

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Beaverton's Downtown Equity Strategy?

Beaverton's Downtown Equity Strategy is a guide for investing public resources to support creating an inviting and accessible downtown for all of us. Over the next 10 years, the Beaverton Urban Redevelopment Agency (BURA) will invest \$100 million in the Central Beaverton Urban Renewal Area on redevelopment and infrastructure projects. These investments will continue to shape how this area becomes an even more vibrant downtown, one of the top goals for the city's Community Vision.

Redevelopment activities can bring significant positive changes, such as creating more housing, improving and updating streets and sidewalks, and upgrading existing buildings. However, redevelopment activities can also bring some negative consequences, most often for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), low income residents, and business owners. The project's intent is to prevent and mitigate displacement of residents and businesses from the project area, and proactively attract and retain neighborhood amenities that promote a sense of belonging, particularly for BIPOC communities and other marginalized communities that have not typically had their needs and priorities at the center of redevelopment efforts.

What does the Downtown Beaverton Equity Strategy involve?

When complete, the Downtown Equity Strategy will result in new tools and strategies that BURA and the city can use to guide redevelopment activities in the following three areas:

1. Create an inclusive downtown
1. Prevent, minimize and mitigate displacement
2. Institutionalize racial equity in our decision-making and community engagement processes

In 2021, BURA and the city contracted with a local consultant group to lead this work and develop these strategies and tools. The consultant group is led by Vision Action Network and includes community-based organizations Adelante Mujeres, APANO, Bienestar and Coalition of Communities of Color, as well as public policy consultants ECONorthwest.

The staff and consultant team will be conducting community engagement, research in the area and research about best practices in other cities as we develop these new tools and strategies. We also recognize that this work will be ongoing. The tools and strategies developed for this project will be an important start, and we expect to expand and modify them as our work continues over the years.

What is the project area? Why this area?

The geographic area for this project includes the Central Beaverton Urban Renewal Area (URA), with special focus on the downtown area, as well as south of Old Town and the Allen Blvd corridor area. You can find a map [here](#).

BURA funds can only be spent within the Urban Renewal Area. We recognize that investments within this area will impact adjacent areas. Since the Allen Boulevard area is adjacent to the Urban Renewal Area and is the city's most racially diverse and low-income district, we are particularly concerned about displacement and other negative impacts here. Although BURA funds cannot be used to implement programs in this area, the city **can** use other funds.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the city use racial equity tools for long term decision making?

The city and BURA do not currently use a standard set of racial equity tools for decision making across the organizations. Some projects are using [the Government Alliance for Racial Equity \(GARE\)'s toolkit](#) as new initiatives are developed. The city's adopted [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan](#) calls for the use of an equity framework to guide policy decisions and resource allocations. The project team is eager to use these tools for redevelopment work.

What have we already heard from community members?

The following themes have emerged from past engagements and planning efforts in and around the project area, or specifically with BIPOC community members in the last few years and align with the initial goals for the Downtown Equity Strategy:

- **Create community gathering spaces**--- Diverse and inclusive spaces that provide culturally-specific resources and family-friendly amenities such as childcare and activities is a high priority in our community.
- **Cultivate thriving small businesses.** Specifically, we heard requests for thriving Black and Brown businesses, more diversity of small business types and price points, including culturally-specific businesses, and affordable spaces for businesses.
- **Cultivate housing security and affordability.** Community members specifically want more affordable, well-maintained housing, inter-generational housing options, path to homeownership, and housing options that promotes community-building.
- **Add more green spaces in the project area (downtown and Allen Boulevard)**
- **Implement systems of accountability, transparency and trust between the city and the community** – specifically BIPOC and other marginalized communities in Beaverton. This includes specific feedback for community engagement that is transparent and builds trust and relationships.
- **Engage in authentic inclusion of BIPOC.** This feedback was heard during Ellen Wyoming Deloy's engagement: "BIPOC perspectives are heard, honored and centered in decision and policy making, not at the expense of non-BIPOC people, but to ensure the real inclusion of everyone."

How can I be part of the process?

The project team is excited to listen to your thoughts and questions! Please join us and find a list of upcoming engagements on our [project webpage](#). In addition, we have a [project feedback form](#), for you to send us general questions, ideas, and comments.

How can I learn more about the Downtown Equity Strategy?

You're in the right place. You can learn more about the project about on our [project webpage](#), where you will find detailed information, such as our initial project proposal, summaries of previous engagements, and videos. While there, please [sign up for project updates](#), which are emailed periodically to update our community members about this work, through our Notify Me system.