

## An Overview

The Planning Division is responsible for a wide range of projects and tasks, including area and neighborhood planning, urban design, growth area policy work, managing the annexation process and participating in development casework (rezoning, Council variances, BZA and Graphics Commission).

Among the ongoing responsibilities of the division is the staffing of 12 separate boards/commissions/panels. These are: Board of Commission Appeals, Brewery District Commission, Columbus Art Commission, Darby Accord Panel, Development Commission-Policy Committee, Downtown Commission, German Village Commission, Historic Resources Commission, Italian Village Commission, Rocky Fork-Blacklick Accord Panel, University Area Review Board, and Victorian Village Commission.

The Division is also engaged in such major city initiatives as the Mile on High, parking meter working group, Pay As We Grow, and the Darby Town Center Master Plan (working with Franklin County, Brown and Prairie Townships).

## 2009 Accomplishments

### Area and Neighborhood Planning.

The Division completed new plans for **Clintonville**, **Fifth by Northwest**, **Southwest Area** and the **Livingston East Area**. The Southwest Plan was a joint project with Franklin County. Plans that were initiated in 2009 and that will be completed in 2010 were the **East Broad/Blacklick Creek**, **Greater Hilltop Plan Amendment**, **Near Southside** and **Trabue/Roberts**.



*A public workshop on the Hilltop.*

**Commercial Overlays.** The Division—working with area commissions and civics—completed commercial overlays that were adopted by Council for **Eastmoor** (Broad and Main Streets), **Milo-Grogan** (Cleveland and Fifth Avenues), **Near Southside** (Lockbourne Road) and **Northwest** (portions of Bethel, Sawmill and SR161).

**Code Development.** The Division worked with Building Services as part of TeamCODE to update the **off-street parking** provisions of the city code. These include reducing minimums to “right size” parking requirements with current demands, establishing maximums to reduce the amount of impervious surface, increase landscaping requirements to better screen parking lots, and establishing minimum requirements for off-street bike parking. Having received support from the Development Commission, Board of Health, and the Transportation and Pedestrian Commission, those provisions are expected to be heard by Council in early 2010.

**Historic Preservation.** The Historic Preservation Office was transferred back to Planning in 2009. Reduced in size to three professional staff, the office continues to support five architectural review commissions, the Board of Commission Appeals, 18 historic districts and 54 locally listed properties (for a combined 7,000 properties). To address program efficiencies, a **Historic**



*The interior of the recently restored Lincoln Theatre.*

**Preservation Working Group** was established representing all six commissions/boards. Meeting over several months, the working group prepared a report that outlined a variety of steps to improve efficiencies, maximize resources, and update guidelines. The first major initiative to be undertaken will be development of unified design guidelines for the **Short North**. The city also was recognized by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office with an unprecedented four **preservation awards** for the Lincoln Theatre, Buckeye Building, Seneca Hotel, and Broad Street UMC Church.

**2010 Census.** The Planning Division has been actively working with the US Census in preparation for the 2010 count, preparing an updated Boundary Adjustment Survey, verifying new residential construction to add addresses, and conduct a final evaluation of the LUCA addressing system.

**Special Projects.** The Division has been engaged in a wide range of special projects, many of which will continue into 2010. These included:

- Managing an economic development strategy for the **Olde Towne Quarter**
- Continuing to support the city’s **Pay As We Grow** program
- Working with **Franklinton** on several rezonings
- Supporting the **Blacklick Watershed Action Plan**
- Participating in a study of the **Brice** commercial area
- Working with Public Service on a parking study of the **Hilltop**
- Participating in **Franklin County’s** subdivision regulations update
- Preparing an economic development memo for the **SR315 corridor**
- Participating in the Managing Change planning project being undertaken by the **University District Organization**.



*The former Columbus Music Hall is a major anchor in the Olde Towne Quarter.*

## 2010 Work Plan

The Planning Division’s work plan for 2010 includes the Division’s ongoing responsibilities, continues many of the initiatives begun on 2009, and includes several new plans, overlays and related projects that will fully engage the staff in the coming months. Along with our ongoing responsibilities, the following is a project-based summary (projects “to be initiated” will begin in 2010 but conclude in the first half of 2011):



*Public participation and consensus building will continue to be a foundation of the Division’s work with neighborhoods.*

	To Be Completed	To Be Initiated
<b>Area and Neighborhood Plans</b>		
East Broad/Blacklick Creek Area Plan	✓	
East Columbus Neighborhood Plan		✓
Far North Area Plan		✓
Greater Hilltop Plan Amendment	✓	
Near Southside Plan		✓
North and South Lindens Plan Amendment		✓
Trabue/Roberts Area Plan	✓	
Westland Area Plan		✓
<b>Commercial Overlays</b>		
Hamilton Road	✓	
Livingston East	✓	
Northeast	✓	
Northwest—Phase 2	✓	
<b>Special Projects</b>		
Airport Environs Overlay	✓	
Brice Economic Development Concepts	✓	
Development Commission Bylaws	✓	
Franklinton Design Guidelines		✓
Old Beechwood HD Boundary Adjustment	✓	
Olde Towne Quarter ED Strategy	✓	
Short North Design Guidelines		✓
SR315 Economic Development Memo	✓	

**Columbus Planning** 109 N. Front Street, Columbus, OH 43215  
www.columbus.gov/planning

**Michael B. Coleman, Mayor**

**Boyce Safford III, Director, Development Department**