receipt of this grant would allow for immediate implementation of recommendations from the plan including providing choice in transportation and connecting neighborhoods to activity centers. **The application for this grant is a direct outcome of the Heart of The City Transportation Workshop held in January.**



## City to Conduct Survey of HOTC Businesses

The City Planning Department has issued an RFP to conduct a survey of employers/businesses located within the boundaries of the Heart of The City Area Plan. The purpose of the survey will be to answer questions regarding the employers/businesses needs on issues such as workforce, public infrastructure and



facilities; access to capital, job training etc. This information will inform the City and its partners on how to better serve the employers/businesses currently located within the plan boundaries so they may grow and prosper as well as attracting new employers and businesses into the area. Funding for the survey is being provided by the City of Kansas City, Mo.; Mid America Regional Council (MARC) and the Kansas City Missouri Community Development CDE.

# Community Spotlight

## Historic East Neighborhood Coalition Receives Grant

The Historic East Neighborhood Coalition is the recipient of a **\$15,000 capacity building grant** from Catholic Charities. The grant will allow the Coalition to hire consultants to assist with board development and training, development of a strategic planning process and organization as a 501c3 organization in addition to building a website and promotional materials. It is anticipated that these activities will be completed by December of 2010.



The Historic East Neighborhood Coalition is a collaboration of 10 neighborhood associations within the Heart of The City Area Plan which have come together in a unique partnership. Frustrated with blighted neighborhoods and lack of resources the ten neighborhoods came together with the thought that there is strength in numbers. The ten neighborhoods are; Washington Wheatley, East 23<sup>rd</sup> St. PAC, South Round Top, Santa Fe, Key Coalition, Oak Park, Palestine, Knoches Park, and Vineyard. The Coalition's long-term goal is to provide neighborhood residents with the tools and knowledge necessary to make decisions about community development. They have partnered



with the University of Missouri at Kansas City Center for Economic Information to assist with asset mapping which will provide the location of vacant houses, overgrown lots, crime hot spots etc. For more information or to become involved, contact DeWayne Bright at (816) 924-3211 or [dbright@kclinc.org](mailto:dbright@kclinc.org)