COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Venice Pizza is an award-winning collaborative project that involved community leaders, eight individual architects and more than forty architecture students from two universities, two private architectural firms, and two community-based non-profit organizations to design and build a restaurant and non-profit facility in Over-the-Rhine. Venice Pizza is a program of Power Inspires Progress (PIP), which provides job training and employment readiness for low-income residents through the operation of a restaurant and catering facility, now at 1301 Vine Street.

COMMUNITY RESEARCH

Food Congress

The Cincinnati Food Congress is an effort led by the Community Design Center to convene existing groups active in food-related issues in Greater Cincinnati. The Cincinnati Food Congress will attempt to bring together organizations active in this area and as diverse as The Nutrition Council, the Free Store/Food Bank, The Civic Garden Center, and other groups to assess the current condition and present problems in our metropolitan food system and to design and implement strategies to address these issues through policy and action.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

St. Anthony Housing

The Community Design Center provided architectural services for the Women’s Research and Development Council and Franciscan Home Development to provide 28 renter-equity housing units in renovated historic structures at Green and Republic Streets in Over-the-Rhine. These apartments are now occupied.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Over-the-Rhine Project

UCDC worked with Over-The-Rhine stakeholders, Cincinnati Public Schools, and the Children’s Defense Fund to develop strategies and illustrations for remaking the Washington Park Elementary School into a neighborhood “community learning” center in Over-the-Rhine. Funding was provided by the University of Cincinnati Institute for Community Partnership.

YOUTH JOB TRAINING

Art in the Market

For seven years the UCCDC has administered a public arts program, which has employed more than 150 community at-risk youth and created 21 art installations around Findlay Market to enhance the aesthetic infrastructure of Over-the-Rhine. Funded by the Ohio Arts Council, the program was led by Fine Art students and Community-based artists.

URBAN DESIGN

Over-the-Rhine Plan

Working with the City of Cincinnati Planning Department, the Over-the-Rhine Planning Steering Committee and a local landscape architecture firm, the UCCDC provided visioning and Urban Design illustrations for the OTR comprehensive Plan that was adopted by the City of Cincinnati Council in 2002.

TECHNICAL SERVICE

FEMA Research

Following the 2000 tornado disaster in Xenia Ohio, FEMA requested assistance from the UCCDC to illustrate windstorm damage mitigation techniques for the construction of wood frame houses. Architecture students at the UCCDC built a detailed model and designed illustrative architectural details in a package that could be distributed to enhance homeowners in storm-prone areas throughout the midwest.

Technical Service

The Community Design Center organizes collaborative interdisciplinary community university partnerships for the research and design of physical improvements which serve the University’s urban area. The Community Design Center is a part of the College of Design, Art, and Planning at this University of Cincinnati.

The Center provides assistance to community groups, non-profit organizations, and City departments that are representing under served areas and underfunded projects within the area. The Center is administered by a registered Architect with assistance from co-op students and graduate assistants from the disciplines of Architecture, Planning, Graphic Design, and Industrial Design. Faculty from these programs are involved as advisors and designers on individual projects.