

BVRC Values and Guiding Principles

Our Shared Values

Community Centered and Led. We will ensure decisions reflect and align with the leadership and priorities of communities. We commit to seeking input from, listening directly to, engaging with, and seeking leadership from residents and community-based organizations in development decisions for their communities.

Protect and Preserve. We will maximize resident retention and prevent resident displacement as we reduce vacancy. We will commit to community-led development that ensures resident choice and that current residents benefit from improvements in their communities. We will actualize this value through intentional community planning that assesses the risks of physical and cultural displacement and develops strategies to prevent displacement and through direct engagement with existing residents. We will prioritize investing in the retention of legacy homeowners and residents in neighborhoods that are targeted for community-led whole blocks investment.

Equity. We will address historic and systemic inequities that led to disinvestment in Baltimore neighborhoods. We will promote strategies and align resources to support intergenerational wealth building and close the racial wealth gap created by unequal access to homeownership and capital.

Efficiency and Excellence. We will not only direct resources to address historical disinvestment but also commit to improving government efficiency in processes like permitting and community planning, which are critical to ensuring equitable access to resources for historically marginalized neighborhoods with high concentrations of vacancy.

Inclusivity. We will promote “complete neighborhoods” designed to reduce disparities; foster connectivity between people, places, and resources; and promote economic inclusion. Complete neighborhoods are mixed-use and mixed income with safe, stable, healthy, and affordable housing; safe and convenient access to essential amenities, services, and opportunities; and accessible and reliable transportation.

Opportunity. We will ensure that investments in neighborhood, residential and commercial development maximize wealth creation and leadership development for residents while offering those residents a safe, stable, healthy, and affordable place to live near their work.

Growth. We will ensure that investments in vacancy elimination generate measurable increases in population, tax revenue, property values and housing supply. We value growth that benefits historically disinvested communities, fosters equitable opportunity for every resident, preserves

affordable housing, and prevents displacement while property values appreciate.

Transparency. We will operate with openness and accountability and clearly communicate progress on measurable outcomes. We will operationalize this value through public Council meetings; annual reporting; publishing measurable timelines for permitting and other processes critical to revitalization efforts; and producing public-facing data dashboards that provide real-time updates on achieving on Reinvest Baltimore goals and outcomes.

Conservation of Community Culture and History. We will prioritize the historic and cultural heritage of existing communities. We will employ best practices in urban design, housing design, and placemaking to align with community context and reinforce community identity.

Guiding Principles

We will prioritize investments that achieve whole block outcomes within a close timeframe, ensuring comprehensive revitalization that benefits residents and prevents displacement. A whole block outcome abates all vacant properties on a block and commits housing resources to existing residents to ensure they can stay in their neighborhoods and benefit from the neighborhood revitalization.

We will ensure projects leverage capital of all kinds.

We will prioritize data, evidence, and continuous improvement.

We will commit to scalable solutions that improve government efficiency without compromising community input and review, focusing on strategies that address barriers like permitting delays and communication gaps.