Mission

To preserve, protect and celebrate Over-the-Rhine, the historic heart of Cincinnati, by encouraging community growth, good government, planning and responsible development.
Introduction
Introduction

Over-the-Rhine is:

- A former working-class German immigrant neighborhood
- A mixed-use community
- A center – geographical, topographical, economic, cultural
- A poster child for urban blight, crime, and poverty
- A densely knit streetscape
- An unparalleled architectural collection
What sets OTR apart?

- Extremely high density
  - Rarely found outside NYC
- Strong architectural cohesiveness
  - Largest collection of Italianate buildings
- Individual iconic buildings
- Fingerprints of iconic people
- National and local historical significance

A densely knit fabric of cohesive architecture reminiscent of European cities
One of the most unique, inspiring, and talked about neighborhoods in the country
“In all of America, there is *no more promising* an urban area for revitalization than your own Over-the-Rhine. When I look at that remarkably untouched, expansive section of architecturally uniform structures, unmarred by clashing modern structures, I see in my mind the possibility for a revived district that *literally could rival similar prosperous and heavily visited areas*”

-Arthur Frommer,
Founder of Frommer’s Travel Guides
An Expert’s Perspective

“it is the density coupled with the fact OTR was a port of entry for working class immigrants and transplants that makes it distinctive nationally...the concentration of 3-5 story tenements, many of them common walled, with first floor commercial, coupled with all the churches and cultural/institutional buildings...give OTR much of its identity. The fact that the first American Turnverein, the first German Methodist Church [Nast] and the nation’s oldest large Music Hall are all in OTR and all have Germanic associations adds to national significance. I think a case can be made for NHL (National Historic Landmark status).”

Steve Gordon,
Former Survey & National Register Manager
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
“(Over-the-Rhine) is prettier and more valuable than anything in Charleston or Savannah, and I love them both”

Carl Westmoreland
Founder, Mt. Auburn Good Housing Foundation
OTR Institutions

Findlay Market: Ohio’s oldest farmer’s market

Presentation: Why OTR Matters
Memorial Hall: Samuel Hannaford & Sons designed in 1908 to honor Civil War veterans. Contains a 600 seat theater.
School for Creative and Performing Arts: Cornerstone was laid by President Taft. The school was built adjacent to the site of Levi Coffin’s Underground Railroad stop.
Emery Theater: Designed to be one of the most acoustically perfect theaters in the nation, it was home to the Symphony for 17 years.
Music Hall: America’s oldest, large-scale music hall, and home to one of America’s oldest symphonies and opera companies. Site of presidential debates and numerous historic events.

Presentation: Why OTR Matters
OTR Institutions

Washington Park: Cincinnati’s oldest public park
OTR Institutions

Pendleton Arts Center

Cincinnati Art Academy
Wielert’s Café, a restaurant/beer garden on Vine St. was a hub of social and political activity in Cincinnati.
Old St. Mary’s Cathedral – Built in 1842, it is Cincinnati’s oldest church and still conducts German mass every week.
St. Paulus Kirche (Old St. Paul’s) is Cincinnati’s Third Oldest Church, constructed in 1850.
Phillippus Kirche: Constructed in 1891, it is most famous for its “hand to God” steeple top and its pipe organ donated by the famed Moerlein brewing family.
Nast Methodist Church, constructed in 1842/1880 to house the first German Methodist congregation in the United States. The church was designed by Hannaford.
OTR Institutions

St. Paul’s Cathedral: Romanesque structure with cupola, originally dedicated in 1850
St. John’s German Protestant Church was constructed in 1867, when it became the “new” home of Cincinnati’s oldest German congregation, started in 1813.
St. Francis Cathedral, built in 1859. Like many European cathedrals, St. Francis has bodies of the faithful interred in its basement.
The Baptisten Kirche (German Baptist Church) was constructed in 1866 and was the center of the German-Baptist community in the West until the WWI.
We believe that OTR contains the nation’s largest collection of 19th Century brewery building stock.