

Statement of Values

The Viaduct Greenway

Agreed upon by the Center City District, Friends of the Rail Park, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation, Callowhill Neighborhood Association, West Poplar Neighborhood Association, 14th Ward RCO, May 1, 2024.

Mission:

The Viaduct Greenway park project, reaching from Vine Street to Fairmount Avenue, seeks to transform a neglected, contaminated and blighted elevated rail structure that has been unused and deteriorating for the last four decades into a community-oriented park that serves residents of all ages in the diverse neighborhoods that surround the viaduct.

Goals:

- Create a safe, car-free alternative that connects multiple neighborhoods through an accessible park network
- Provide improved access to recreational, cultural, and natural amenities for neighborhood residents
- Strengthen connections to job, retail, and service opportunities in Center City
- Promote equitable development initiatives through partnerships with community led organizations and the City and develop proposed mechanisms, like tax increment financing, and work together to secure other public funding mechanisms that support anti-displacement and small business retention strategies

Partnerships & Roles:

Through legislation approved by the City of Philadelphia, the Center City District (CCD), a Pennsylvania Municipal Authority, is managing the design, fundraising and the construction process and is working in close partnership with a Steering Committee that includes The Friends of the Rail Park, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation, Callowhill Neighbors Association, the West Poplar Civic Association, and the 14th Ward RCO. Roles of Steering Committee include, but are not limited to:

- Guidance and support for community outreach initiatives
- Providing feedback and suggestions about amenities and programming throughout the design review process
- Reviewing mechanisms for funding park maintenance, programming, and equitable development strategies for affordable housing, anti-displacement, and small-business development

Community Engagement:

The first phase of the community engagement process will work through the formal civic associations, registered community associations and the Friends of the Rail Park, to implement an on-the-ground outreach process in public spaces, at community events & gathering spaces, and through social-media and

traditional communication outlets. This process, managed by *Connect the Dots* through a contract with the CCD, aims to gather diverse elements of community input that will help shape the plans for the amenities, access and programs that will be available on the Viaduct Greenway.

Commitment to Equitable Planning & Development:

Recognizing that major public improvement projects can not only provide broader benefits to surrounding residents, but also put pressure on housing and occupancy costs for long-term residents and businesses, the Center City District is simultaneously committed to working with the Steering Committee, the adjacent communities and the City of Philadelphia to explore and develop mechanisms and recommendations that combat displacement and support housing affordability, business and job opportunities for adjacent communities during both the construction and operations phase of the project, while continuing to prevent displacement and support inclusive development on a long-term basis.