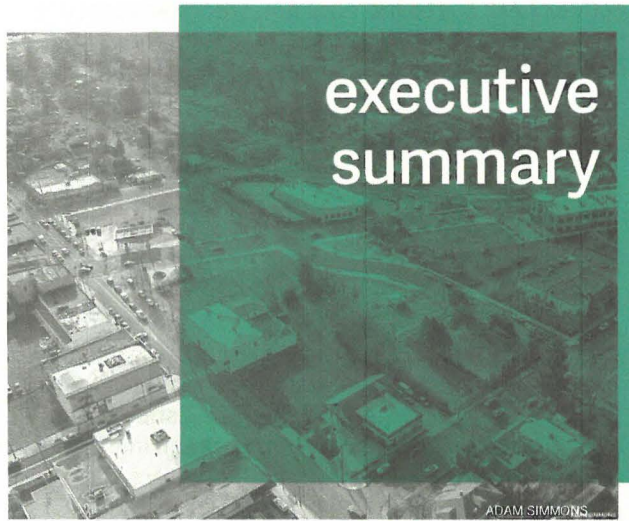


LENTS STRONG

community action plan
for a livable, affordable
neighborhood



Lents Strong is the grassroots vision for a livable Lents. At the center of the city's housing and homelessness crises, Lents will undergo major changes in the next five years in large part due to public and private investments.

Building on conversations with more than 1,400 residents in six languages, Lents Strong provides a framework for collective action over the next five years. Through partnerships between community organizations, government agencies, and businesses, Lents Strong seeks to improve livability, preserve affordability, and foster community control in Lents.

Stemming the tide of displacement

Portland is known for its sustainable, livable neighborhoods. At the same time, housing prices are increasing rapidly, displacing residents with lower incomes to neighborhoods with fewer services.

Lents is an increasingly diverse neighborhood. While it has not gentrified yet, impending development, fast-rising housing costs, and climate vulnerability threaten stability for communities of color, low-income renters and immigrants who call Lents home. Lents Strong provides specific action opportunities to address this issue with a role for everyone to play.

Leveraging investments

Government agencies are set to invest tens of millions of dollars in Lents over the next five years in affordable housing, economic development, and other improvements. Lents Strong community engagement efforts have shown it is possible to involve a truly diverse cross-section of the neighborhood in guiding these investments. Lents residents who are engaged are best situated to advocate for their own interests and achieve the Lents Strong vision.

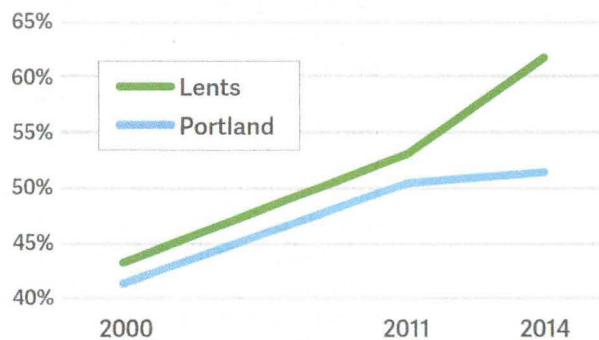


Hitting the ground running

Lents Strong builds on existing partnerships and provides exciting new opportunities. Efforts already underway since the plan's adoption in June include the Lents Green Ring, English-learning classes, Asians Building a Livable Environment (ABLE), diesel pollution monitoring, Lents Youth Initiative summer programs, floodplain outreach along Johnson Creek, development of a community asset map, and the piloting of a neighborhood cleanup toolkit.

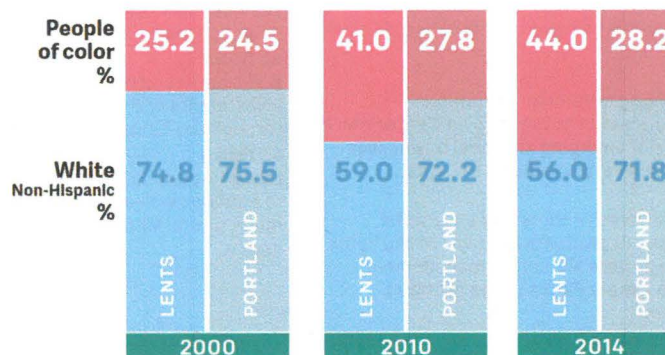
Rents and home prices are increasing faster than incomes. In Lents, the share of households paying over 30% of their income on rent or mortgage is growing more rapidly than in the rest of Portland, pushing many housing opportunities out of reach for communities of color, immigrants, & renters.

Renter households paying more than 30% of income on rent.



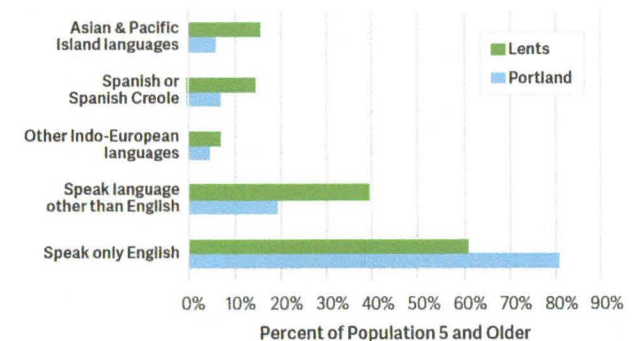
Lents is racially and ethnically diverse compared to Portland overall. In 2014, nearly half of Lents residents were people of color, almost double the amount in 2000. Policymakers and community organizations must adapt to serve this diversifying neighborhood by building community resilience.

Racial minority population in Lents & Portland, 2000-2014



Lents has a large immigrant population. Nearly 40% of Lents residents speak languages other than English at home, including Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Russian, and Somali. Nearly 25% of Lents residents were born in another country.

Languages spoken at home (2014)



LENTS GREEN RING

The **Lents Green Ring** is the “hardware” portion of a livable Lents. The Green Ring connects the hubs and centers involved in creating a livable Lents using infrastructure improvements and investment. The Green Ring includes technical analysis, wayfinding signage, community walking tours, and safety and road enhancements that create a stronger sense of place, connection, and ownership among neighbors. The Green Ring is also a series of bikeable, walkable routes which can be used to access many of Lents amenities. Outreach and collaboration will ramp up in 2017.



Through Kaiser Permanente’s Healthy Eating Active Living grant program, **Asian Health and Service Center** and **APANO** have developed the **Asians Building Livable Environment (ABLE)** initiative. ABLE seeks to improve the active transportation environment by developing community-based programming to support physical activity and active transportation in Lents and the Jade District. A key objective of ABLE is to increase grassroots advocacy to support investments that will create a greener, more walkable and bikeable environment with better connectivity to transit.

Recommendations for advocacy and action

In the context of a changing Lents, the recommendations in this plan reflect a shared vision of affordability, livability, and community control. Drawn from community engagement as well as best practices and policy research, recommendations are organized into three focus areas: housing affordability, economic development, and safe and accessible community spaces.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

OBJECTIVE 1

Build the knowledge base and improve access to financial assistance programs for housing.

ACTION 1

Host a series of renters’ rights workshops in partnership with the Community Alliance of Tenants.

ACTION 2

Improve access to and participation in available housing grant programs, homebuyer loans, down-payment assistance, home repair, and rental assistance through community education.

OBJECTIVE 2

Preserve and build more permanently affordable housing in Lents with opportunities for home rental and ownership.

ACTION 1

Ensure the development of an adequate mix of traditional affordable housing options in Lents, with a focus on family-sized apartments, single-family homes, and middle-density housing that includes duplexes and row houses.

ACTION 2

Collaborate on the development of creative, alternative housing models in Lents which provide affordable opportunities for homeownership and rental housing.

ACTION 3

Collaborate with Oregon Solutions partners to develop conservation-based affordable housing as part of the Lents Stabilization and Job Creation Project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE 1

Invest in community leadership.

ACTION 1

Fund community-based internship and training programs, including Livable Lents Community Ambassadors and Lents Youth Initiative.

ACTION 2

Contract with community-based groups, such as Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Wisdom of the Elders, and Green Lents, to perform culturally specific engagement and program implementation.

OBJECTIVE 2

Create a thriving, affordable, multicultural business district.

ACTION 1

Increase local awareness of Portland Development Commission grants that support small local businesses.

ACTION 2

Grow and diversify the membership of Lents Grown business association.

ACTION 3

Develop tenancing criteria for affordable commercial spaces in the Lents Town Center which prioritize a mix of emerging and local businesses that benefit the diverse residents of Lents.

ACTION 4

Recruit more diverse vendors and ensure the cultural diversity of products available at the Lents International Farmers Market, as management transfers from Zenger Farms to the Portland Farmers Market.

COMMUNITY SPACES

OBJECTIVE 1

Foster a diverse, connected community by bringing people together in ways that are fun and engaging.

ACTION 1

Offer experiential, hands-on English learning programs.

ACTION 2

Develop and promote activities and programs that will bring Lents neighbors together in community spaces.

ACTION 3

Create an online catalogue of community events, festivals, classes, meeting spaces, markets, local businesses, and community organizations.

OBJECTIVE 2

Improve walkability and safety while strengthening neighborhood identity.

ACTION 1

Conduct walkability audits of the Lents neighborhood.

ACTION 2

Build community-based advocacy for guiding investments and upgrades in the built environment through the Lents Green Ring and ABLE projects.

ACTION 3

Design a pedestrian wayfinding program to enhance walkability, strengthen Lents’ multicultural identity, and highlight community assets.



Lents Youth Initiative provides youth with hands-on skill building and training in environmental justice and community organizing. Youth are paired with mentors at local organizations, providing transformative experiences for youth & community groups. In 2016, youth monitored diesel pollution in Lents through Rose CDC, Green Lents, and Oregon Environmental Council.



Livable Lents is the social pillar of **Green Lents**, providing diverse and inclusive outreach to a wide range of residents. In particular, Livable Lents seeks to expand its Community Ambassador program in 2017 to include paid opportunities for culturally specific outreach on Lents Strong plan priorities and advocacy training to turn outreach into action.

Davis, Meghaan

To: Adam Brunelle
Subject: RE: Council Testimony

From: Adam Brunelle [mailto:brunelleadam@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2016 7:44 PM
To: Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>
Cc: Davis, Meghaan <Meghaan.Davis@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Re: Council Testimony

Hi Meghaan,

Can I reserve a spot for October 12th?

All the best,

Adam

On Thursday, September 15, 2016, Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov> wrote:

Hi Adam,

There are no available spots on October 5th but, October 12th is available. If this date will work for you, please let Meghaan know as I will be out of the office until next Tuesday.

Thank you,

Karla



Karla Moore-Love |Council Clerk
City of Portland |Office of the City Auditor
1221 SW 4th Ave Rm 130
Portland OR 97204-1900

email: Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov
Testimony Email: cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov

phone: 503.823.4086
Clerk's Webpage: www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/councilclerk

From: Adam Brunelle [mailto:brunelleadam@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2016 7:21 PM

To: Moore-Love, Karla <Karla.Moore-Love@portlandoregon.gov>

Subject: Council Testimony

Hi Karla,

I am looking to schedule at least one slot for city council testimony during the public commenting period regarding the Lents Strong community action plan.

Do you know if there are slots available during the following weeks:

October 3-7

October 10-14

Thank you!

Adam

Adam Brunelle

Master of Urban & Regional Planning
Toulan School of Urban Studies & Planning
Portland State University
Phone: (971) 336-1777
E-mail: brunelleadam@gmail.com

Request of Adam Brunelle to address Council regarding Lents Strong community action plan (Communication)

OCT 12 2016

PLACED ON FILE

Nathan Jones spoke

Filed OCT 04 2016

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By *Alexander Larsson*
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		