



City of
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Oakland Uptown named among nation's great neighborhoods

OAKLAND – The American Planning Association (APA) today announced that Oakland's Uptown district has earned the designation as one of the 10 Great Neighborhoods for 2014.

Each October during National Community Planning Month, APA's Great Places in America program names 30 exemplary streets, neighborhoods and public spaces that add value to communities and foster economic growth and jobs. APA's Great Streets, Great Neighborhoods and Great Public Spaces feature unique and authentic characteristics that have evolved from years of thoughtful and deliberate planning by residents, community leaders and planners. Places are announced annually and represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for tomorrow.

"Recognizing these special places highlights the role planning plays in adding value to communities," said William Anderson, FAICP, president of APA.

"Planners, working with others, help build better communities in a variety of settings, from urban to rural; the result - better neighborhoods, cities, and regions. We applaud these efforts and congratulate this year's designees."

"Oakland could not be prouder of our thriving Uptown," Oakland Mayor Jean Quan said. "In many ways it is a symbol for what makes all of Oakland great: its remarkable diversity, its community-driven creativity and commerce, and it's incredible food from so many different cultures are a big part of its success and a great representation of what Oakland is all about."

Uptown has experienced significant revitalization over the last 15 years. Already home to numerous historic performance venues, the neighborhood has seen many underutilized lots transform into an arts and entertainment district. The former Oakland Redevelopment Agency (ORA) was central to the neighborhood's rebirth, forming public/private partnerships for the Uptown Area Mixed Use Project and leading the restoration of the Fox Theater. The Uptown Mixed Use Project includes 745 units of market rate and affordable housing and a 25,000 square-foot public park, located at the center of the project, which serves as a focal point of the neighborhood. Today, thanks to the collaboration of 40 local galleries, artists and mixed-use art spaces, Uptown is also home to monthly cultural events, including the Oakland Art Murmur First Friday Art Gallery Walk, which draws crowds of 20,000 to the neighborhood.

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