



City of
OAKLAND
California

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alternatives for Downtown Oakland's Future to be presented at Community Meeting on Feb. 1, 2016

Oakland, CA — As part of its ongoing community engagement in Plan Downtown Oakland, the first-ever specific plan that will shape the future of Downtown, the City of Oakland will host a community meeting on **Monday, February 1**. At the meeting, participants will review and comment on ideas to be presented for the future of Downtown Oakland. These ideas have been crafted based on input gathered during public hands-on workshops, open houses, tours, meetings and one-on-one conversations. The meeting will be held at the **Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts, 1428 Alice Street**, from **6:00 to 8:30 p.m.** Cantonese interpretation will be provided at this meeting.

“I encourage all Oaklanders to participate in the “Plan Downtown” process to shape the future of our vibrant city’s core by continuing the area’s growth as an employment, cultural and entertainment hub enjoyed by all,” said Mayor Libby Schaaf. “Input from a broad cross section of the community will help ensure equitable economic expansion and investment.”

Hundreds of Oaklanders have engaged in the conversation about Plan Downtown Oakland. The nine-day public planning charrette held in October resulted in significant community input including hundreds of comments via surveys and emails and comments provided during the various community engagement meetings. And the conversation continues with City staff meeting with community groups, neighborhood groups and individuals since the charrette.

Using feedback from these engagement activities, the City’s team has developed a set of draft policy and design options for the community to evaluate and choose from. These options and their tradeoffs will be presented at the community meeting on February 1. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session and an open house to allow attendees to review the information in detail and provide additional feedback.

The draft report, revised based on input from this meeting, will be available for public review shortly after the meeting. The report will feed into the final Downtown Oakland Specific Plan. The specific plan will guide future land use, public improvements, transportation, housing, jobs and social equity to plan for continued growth and revitalization and preservation of downtown’s character. At the end of the day, Plan Downtown is for all the people who will live, visit, work and play in this important area of our city.

(more)

**City to host Design Open
House to gather Public
Input on Downtown
Oakland's Future**

January 25, 2016
Page Two

At the forefront of the Plan Downtown Oakland conversation has been a widespread hope that Oakland will maintain its diverse, unique and creative culture, without displacing vulnerable residents, business owners, tenants and artists. Another key point of agreement is a desire for a vibrant and safe street life that supports families, seniors, youth, bicyclists, pedestrians and transit riders. There have also been calls for family-friendly amenities such as parks and multi-bedroom affordable housing units.

Some longer-range ideas include redeveloping I-980 as a boulevard to reconnect West Oakland with Downtown, and developing Howard Terminal as a ballpark or new neighborhood. The policies and strategies adopted in the specific plan will also incorporate issues from the Mayor's Housing Cabinet, the Development Impact Fee Nexus Study and the Downtown Parking Study. Specific plans already adopted in the West Oakland, Broadway-Valdez and Lake Merritt-Chinatown areas will inform Plan Downtown, which will strengthen connections between these areas.

Oaklanders are encouraged to attend the public meeting to consider the options for the future. The final plan will incorporate the best of the options and ideas discussed at this meeting.

For those unable to attend the meeting, feedback and comments may be emailed to **plandowntownoakland@oaklandnet.com**. An online forum is also underway at **speakupoakland.org/projects/plan-downtown-oakland**. For more details or to sign up for email updates, please visit **oaklandnet.com/plandowntownoakland**.

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