

City of Las Vegas | Department of Planning

ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

To develop and implement sound planning and licensing regulations and to enforce city codes so that citizens, businesses and visitors can benefit from an orderly, diverse, clean and environmentally sensitive community.

> **FY21 Planning Commission** (Opposite Page-Left to right)

> > City Attorney's Office James Lewis, Esq. **Deputy City Attorney**

Commissioners Jeff Rogan Sam Cherry Donna Toussaint Trinity Haven Schlottman, Vice Chair Louis De Salvio, Chair Donald W. Walsh (FY22 Commissioner) Anthony Williams Sigal Chattah (FY21 Commissioner - Not Pictured)

Planning/Community **Development Department** Seth Floyd, Esq. Community Development/Planning Director

> Peter Lowenstein, AICPA Deputy Planning Director

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Department of Planning is comprised of the Administration, Long Range Planning, Current Planning, Business Licensing, and Code Enforcement Divisions. The collective efforts of the Department affects may facets of the community through its zoning, master planning, and licensing and enforcement activities. It is our goal to:

- walkability, and increased access to healthy food.
- consistency and reliability, and exceed expectations.
- improvements that provide effective communication.



• Create plans that enable neighborhoods to be stable, friendly, and physically attractive by providing land use opportunities for parks, recreation, improved

• Improve public safety through increased compliance and education.

• Contribute to the momentum of downtown initiatives by implementing licensing and zoning incentives and supporting redevelopment efforts.

• Implement technology to increase productivity and provide increased value to our customers; and provide land development and licensing processes that deliver

• Increase customer service by engaging citizens with technology and process

2050 MASTER PLAN

The city of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan ("Master Plan") has been adopted, marking the end of the former 2020 plan. Over the past three years, Long Range Planning and the city's consulting team, SmithGroup, drafted the new Master Plan, which provides a comprehensive approach to the city's growth and development over the next thirty years. This Master Plan consists of several chapters including a framing chapter that discusses the plan's vision and guiding principles of equity, resilience, health, livability, and innovation; chapters covering the requirements of Nevada Revised Statutes; and a concluding chapter on plan implementation. Now that adoption is complete, Planning will work with other departments, regional stakeholders, and the community to implement various aspects of the plan, including City Council identified priorities.



One of the first implementation tasks is to develop the 16 special area plans identified in the Master Plan. These areas are comprised of groups of neighborhoods and districts that each contain existing conditions and a future vision. As part of this effort and for FY22, the Department of Planning received funding to develop a special area plan for East Las Vegas, as well as a template for others throughout the city. This will translate into rezoning of property consistent with the Master Plan's land use strategy, as well as laying the groundwork for immediate or long-term projects such as tree planting, neighborhood development, street improvement projects, and other needs identified by the community.

The Economy and Workforce Chapter contains areas of planning not previously included in previous iterations of the master plan, including schools and the educational system, economic development and redevelopment, public finance, housing, and homelessness. The Systems and Services Chapter describes city and community-based infrastructure and service provisions. Goals include those on complete streets, transit, smart systems, water, energy, waste, greenhouse gas emissions, facilities, hazards, public health, public safety, and flooding. Finally, a chapter on implementation and evaluation provides guidance for how the city, its departments, and members of the community can set the Master Plan into action and achieve its goals and outcomes. More information on the Master Plan and its implementation is available on the city's website, www.masterplan.vegas.

CITY OF LAS VEGAS 2050 Master Plan

A COMPREHENSIVE THIRTY-YEAR PLAN PREPARED FOR THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES OF LAS VEGAS TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR HEALTH SAFETY, PROSPERITY, SECURITY, COMFORT, AND GENERAL WELFARE

The Land Use and Environment Chapter contains the city's general plan for future land use, which recommends transit-oriented development corridors connecting major regional centers in addition to other land use changes that enhance, transform, or historically preserve places. Compatible zoning for the new land use designations will eventually change to permit new transit oriented development. The densities, uses, and intensities of the new categories are greater and emphasize vertically and horizontally integrated mixed-use, infill, and adaptive reuse. This approach will accommodate the Master Plan's overall emphasis on infill and redevelopment.

CIRCA

In October of 2020, the first casino built from the ground-up on Fremont Street in nearly 40 years opened its doors for business. Known as Circa, the 480-foot building is the tallest in Downtown Las Vegas and is a prominent feature in our downtown skyline. A nine-story parking structure known as Garage Mahal is located on the west side of Main Street and is connected to Circa via an enclosed skyway.

On July 18, 2018, the City Council approved an entitlement package for both Circa and Garage Mahal. The Department of Planning ("Planning") worked closely with the developer's design team to ensure that all applicable zoning code requirements were met and that all required plans and materials were included with the application submittal. After a thorough technical evaluation of the submitted plan set, Planning was able to provide a recommendation of approval to the Planning Commission and City Council.

The size and scope of the project resulted in a complex permitting process that involved the collaborative efforts of several city departments. One of Planning's primary roles in the permitting process was to ensure that the submitted construction drawings were in substantial conformance with the site plan, landscape plan, and building elevations approved though entitlement. Other important Planning review responsibilities included off-site permit review, site addressing, the review of interior tenant improvements, and the review and issuance of business licenses.

Planning was also tasked with ensuring compliance with the Title 19 sign code; and in 2020, the Department worked with the applicant to process a Master Sign Plan application through the Downtown Design Review Committee review process. The sign plan included all proposed exterior identifying and directional signage, including the signature 140-foot tall animated wall sign on the north face of the building.

Circa boasts unique amenities such as a three-story sports book, numerous bars and restaurants, and the 4,000-person capacity Stadium Swim. Through the effort of all employees involved with the development review process, Circa was able to open on time in October of 2020 and has become one of the must-see attractions in Downtown Las Vegas.



PARKLETS & STREATERIES PILOT

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants and bars looked for creative ways to build a space that met the needs of its customers, while keeping them safe and ensuring the business' compliance with state and local COVID-19 guidelines. As a result, the city and Department of Planning expanded the concept of parklets and streateries within its jurisdiction.

A parklet is a temporary extension of the public sidewalk that uses non-permanent materials within the public right-of-way. Parklets are intended to furnish public spaces for people to sit, congregate, and enjoy the unique experiences throughout the city. They can be artistic and bring unique characteristics to a space. A streatery, on the other hand, builds off the parklet concept but functions much like a sidewalk café. Streateries are located across the sidewalk from a local hosting business, and provide spaces for table service within the on-street parking space. Used by restaurants, bars, and other places that serve food and drinks, they provide additional space, connect people with one another, and contribute to the placemaking of the area.



Historically implemented by the city in response to unique and isolated situations, parklets and streateries have proven to be a novel approach to creating useful outdoor space that helps businesses keep their patrons safe. In response to the increasing popularity, the Department of Planning has developed consistent development standards to ensure public safety and accessibility; adoption of these standards by the City Council is anticipated for August 2021.

This means that implementing parklets and streateries will now be a streamlined license agreement process that any organization and/or business can take advantage of; thus expanding the program to any business or organization that wants to participate. Through adoption of these development standards, the city will establish parklets and streateries as a welcomed initiative.

While the Department of Planning works to implement design standards in Title 19, the Department has received funding from Southern Nevada Health District to construct a pilot parklet. Working with Mendre Sculptures, the city will have a parklet for business owners and organizations to see and get an idea of what they are like with the benefit of an amenity that the public can enjoy that ultimately will have a positive impact on their quality of life, health, and interconnectedness.



FORM BASED CODE UPDATE

Adoption in the Historic Westside

On January 20, 2021, in a motion made by Councilman Cedric Crear, the City Council voted unanimously to approve the General Plan Amendment and Rezoning of 603 acres within the Las Vegas Historic Westside District to the Title 19.09 Form-Based Code. This marks the third important step for the Form-Based Code project, which, over time, seeks to implement this innovative type of development code in all areas of downtown. The primary goal of the new zoning standards and related procedures is to modernize development regulations to implement the Vision 2045 Downtown Master Plan, which advocates for high quality development, walkability and human scale in our downtown environment, and support transportation improvement via design and the addition of available, high-quality housing.

Outreach and Code Writing in the 18b Arts District

In April 2021, the city kicked-off the project to update the zoning code for the 18b Arts District from the standard Euclidean zoning to the Title 19.09 Form-Based Code. Lisa Wise Consulting, a nationally recognized consulting firm that specializes in Form-Based zoning codes, has led ongoing public outreach, to gain a better understanding about what makes the 18b Arts District unique and how the Form-Based Code can enhance its built environment. In an effort to get as much participation as possible the outreach utilized virtual design charrettes and was conducted in a hybrid manner from June 14 to June 18, 2021, The design charrettes were attended by artists, residents, business owners, architects, and other parties with a vested interest in the future of the 18b Arts District. Multiple in-person focus groups are scheduled for July 14, 2021.



SUSTAINABILITY

As Nevada continues to push an aggressive agenda to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to extreme heat and drought, and expand use of renewable resources, the city of Las Vegas ("city") has led not only Southern Nevada, but also the country on truly innovative efforts.

- The city was the first large city in the country to make a large-scale Renewable Energy Agreement with NV Energy, replacing the city's retail load with renewable energy.
- The city has more than six megawatts of solar at 40 city facilities and nearly 50,000 energy-efficient LED streetlights.
- Our community has reduced residential, commercial, and industrial buildings sectors emissions because of cleaner power supplied through our aggressive and expanded renewable portfolio standard for 50 percent by 2030.
- Transportation based emissions have been reduced through transportation electrification, electric vehicle (EV) charging and public transit projects coupled with infill and redevelopment efforts, especially within Downtown Las Vegas.
- The city has adopted aggressive waste diversion and recycling strategies and has the nation's largest recycling center.
- Green buildings provide benefits through construction that is resource efficient and environmentally responsible. As a part of its Green Building Resolution in 2006, the city utilizes the U.S. Green Building Council's green building rating system, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), for newly constructed or renovated buildings to at least the LEED Silver Certification level. City Hall was certified Gold in 2012, while Fire Station 3 was certified Gold in 2020 and the new Municipal Court was certified Silver in 2021.

In 2020, the entire city of Las Vegas was awarded a Gold certification using the <u>LEED for</u> <u>Cities and Communities</u> rating system, which was the basis for the new city of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan. Working on the 2050 Master Plan and LEED for Cities concurrently allowed our staff to not only establish a baseline, but also helped us develop the plan and set future goals that are intentionally aligned with LEED's metrics.

In the next fiscal year, the city will use capital improvement funding, state and utility rebates, and Federal funding for a new photovoltaic systems at Muni Court, Fire Stations 3 and 108, for new energy storage systems at city facilities, additional EV charging stations, non-functional turf replacement, tree planting, and greenhouse gas emissions monitoring.







LAND USE APPLICATIONS PROCESSED

761

800 r

700

600

CURRENT PLANNING

Current Planning regulates city zoning ordinances, processes land use entitlement applications for residential and commercial development, performs research and analysis services, creates maps for decision makers, and provides policy recommendations to achieve orderly and sustainable development.

In Fiscal Year 2021, Current Planning:

- Completed 11,420 reviews,
- Conducted 631 Pre-Application meetings,
- Processed 1,991 land use applications,
- Agendized 618 projects for Planning Commission and/or City Council consideration, and
- Created 5,303 maps to help the city make informed decisions.









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TOTAL MAPS CREATED



BUSINESS LICENSE

Business License regulates business commerce activities to include business license application reviews, income reporting audits, business license compliance education and enforcement, and regulation of medical and recreational marijuana enterprises. In Fiscal Year 2020, this Division issued a total of 3,835 business licenses city-wide; including 361 in downtown Las Vegas



Business License Audit

During Fiscal Year 2021, the Business License Audit Team completed 377 financial audits of businesses operating within the city's jurisdiction resulting in \$493,865 of additional revenue.

AUDITS COMPLETED VS. REVENUE GENERATED



In addition, this team was able to improve efficiencies related to its Room Tax process by updating information packets to provide a clearer understanding of reporting requirements for new licensees, and by improving the functionality of the online Room Tax calculator. The improved user friendliness of this calculator has made it an invaluable tool for both the team and licensees as it has improved the validity and completeness of initial report submissions.

The Business License Audit Team also improved its overall effectiveness and efficiency by transitioning the actual audit process from a primarily paper based process to an electronic one. This was achieved through implementation of a Microsoft Excel based audit workbook and an INFOR based work review flow. As a result, this new workflow has allowed the team to reduce paper costs, eliminate document storage costs, streamline the overall workflow, and improve tracking and access to audit documents.

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Completion of the Business License Compliance Ambassador Program

As the State of Nevada continued its recovery efforts in response to closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Sisolak issued Declaration of Emergency Directive 024 ("Directive") on June 24, 2020. This Directive had an overarching goal of protecting businesses and the community at-large, and included a mandate that businesses require all patrons, customers, patients, and clients use facial coverings, and prohibit individuals without face coverings from entering their premises. This Directive also established a Mitigation Enforcement Plan ("Plan") that empowered local jurisdictions to ensure compliance. In response to this Directive and Plan requirements, the city established the Business License Compliance Ambassador Program under the leadership of the Business License Enforcement unit.

The Compliance Ambassadors and Business License Enforcement team members were responsible for completing a minimum of 278 daily observations of businesses in the city's jurisdiction to assess business and patron compliance with the Directive, and for providing education and signage regarding the Directive. Over the course of 11 months, this group:

- Completed 103,031 observations
- Responded to 5,704 complaints
- Issued 611 courtesy notices
- Issued 811 correction notices
- Issued 49 civil penalties
- Issued 3 license suspensions

On May 21, 2021, the Compliance Ambassador Program officially ended. What started as a program anticipated to last 30 days, resulted in a program essential to the State's recovery plan and pathway to completely reopening. This group of Compliance Ambassadors and Business License Enforcement team members exemplified the city's core purpose of "Building Community to Make Life Better" and helped keep our citizens and visitors healthy and safe while supporting our overall economy.









CODE ENFORCEMENT

Code Enforcement educates residents, property owners, and neighborhoods about property maintenance standards and the code enforcement process, provides investigation and inspection services to residents and businesses, and enforces city codes to protect public health, safety and peace in the community. In Fiscal Year 2021, this team investigated 5,553 complaints and completed 17,844 inspections; resulting in 11,186 violations citywide.

VIOLATIONS BY WARD



THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) oversees preservation activities in the city for buildings, structures and places of historical and architectural significance.

In Fiscal Year 2021, HPC placed the Helen A. Toland Residence on the city of Las Vegas Historic Property Register. In order to be placed on the historic register, a property must be at least 40 years old and of exceptional local significance. Constructed in 1947, the Toland Residence was and is the home of Helen A. Toland; the first African American female principal in the Clark County School District who began her principalship in 1965 at Kit Carson Elementary School. The school has since been renamed after Mrs. Toland.

The HPC also provided funding for the Neon Museum to hire a conservator to produce a conservation treatment plan for the museum's sign collection that is mainly located outdoors. The signs have experienced different levels of degradation over the past eight years due to their exposure to environmental elements. The "Neon Museum Conservation Treatment Plan" provides a conditions assessment report, recommendations for conservation treatments, as well as maintenance and sign restoration guidelines





THE COMMISSION FOR THE LAS VEGAS CENTENNIAL

The commission was founded in 2003 to oversee and implement activities and education that celebrated the city's centennial and commemorated the 1905 founding of the Las Vegas community. Since this time, the commission has awarded over 100 grants for local projects that encourage preservation and facilitate the education, commemoration, preservation and enhancement of historic resources in Las Vegas. In Fiscal Year 2021, the commission awarded a total of \$1,322,317.60 in grants; some highlighted projects include:

The City of Las Vegas Documentary Series

Part III of the documentary film series, "The city of Las Vegas" premiered on May 15th at the downtown Art Houz Theater while simultaneously airing on KCLV Channel 2, and streamed via kclv.tv/live, and the city's Facebook and Twitter pages. Part III highlighted the decade of the 1930s, which featured how the Hoover Dam, gambling, weddings, divorces and more helped shape the city. Part I of the documentary was released May 15, 2019, and focused on the founding and first 20 years of the community; part II was released May 15, 2020, and focused on the 1920s. All Parts of the series were produced by Boyd Productions LLC and can be viewed on the city's YouTube page.

Part I: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czyMm5DdqAY

Part II: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OONsTqLcP0Q

Part III: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZEI3fhUzzM

Home & History 2020 Tour

The Nevada Preservation Foundation produced the Home & History 2020 tour, which included educational programming in regards to the city's history. The event was comprised of neighborhood walking tours, bike tours of historic neighborhoods, and self-drive guided tours of vintage homes in Las Vegas. Each tour highlighted the preservation and revitalization of historic buildings throughout the city, including differing styles of architecture and the architects who played key roles in their development. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the events were primality offered online in a virtual format, with only small socially distancing groups attending the in-person walking and biking tours. https://nevadapreservation.org/hhlv2020/

Las Vegas Academy of the Arts Renovations

The Las Vegas Academy of the Arts, formerly Las Vegas High School, completed renovations on the campus's auditorium entryway. The original 1954 diamond breezeblock wall in front of the auditorium was repaired and repainted, as was the original high school auditorium sign. In addition, historic plaques were installed in front of the auditorium, each highlighting events significant to Las Vegas High School, Las Vegas Academy of the Arts, and the Las Vegas Community.

The Mob Museum

The Mob Museum purchased and outfitted a vehicle in graphic Mob Museum wrap for use in the museum's educational outreach programming. This vehicle provides hands-on educational apparatuses and materials and allows museum staff to reach students, seniors and local communities who are otherwise unable to travel to the museum, thus bringing the educational benefits of the museum to them.



Las Vegas Days Parade

The 2021 Las Vegas Days Parade was held on May 15, 2021 and included several high school bands, high school academic clubs, artistic acts and other entertainers. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the parade was conducted as a "reverse parade" whereas the parade participants were stationary along 3rd Street between Garces Avenue and Charleston Boulevard, while spectators remained within the safety of their personal vehicles as each drove past the bands and acts. <u>https://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Government/Boards-Commissions/Centennial-Grants/Las-Vegas-Days-Parade</u>









NEW TEXT AMENDMENTS

The Department of Planning brought forward 27 new text amendments into the Las Vegas Municipal Code and Unified Development Code for Fiscal Year 2021. These amendments focused on streamlining processes that would positively impact constituents and the business community. Below are some noteworthy amendments adopted this fiscal year:

- **Cannabis**-This amendment eliminated the requirement of a compliance permit, yielding a more efficient application process; added a provision that allows cannabis businesses to provide services via a drive-thru option; and replaced use of the term "marijuana" with the industry standard "cannabis."
- **Complimentary Alcoholic Beverage Permit**-Businesses such as cosmetology establishments, barbershops, and art galleries can now apply for a Complimentary Alcoholic Beverage Permit that allows complimentary beer and wine to be served at their respective business in conjunction with their licensed business activity.
- **Expungement**-Under certain requirements, a property owner is now able to request voluntarily expungement of an existing or approved land use. This expungement will allow for a more effective process by which certain parcels of land are selected for development.
- **Special Use Permit Minor Amendment Review**–If an approved Special Use Permit is being modified, under certain conditions, administrative approval will allow for these modifications to be reviewed in a timely manner in an effort to expedite the review process.
- Las Vegas Brewery Row Liquor Waiver–This amendment provides a waiver of origination fees for certain alcohol licenses within Las Vegas Brewery Row; thus, providing an appealing incentive for businesses to develop their concepts in this bustling and exciting Downtown Las Vegas area.
- Alcohol Delivery Support Service–Establishments that hold an alcohol license for off-premise alcohol sales now have the ability to have their alcoholic products delivered to customers by a licensed third party; thereby allowing them to enhance their product offerings to reach a wider customer base.
- Nightclub and General Entertainment Establishments-Businesses interested in offering a component of live entertainment, such as live comedy shows, will now have the option to obtain a General Entertainment Establishment license. Additionally, this text amendment distinguishes businesses that are true nightclub operations from businesses that offer entertainment incidental to their primary business activity. As businesses continue to adapt in an ever-changing business climate, this new business license category provides an option for businesses to expand their business model.



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SNAPSHOT: DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

SUBDIVISION LOTS PROCESSED





50,000 r 45,000 40,000 35,000 **DWELLING** 30,000 UNIT GROWTH 25,000 **BY WARD** 20,000 15,000 10.000 5,000 0 Ward 1 2008 37.557 2018 40,459 2019 40,671 2020 40,659

26

Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward6
41,333	34,979	42,315	36,993	42,574
45,537	36,239	43,626	37,417	45,705
46,025	36,238	44,021	37,510	47,010
46,644	36,244	44,676	37,687	47,785



POPULATION GROWTH BY WARD

Las Vegas City Council (FY21)

Carolyn G. Goodman, Mayor Brian Knudsen, Ward 1, Councilman Victoria Seaman, Ward 2, Councilwoman Olivia Diaz, Ward 3, Councilwoman Starvos S. Anthony, Ward 4, Councilman Cedric Crear, Ward 5, Councilman Michele Fiore, Ward 6, Councilwoman

City Management (FY21)

Jorge Cervantes, City Manager Tom Perrigo, Chief Operations and Development Officer Gary Ameling, Chief Financial Officer Lisa Morris-Hibbler, Chief Community Services Officer Timothy Hacker, Chief Public Safety Services Officer Michael Janssen, Executive Director, Public Works, Operations and Maintenance

Planning Commission (FY21)

Louis De Salvio, Chairman Trinity Haven Schlottman, Vice Chair Sam Cherry, Commissioner Jeff Rogan, Commissioner Sigal Chattah, Commissioner Donna Toussaint, Commissioner Anthony Williams, Commissioner



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