

# Next Generation Housing Development Plan: 3/13/24 Open House Summary

The planning team for the Next Generation Housing Development Plan hosted an open house for the general public and UO faculty, staff and students from 4-6 PM on March 13, 2024 at the Ford Alumni Center on the UO campus. Invitations were shared via email, print flyers, and through UO networks for three weeks before the event. During the two-hour event, seventy-one participants signed in and about ten individuals attended but did not choose to sign in. Forty-two participants completed comment sheets. The planning team reported positive interactions and received helpful feedback on the concepts.

The open house material was posted on the project webpage for three weeks after the event and two additional comments were received. The following is a general summary by topic of both verbal and written comments from open house participants. The planning team is considering this input as it further develops the Next Generation Housing Plan. As the planning process continues, there will be additional opportunities for community engagement.

## **Housing**

- Attendees shared a desire for increased affordable housing for low-income students, families with children, Veterans, graduate students, and on-campus staff.
- Many suggested the design team consider children and safety features and provide outdoor play areas.
- Some expressed a desire for increased dining venues for on-campus students.
- There was interest in including storage, staff space, and space for meetings and events in the building design.
- Some made the following suggestions: design buildings to fit in with existing residential architectural styles of some homes in the adjacent neighborhood (craftsman), preserve light and skyline views, preserve trees and green space, and limit heights to 2-3 stories.
- Many expressed interest in improving or replacing unimproved older houses on Villard and Moss Streets.

## **Transportation**

- Concerns about traffic on Agate Street and the safety of pedestrian uses were shared.
- A suggestion was made to install traffic lights at 17th & Agate and 15th & Agate.
- Attendees encouraged designers to preserve walkability of the area and consider pedestrian walkways.
- The importance of maintaining mature trees and greenery was expressed.
- There was a desire to prioritize secure storage and charging for personal E-bikes and E-scooters in residence halls.

- Additional alternative transportation options for students were suggested, such as a campus shuttle or more PeaceHealth bike hubs.
- Some attendees shared thoughts about parking. There was a general desire to maintain on-campus parking to make it less likely that students would park on the residential streets; suggestions to consider people with mobility constraints when considering where to replace parking spots; and to consider the impacts of construction on parking.

### **The Grove Garden (a student-run student community garden, program of the Student Sustainability Center)**

- Students expressed a desire to see the existing community garden space maintained and enhanced.
- Students asked for the Grove Garden to be integrated into the planning.
- There is interest in a community garden that provides student/community learning, gathering and social interactions, promotes ecological biodiversity, incorporates first foods, reduces food insecurity, and supports food equity and access to fresh local produce.

### **General/Other**

- Attendees expressed interest in maintaining and enhancing intentional spaces for community/household gathering. It was suggested we consider creating a large-scale covered space for use during winter months and protecting the Agate Street playground.
- There was an emphasis placed on maintaining a comprehensive vision throughout the design phases, rather than a piecemeal approach.
- Some attendees encouraged us to value student organization feedback and prioritize student spaces.
- Desire for communication and potential coordination with the city's University Neighborhood Action Plan process was shared by some attendees.