To consider theming in the urban environment as market exploitation of cultural symbols that ends in the inability for social cohesion and economic sustainability. Thanks to corporate marketing and our wholesale suburbanization of the environment, themes in a modern environment are vapid fantasies with false senses of community and culture. To compete with the suburbs economically, many cities have recently brought the ideals of theming into their development schemes in an attempt to promote tourism.
We found clusters of themed establishments and clusters of unthemed establishments. These are more dense on Main Street and less dense on Vine. This could be due to the level of development on each. We do find, that where there are themed establishments that they do happen primarily on Main St, where the unthemed, or authentic establishments seem more free to be on either Main or Vine. Twelfth St seems to be the linking corridor between Main and Vine. Along this link there is an interesting push - pull between the major theme cluster and one of the unthemed clusters. Along Vine Street, there is a gradation of unthemed environments. Along Main, there is a heavily themed node on one end, a mildly themed node on the other and gradations of authentic in between.
The combination of the population decline over many decades and the continual vacancy of housing units throughout Over.the.Rhine has produced the overwhelming sense of EMPTINESS.

There is no substitute for lively streets, (Jacobs, 120). When the population is declining and the buildings are empty, it becomes very difficult for the streets to be lively.

The portion of the population unemployed and not in the labor force under any label is considerably more than the employed population. Individuals over age 16 are considered for the labor statistics. Once a year of unemployment has passed an individual is no longer counted as unemployed.
THE CONTEXT OF MUSIC HALL

FEAR, PARKING, AND THE DOWNTOWN EXPERIENCE

Cincinnati's Music Hall is a cultural institution located in what is perceived to be a dangerous area. As a result of this, its conditions of access and experience are skewed when viewed in comparison to other cultural facilities of similar prominence within the city of Cincinnati. This study examines this building's relationship with its surroundings and the public image of the institution that governs it.

CRIME STATISTICS

Local crime statistics corroborate, at least on a certain level, the level of distrust and concern for safety associated with Over the Rhine. What is unclear is the demographic nature of the crimes committed, and whether the audience members of Music Hall have ever been targeted.

The Cincinnati Arts Association offers no dining suggestions for restaurants near Music Hall. Instead, they offer the same restaurants that are within walking distance of the Aronoff Center, which are not also reasonably walkable from Music Hall.

THE QUESTION OF INTERVENTION

A successful intervention into this site would need to address special aspects of experience in the context surrounding Music Hall. Dining, parking, street lighting are important considerations. Existing facilities for the homeless will need to be accommodated in a fashion that does not intrude on the experience of concert attendance, or there will be no life on the streets surrounding Music Hall.

COMPARISON OF SUGGESTED PARKING VENUES

Parking at the Aronoff Center is spread throughout a variety of garages near the facility. Parking for Music Hall is housed solely in a parking garage across Central Parkway. Access is provided over the main road via a pedestrian bridge, likely in order to shield patrons from the street life in Over the Rhine.

RECOMMENDED DINING ESTABLISHMENTS

The Cincinnati Arts Association offers no dining suggestions for restaurants near Music Hall. Instead, they offer the same restaurants that are within walking distance of the Aronoff Center, which are not also reasonably walkable from Music Hall.
How to Define the Edge of a Historic Neighborhood

Katie Hunter

What is the Current Condition of the Southern Edge of the Over-the-Rhine Neighborhood?

The western side of the boundary is primarily ground parking lots with the YMCA building as the only anchor. The new School for Creative and Performing Arts is proposed across Elm Street. The new structure will help establish the western edge.

The Central portion of the Central Parkway boundary is somewhat defined, but still has a number of parking lots making it difficult to establish as a gateway.

The eastern edge is fairly well defined. The smaller buildings change in character and help transition from the central business district to the historic Over-the-Rhine area.

What is the Social Situation in the Area?

1. Along Central Pkwy, between Plum and Vine, the area has low residential property values and high vacancy rates. Home ownership is low and the median family income is significantly below poverty level. The area is about 70% black and 30% white.

2. Between Vine and Sycamore, residential property values are very low. As much as a third of the housing in this area is vacant. Nearly all of the residential in this area rent. The median family income is below poverty level, however, it is more than twice as high as in the area between Plum and Vine. The racial composition is approximately 70/30, predominantly black.

3. East of Sycamore, the Pendleton area has much higher residential property values, averaging over $150,000. Almost one tenth of the residents own. More than 80% are highschool graduates and 16% hold a bachelors degree or higher. The racial mix is 80% black, 16% white, and 4% other.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Future development along Central Pkwy must be cognizant of the edge condition of this historic neighborhood. Pedestrian and vehicular gateways to the neighborhood should be clearly denoted.

New or renovated housing in this area should be required to include some units for affordable housing to ensure that the current residents will still have a place in the neighborhood as it becomes more affluent. Services for the poor must still be located near the housing.

Some kind of language of street furnishings, lighting and signage should be considered for the OTR neighborhood to identify the neighborhood, buildings, and sites as historic.
A SEED FOR CHANGE

The Real Agenda
The real vision underlying all of the planning is a repopulation of the area with residents that can afford to put money back into the economic system. This is a further perpetuation of the existing cycle of low-income evacuation. One obvious piece of evidence to this is the sort of vendors Findlay Market lists on its web site. The list includes, wine shops, coffee shops, ethnic take-out, chocolatier/confectioner patisserie, specialty meats, organic foods and a juice bar. All of the vendors mentioned provide specialty items that would cater to a higher-income population. In addition, the lowest vender stands rental costs are higher than the average apartment rental costs in the area.

Another clear indicator is the basic horseshoe form of the market. The market is increasingly not about the neighborhood. People come into the parking lot and are funneled onto the market. When they are finished they go right back out again the way they came in. There is no meandering in the surrounding area looking in the shops.

Challenges to maintain a mixed income population
- Revitalization raises property values and the low income population can not afford the cost
- Difference between property owners and renters
  - Property owners want a return on their investment
  - Renters want stabilized rents
    - Provide incentives and controls to ensure that development does not push out the current population

Challenges to increasing ownership
- Ownership is only 5% compared to 38% citywide
  - Renovate existing housing stock for purchase
  - Conversion of existing brewery and industrial buildings
- Prohibitive investment for rehabilitation costs and the buildings require a lot of work to bring them up to current code
  - Provide incentive for developers, gap financing, low income tax credits, federal historic tax credits, low interest loans, and city grants.
Prospect Hill
Stephanie Winters
The Anatomy & History of an Urban Village

1870 Titus Map
Total Population: 6,247
White: 6,228
African American: 19
Native: 3,976
Foreign: 2,271

1904 Sanborn Map
Total Population: 8,469
White: 8,252
African American: 217
Native: 6,842
Foreign: 1,627

1904-1930 Sanborn Map
Total Population: 5,199
White: 5,169
African American: 30
Native: 3,268
Foreign/Mixed Parentage: 1,416

1960-1980 Sanborn Map
Total Population: 5,433
White: 4,632
African American: 789
Other Races: 12

2004 CAGIS Map
Total Population: 1,985
White: 929
African American: 971
Occupied Housing Units: 856
Owner: 292
Renter: 564
"Increasingly, our schools are critical to bringing our communities together. We want them to serve the public not just during the school hours: to function as vital community centers, places for recreation and learning, positive places where children can be when they can't be at home and school is no longer going on; gathering places for you young people and adults alike."