

# MASON MILE: Community Workshop

**Introductory Presentation** 

AUGUST 9, 2023 Mason, Ohio







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### introductions

MADECDC

Randall Gross / Development Economics

Common Ground

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# Purpose, Goals and Objectives

Based on Community Input and MADECDC Direction

# Key Community Goals & Objectives

- Vision
  - "A future downtown Mason that is the vibrant, sustainable, pedestrianoriented, mixed-use civic and social heart of the MADE region."
- MADE CDC Goals
  - Foster Collaboration & Consensus
  - Advance Policies to Support Investment
  - Implement a Brand
  - Create Experiences
  - Promote Resilience & Healthy Living
  - Encourage Downtown Revitalization: Enhance Downtown Appearance, Bolster Real Estate Market, Create Jobs, Increase Residency, Promote Commerce

#### Objectives for Downtown Revitalization

- Highlight What Downtown Should Be
- Scope and Capture the Growth
- Promote Walkability
- Create "People-Focused" Districts
- Support Downtown Businesses
- Reconnect Public Assets to Downtown
- Offer Diverse Housing Options
- Expand Mobility
- Honor History While Looking to the Future
- Encourage a Team of Teams Approach

# What is "Walkability?"

- Being able to walk, instead of drive, for the purchase of basic goods & services; for dining and entertainment; and for accessing cultural, educational, and employment opportunities.
- A comfortable walk is often considered to be within 10 to 15minutes.

- Walkability is also having an activated streetscape that maintains interest, allows for visual stimulation, and reduces perceptions of distance.
- So, a 10- to 15-minute walk along a sea of parking lots seems a lot further (and often, less safe) than a walk along active storefronts, cultural venues, art installations and other amenities.

# Strategic Planning Objectives

- Work with the community on a strategy to
  - Remove barriers and move development and investment forward with community support
  - Attract residents and businesses
  - Create an overall downtown experience as envisioned by the community
  - Market and promote the Mason
     Mile as both a community amenity
     and a destination for consumers and
     residents.

- Provide MADECDC and the community with
  - Tools and mechanisms to help leverage the revitalization objectives
  - Economically viable concepts that provide a framework for (re)development that has community support and can be incorporated into the next phase of master planning
  - Branding and placemaking tools for defining, activating, and marketing the Mason Mile

# Objectives for Tonight's Workshop

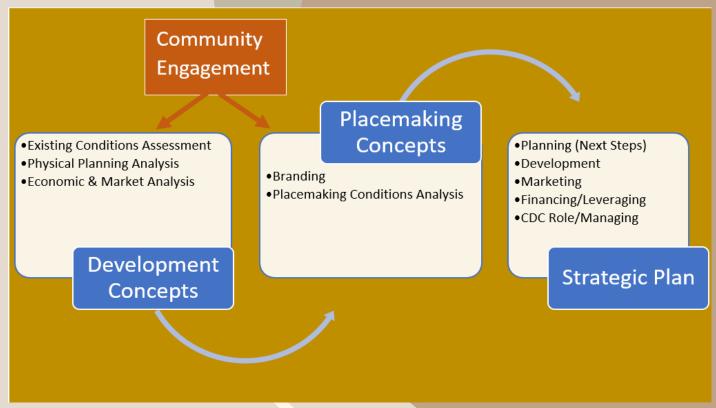
- Explain the purpose and process
- Discuss outcomes from community engagement to date
- Communicate key technical findings from work completed to date
- Present several concepts for how the Mason Mile can be revitalized based on community input, technical analysis, and experience
  - Physical (Re)development concepts
  - Placemaking approaches
- Test those concepts with you, the community, and gather your input, questions, ideas, and suggestions to help refine these concepts.
- With your support, the MADECDC is better positioned to move the Mason Mile forward on your behalf

# The Strategic Planning & Engagement Process

Scope of Work and Community Engagement Touch Points

### Strategic Planning Process

- A) Communications & Engagement
- B) Planning & Analysis
- Document Review
- Economic Base Analysis
- Field Reconnaissance & Site Analysis
- Housing Market Analysis
- Retail Market Analysis
- Office Market Analysis
- Conceptual Development Program & Testing
- C) Mason Branding and Placemaking
- Make the Mile Campaign & Engagement
- Brand & Placemaking Engagement
- Collateral & Assets



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

#### MADECDC

Project Advisory Council (PAC)

Community Activators

Focus Groups

Project Web Site

Awareness Campaign: "Make The Mile"

Community Consumer Survey

Online Survey

Comment Boxes

Individual Stakeholder Interviews

• Businesses, Property Owners, Real Estate Professionals, City Officials, Developers, Residents, etc.

Monthly Activator Meetings

#### THIS Community Workshop

Feedback Loop: City of Mason

Neighborhood Quarterly Meetups



# 60 Stakeholder Meetings & Interviews

- 7 Monthly Activator Meetings
- 2 Make the Mile Awareness Campaign Kickoff Events
- 4 Make the Mile Information Meetings
- 2 Make the Mile Tents at Music in Mason
- 4 Neighborhood Quarterly Meetups
- 6 Downtown Committee of Council Meetings
- 7 Project Advisory Council (PAC) Meetings
- 25+ Interviews with businesses, property owners, investors, etc.
- 3 Focus Groups with residents, retailers, property owners









# Outreach & Communications

MADECDC

Web Site – Regular Updates

Make The Mile Campaign

Web Site

Lawn Signs & Boards

Businesses

Activators

Media





Consumer Survey: 709+

Comment Boxes: 266

Online Survey: 112

# Consumer Survey: What Do You Want in Mason Mile?



**MORE RESTAURANTS** 

**MORE SPECIALTY STORES** 

MORE APPAREL & ACCESSORY STORES

**GROCERY** 

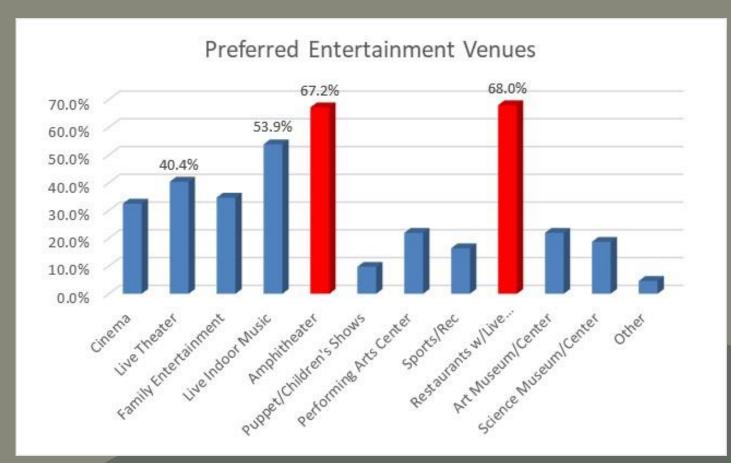
**FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT** 

# Consumer Survey: Which Specialty Stores?



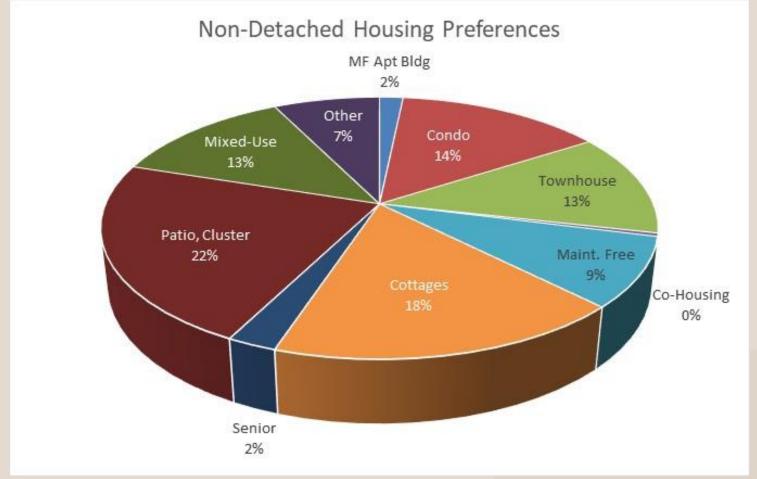
SPECIALTY FOOD-BAKERIES
CLOTHING BOUTIQUES
BOOK & MUSIC STORES
SPECIALTY FOOD-MEAT
SPECIALTY FOOD-SEAFOOD

# Consumer Survey: What Kind of Entertainment?



RESTAURANTS W / LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
AMPHITHEATER
LIVE INDOOR MUSIC VENUE
LIVE THEATER

# Consumer Survey: What Housing Do You Prefer?



SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED: 56%

#### **OTHER (44%)**

• Patio/Cluster: 22%

Cottage/Small House: 18%

• Condo: 14%

Mixed-Use: 13%

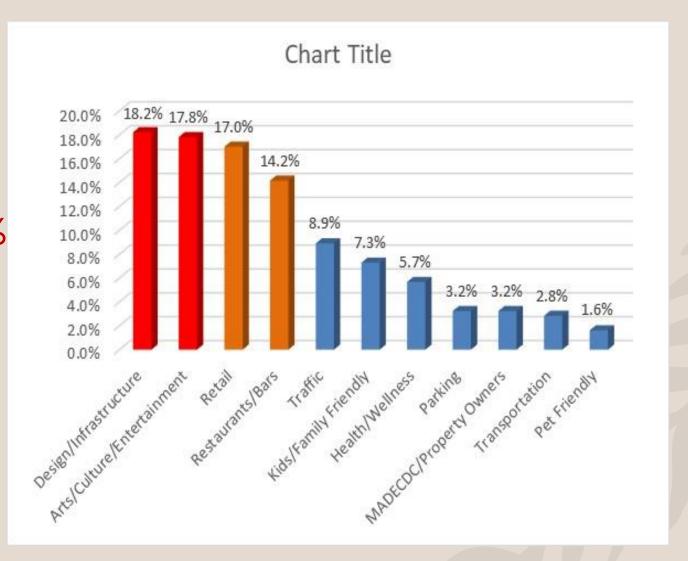
Townhouse: 13%

Maintenance-Free: 9%

#### Comment Boxes

#### Top Issues/Preferences:

- Design & Infrastructure: 18%
- Arts, Culture, & Entertainment: 18%
- Retail: 17%
- Restaurants & Bars: 14%



What would you like to see on the Mason Mile?

More public Art! Sculptures, murals, photo spots, side walk games!

What would you like to see on the Mason Mile?

FIX and Add DT/ UPTOWN PARKING SPOTS AND MARKING "MOREWELCOMING" What would you like to see on the Mason Mile?

Put mural art on the traffic control boxes.

What would you like to see on the Mason Mile?

Public art Projects.

What would you like to see on the Mason Mile?

-AT THE BEND + BEFORE
PAINT THE BUILDINGS
BRIGHT COLORS
TEAL PURPLE PINK YEUGU
-PAINT MORE MURALS

What would you like to see on the Mason Mile?

MORE PAINTED WALLS AND "ALLEY" WAYS i.e. Historic Theme etc

# What do you want your Mason Mile to be?

"I would love our Mason Mile to **amplify WHO WE ALREADY ARE** but go deeper by doubling down on efforts to brand ourselves as a **destination for families and residents** who seek a safe, culturally diverse community to live, work and play - all in the heart of the midwest."

"Would like the Plaza to be reimagined as a public art space"

"To make it really come alive, we likely need to "Disney-fy" it to a degree and give some common architectural, and streetscaping features. "

"A visually appealing, historically-restored, beautiful downtown full of small businesses"

"Celebrate the entire mile."

"A more cohesive look, respecting the history, to make the stretch look more visually appealing and more deliberately organized"

"I think there needs to be a cohesiveness to the exterior design choices to make the downtown area feel as one."

# Technical Analysis: Existing Conditions



### planning, regulatory & design framework

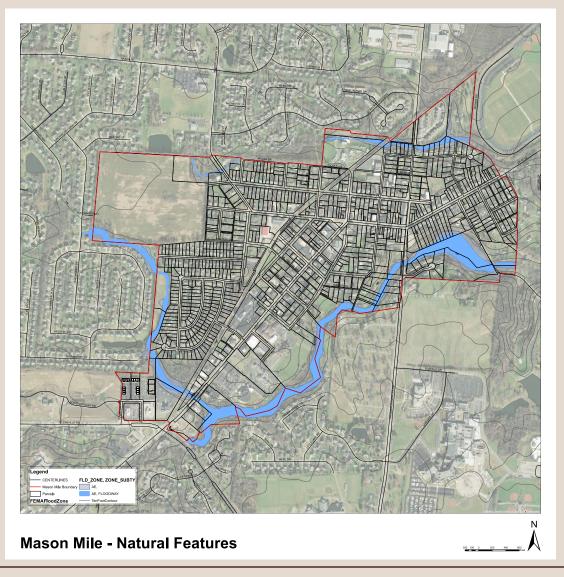
#### Preliminary Observations

- Downtown Overlay District (DOD) is comprehensive (historic buildings, additions, new construction, etc.) but may benefit from updates or an overhaul to simplify, broaden, and improve it
- If there is a desire for a mix of housing types, the base zoning and/or the DOD may need to be tweaked
- Parking requirements may need to be revisited as they relate to the DOD or Downtown in general
- Landscape and streetscape requirements may need to be tweaked to meet and support the branding vision for Downtown

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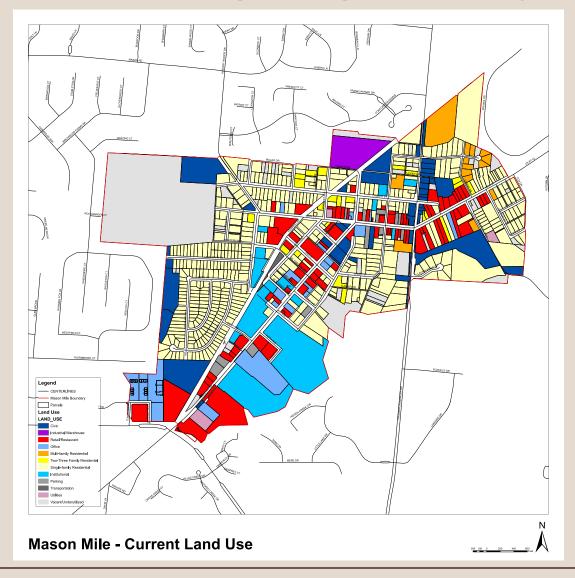
#### planning, regulatory & design framework



- Natural Features Frame the Mason Mile
  - Topographic change on the north, south, east, and west associated with creeks
  - Associated floodplain
  - Large city-owned parcel (former farm) on the northwest

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#### planning, regulatory & design framework

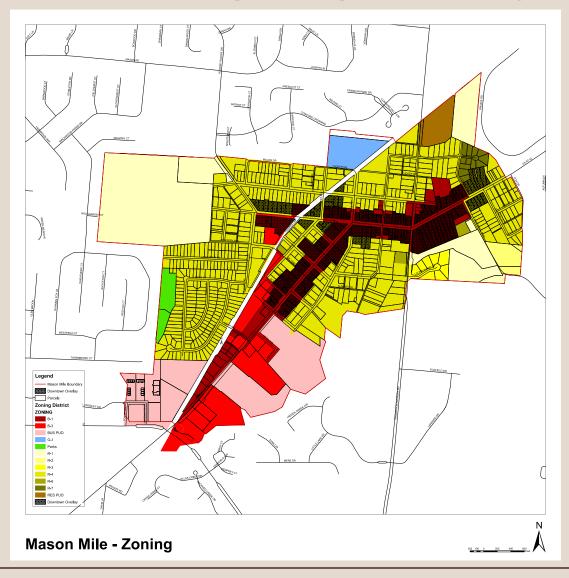


#### Current Land Use

- Commercial uses concentrated along Main and Reading, but pockets of different character (urban, more suburban, etc.)
- Significant amount of institutional land on southern end of study area
- Significant amount of single-family residential (36%)
- Significant amount of vacant land (18%), but mostly part of cityowned land (former farm)

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#### planning, regulatory & design framework



#### Base Zoning

- Central Business District (B-1) centered on Reading and Main
- Road Service District (B-3) southern end of study area
- R-1 and R-4 are predominant residential districts

#### Downtown Overlay District

- Centered on Reading and Main
- Overlays B-1, B-3, and R-4 zoned properties

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# Existing Conditions: Identity and Place Elements

- Currently, the Mason Mile lacks a clear identity that expresses what it is and who it's for. As a result, the shops and restaurants along the Mile feel somewhat disjointed and outdoor spaces fall short of their full potential.
- By focusing on environmental activations like wayfinding signage, art installations, and public infrastructure, we aim to beautify and unify the Mile under a singular identity that feels true to Mason's present while laying the groundwork for a promising future.

#### **Placemaking Objectives:**

- Emphasize main gateways to create a sense of place
- Activate public gathering spaces
- Develop pedestrian-friendly streetscape infrastructure
- Increase accessibility via wayfinding and directional signage
- Create eye-catching art installations, such as sculpture and murals

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#### Economic Analysis: Key Observations

- Growing, Affluent Community
  - Luxury Goods & Services
- Wonderful Historic Assets & Character
- Music, Art & Theater
  - Specialty Businesses
  - High School Program
  - Music Schools
- Opportunities to Enhance Walkability
  - Activation, Nodes & Districts
  - Signage, Streetscape, Identity Marketing
- Lack of Entertainment & Destination Activity
- Natural Features Frame the Mason Mile



#### Existing Mason Mile Building Use

About 540,000 square feet of building use in 145 spaces in the Mason Mile Corridors

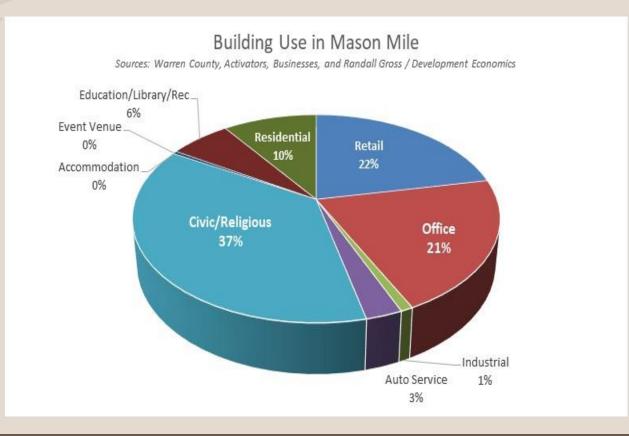


Table 14.	BUILDING USE BY CATEGORY, MASON MILE, 2023				
Category	Number	Sq. Feet	Share		
Retail Office Industrial Auto Service Civic/Religious/Lodge Accommodation	57 36 1 7 7	118,200 112,300 5,000 14,700 199,700	22% 21% 1% 3% 37% 0%		
Event Venue Edu/Museum/Library/Rec Residential (Bldgs)	5 31	2,500 34,400 53,100	0% 6% 10%		
TOTAL	145	539,900	100%		
Note Source:	Totals may not add due to rounding.  Randall Gross / Dev. Economics.				



### Market Analysis

OFFICE, RETAIL, AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL IN 2030

# Mason Mile office market potentials: 20,500 to 40,5000 square feet

#### **EMPLOYMENT-BASED SCENARIOS:**

- o Professional, Technical & Business Services
- o Management Services
- o Health Care & Related Professionals
- o Administrative Support
- o Finance & Insurance

#### ABSORPTION TREND-BASED SCENARIOS:

- o Finance & Insurance
- o Non-Profit Organizations
- o Professional, Technical & Business Services

4,100 SF / YEAR (20,500 SF BY 2028)

8,100 SF / YEAR (40,500 SF BY 2028)

# Mason Mile housing potentials: 60-100 Rentals & 80 For-Sale Units

#### **80 FOR SALE UNITS**

- o Infill and surrounding areas
- o 20-40 Mixed-Use Units or Upper-Floor Apartments
- o 20 Cottages
- o 40 Condominium or Low-Maintenance HOA

#### **60-100 RENTALS**

- o 20-40 Mixed-Use Units or Upper-Floor Apartments
- o 40-60 Cottages, Condominiums, or Senior-Living Units

#### Mason Mile Retail Potentials

Table 1.	SUMMARY RETAIL POTENTIAL BY CATEGORY, MASON MILE, 2023 AND 2028						
	Gross Dem	and (SF)	Existing	Warranted			
Type of Good	2023	2028	Uses	Demand			
Convenience	51,518	65,484	20,712	44,772			
Shoppers Goods	210,935	235,436	38,398	197,038			
Eating/Drinking	69,290	80,107	45,973	43,718			
Limited Service	12,525	14,690	4,122	10,568			
Full Service	47,958	55,335	32,168	23,167			
Entertainment	56,919	66,982	-	66,982			
Personal Services	18,661	20,871	11,027	9,844			
TOTAL	407,324	468,880	116,109	362,354			
Existing Vacant			-				
Net New Space				362,354			
Note:	Assumes Pro-active Internal/External Campaign, Recruitment.						
			, , , , ,				
Source:	Randall Gross / Development Economics.						

# Recommended Business Mix

- Culture/Entertainment/Music Venues
- Hobby, Toys & Games
- Boutiques & Accessories
- Specialty Food Stores
- Full-Service Restaurants
- Art Galleries, Antiques
- Books/Music Stores
- Spas/Personal Services

Table 2.	RECOMMENDED TARGET RETAIL BUSINESS MIX, MASON MILE, 2028			
	mix, mixoon mi	LL, 2020		
Type of Business			Square Feet	
Culture/Entertainment/Mu	usic Venue(s)		60,000	
Books/Music Stores			6,500	
Hobby, Toys & Game Sto	ores		10,000	
Art Galleries, Antiques			9,000	
Gifts, Novelties			5,500	
Furniture/Home Furnishing	ngs		10,000	
Boutiques, Shoe & Acces	ssory Stores		22,000	
Jewelry Stores			9,500	
Sporting Goods/Outdoor			7,500	
Specialty, Snack & Convenience Food		12,600		
Personal Care/Health Stores/Expanded Pharmacy		6,500		
European/Antique/Specia	alty Auto Dealer &	Supply	4,000	
Musical Instruments-e.g.,	piano, brass		3,000	
Luggage/Leather			5,200	
Sandwich/Limited Service	e Specialty		7,500	
FS Restaurants/Pubs (Sports, Brunch, Fine Dining, etc.)			21,500	
Spas and Personal Servi	ces		9,000	
Office/Electronics			3,600	
Total			212,900	
Source:	Randall Gross / Development Economics.			

#### How We Get There

#### **LEVERAGING**

#### & INVESTMENT RECRUITMENT

- o Expanded CDC Capacity
- Site assembly, commercial building development, & packaging
- o Regulatory Enabling
- Incentives & Targeting of Mixed-Use Developers
- o Collaboration with Property Owners & Corporate Partners
- o Focus on Local Residents' Needs First

#### **BUSINESS RECRUITMENT**

- o Target Businesses
  - Culture, Entertainment, Art Galleries, Music Venues & Related Retail Stores
  - Technology-based, virtual, entrepreneurial,
     & small business
  - Boutiques; Children's/Toys & Games
  - Specialty Food & Full-Service Restaurants
  - Professional, technical & business services
  - Arts-related non-profits
  - Management & admin support, FIRE
- o Outreach
- o Entrepreneurial development
- o Focus on local residents

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

- o High-Quality Housing
- o Walkable, Active, retail, restaurants, mixed-use
- o Festivals, events, networking, programming<sub>l</sub>
- Identity branding and marketing

### Mason Mile Revitalization Concepts

Placemaking and Activating

Physical
Development and
Redevelopment

## The Concepts are NOT:

### These are NOT development plans

• There are no development plans. Physical concepts presented tonight are only for discussion purposes based on the community's preferences and technical support.

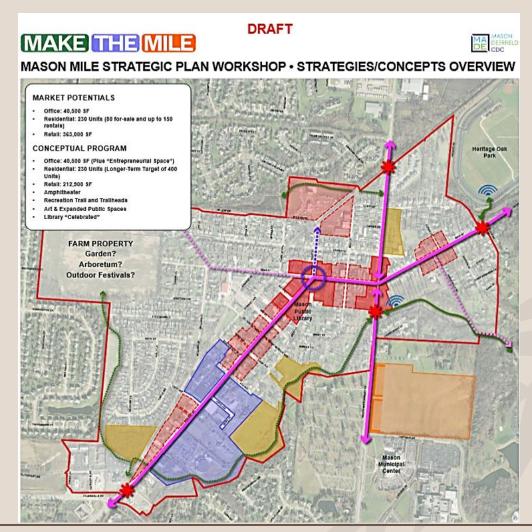
## • These are NOT site plans for specific properties

- Concepts presented tonight are general in nature and are only meant to provide a framework for revitalization. That being said, concepts shown on public and private properties have been "vetted" with primary property owners.
- These are NOT physical master plans That will be achieved in the NEXT phase
  - There is no traffic or transportation analysis. So NO, this strategic plan does not address traffic and transportation, which would be examined in the NEXT phase as impacts of the overall revitalization concepts.
  - Regulatory changes will be proposed as part of this strategic plan, but this is NOT a zoning plan
  - Parking is being examined as part of concept testing, but this is NOT a parking plan.
  - Streetscaping Infrastructure and Public Art will be addressed in more detail through a streetscape plan

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## Development Concepts Summary





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## Concept 1: Mixed-Use Connector

MAKE THE MILE

#### DRAFT



#### MASON MILE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP • MIXED-USE/OFFICE CONNECTOR



#### CONCEPT GOAL:

Long-term development of the largest site in or near the Mason Mile can help capture market potential to create a seamless, walkable link between Mason's Community Campus and the Mason Mile; thereby increasing opportunities and access for health, recreation, business development, and maintenance-free housing.

#### PROGRAM:

- Mixed-use connection to the Mason Municipal Center and Community Center
- Office/Health and Medical uses
- Mixed residential (long term not immediate)
- · Health and fitness amenities
- Site serving community retail

#### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Please share your thoughts below or anywhere on this board



















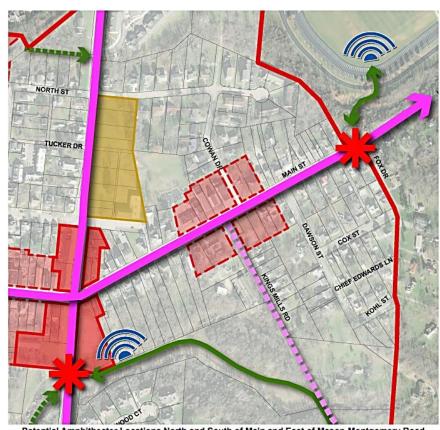




MASON MILE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP • MIXED-USE/OFFICE CONNECTOR



## Concept 2: Amphitheater



Potential Amphitheater Locations North and South of Main and East of Mason-Montgomery Road

#### **AMPHITHEATER CONCEPT GOAL:**

strengthen the Mason Mile's reputation as a hub for arts, culture and entertainment; providing an amenity for residents and a destination for anchoring the East Main Street gateway to the Mason Mile.

#### PROGRAM:

Amphitheater and associated parking & amenities

#### **TELL US WHAT YOU** THINK!

Please share your thoughts below or anywhere on this board















# Concept 3: Main Street Corner Mixed-Use Redevelopment





#### MASON MILE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP • MAIN STREET CORNER MIXED-USE



Concept at Intersection of Mason-Montgomery and Main

#### CONCEPT GOAL:

Sensitive mixed-use redevelopment of sites near the "100% Corner" of Mason-Montgomery and Main Street would help establish a destination to draw residents and consumers to the Mason Mile, enabling better walkability while capturing market potential in support of business development.

#### PROGRAM:

- Higher-intensity rental housing units near intersection (upper levels)
- Lower intensity rental, townhouse, or duplex residential units on City-owned sites to the north
- · Ground-floor retail/restaurant space
- Entrepreneur space

#### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Please share your thoughts below or anywhere on this board



















MA DEERFIELD

MASON MILE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP • MAIN STREET CORNER MIXED-USE

## Concept 4: Heart of Mason Civic Center





#### MASON MILE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP • MASON CIVIC NODE



Civic Node Concept at Reading and Main Intersection

#### CONCEPT GOAL:

Redevelopment and expanded public space at the heart of the Mason Mile would strengthen existing assets like the Mason Public Library and create a mixed-use destination for dining and entertainment; activating the West Main Street corridor and connecting disparate commercial uses into a more coherent, walkable district.

#### PROGRAM:

- Commercial retail/office/venue/entertainment development
- Mixed residential units (condo/townhouse)
- Enhanced Mason Public Library
- Enhanced Mason Plaza area with art & public space (including connection to Cannery site to the north)

#### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Please share your thoughts below or anywhere on this board







New Library in Mixed-Use Development

















MASON MILE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP • MASON CIVIC NODE

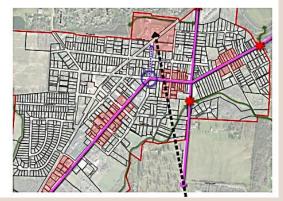
## Concept 5a & 5b: Commercial Infill

### SMALL-SCALE COMMERCIAL/MIXED-USE INFILL PROJECTS PROGRAM:

 Up to 50,000 sf of retail/commercial infill along the Mason Mile corridors, including expansion of existing business spaces

#### **TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!**

Please share your thoughts below or anywhere on this board





Infill Opportunity Site



MAKE THE MILE













Cannery Site and School Site





MASON MILE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP • MEDICAL/OFFICE/SMALL MIXED-USE



#### SMALL SCALE COMMERCIAL AND MEDICAL/ OFFICE INFILL CONCEPT GOAL:

Infill development of under-utilized parcels can help increase commercial business opportunities and destination appeal while reducing perceptions of distance; thereby enhancing overall walkability. The former cannery site could become a hub for artists and makers as another destination anchor for the Mason Mile.

#### MEDICAL/OFFICE INFILL PROGRAM:

. 10,000 sf - 30,000 sf of medical and professional office development



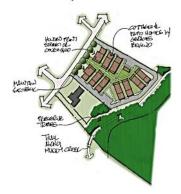
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# Concept 6: Recreation Trail & Infill Neighborhood Housing



#### Residential Concept South of Westline Drive



#### Courtyard Residential Concept

### RECREATION TRAIL & ASSOCIATED INFILL HOUSING CONCEPT GOAL:

Extension of the existing trail along the full length of Muddy Creek would help create healthy recreation opportunities while knitting neighborhoods and businesses together in the Mason Mile; and under-utilized sites along the trail may provide amenity-based opportunities for infill residential development that could help bolster market support within walking distance to Mason Mile businesses.

#### PROGRAM:

 40 - 80+ single-family cottage, patio, or cluster homes in small developments along a recreation trail extended along Muddy Creek

#### **TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!**

Please share your thoughts below or anywhere on this board























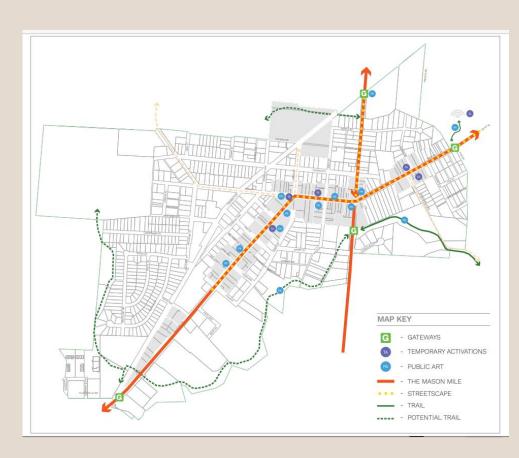


MA DEERFIELD CDC

MASON MILE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP • INFILL HOUSING ALONG RECREATION TRAIL

# Conceptual Approaches for Placemaking & Activation





#### **PLACEMAKING OPPORTUNITIES**

Currently, the Mason Mile lacks a clear identity that expresses what it is and who it's for. As a result, the shops and restaurants along the Mile feel somewhat disjointed and outdoor spaces fall short of their full potential.

By focusing on environmental activations like wayfinding signage, art installations, and public infrastructure, we aim to beautify and unify the Mile under a singular identity that feels true to Mason's present while laying the groundwork for a promising future

#### **PLACEMAKING OBJECTIVES**

- Emphasize main gateways to create a sense of place
- · Activate public gathering spaces
- Develop pedestrian-friendly streetscape infrastructure
- Increase accessibility via wayfinding and directional signage
- Create eye-catching art installations, such as sculpture and murals

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# Conceptual Approaches for Placemaking & Activation





# Conceptual Approaches for Placemaking & Activation





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Covington, Kentucky

## Community Workshop



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## Workshop Process & Rules

- Process: THIS IS A PRIME OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE DIRECT INPUT!!!
  - Breakaway into Groups
  - Group Discussions and Input on Each Concept
  - Group Presentations of Comments on Each Concept
  - Summary

### Rules:

- Try Not to Self-Select Groups
- Use the Maps on Each Table for Making Comments: Write on the Map
- Assign a Notetaker/Presenter; Take Notes on the Easel Notepads
- Activators will Monitor, Answer Questions, Spur Discussion, and Keep Time
- Allow Ten Minutes' Discussion per Concept
- Allow Everyone Time and Space to Express their Opinions and to Contribute
- Be NICE and HAVE FUN!