

Providence Neighborhood Association

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To: Florida Redevelopment Association Award Committee

The leadership of the Providence Neighborhood Association strongly supports the nomination of the "Providence Plan Refresh" for the Florida Redevelopment Association 2022 Award in the Creative Partnerships Category.

The Providence Neighborhood Association (PNA) was established in 1998. Since that time PNA has worked with the city of Tallahassee through the first iteration of the Neighborhood Renaissance Plan and Neighborhood First process. The original Providence Plan, completed in 2003, included goals, strategies, and action items intended for the betterment of the community. However, the plan was never fully implemented and efforts to refresh the plan and accomplish many of these positive community outcomes stagnated, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a result the almost 20-year-old plan was never fully realized.

Through partnership with the Mark and Marianne Barnebey Planning and Development Lab at Florida State University's Department of Urban and Regional Planning, the Neighborhood Association was able to engage in significant community outreach, Neighborhood Association capacity building, educational events, and community building within the neighborhood.

Overall, their efforts resulted in a step-by-step framework with updates on what aspects of the previous plan were completed, in progress, or which aspects and tasks needed additional effort directed towards them. The framework created by the Barnebey Lab also provides Neighborhood Association leadership with timelines and understandable and actionable steps that can be used to implement tasks outlined in the original plan and later iterations. A vital part of this project was the capacity building and investment in the neighborhood provided by the Barnebey Lab. Training and guidance documents created by the Barnebey Lab can be used to support the Neighborhood Association in formalizing by-laws and guidelines and provides guidance on how to navigate the confusing bureaucracy of the city's planning process. The Barnebey Lab has continued to be an involved, supportive, and available partner.

The work done in Providence Neighborhood under this partnership will help to bring recognition and celebration to the contributions made by the previous generations of this robust neighborhood and has positioned the neighborhood for continued investment and beautification.

In closing, we strongly support the nomination of the Providence Plan Refresh for a 2022 FRA award and look forward to continued partnership with the Barnebey Lab in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter McDonald III', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Walter McDonald III

President, Providence Neighborhood Association