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A Rare Opportunity

University of Dayton

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A Rare Opportunity

The University of Dayton and Premier Health have selected an Ohio-based master planning firm, planning NEXT, to develop a community-minded vision for 38 acres on South Main Street, the former home of the Montgomery County fairgrounds.

In coming months, the planning process for transforming the property—“Fairgrounds to Future: Transforming for Tomorrow”—will yield opportunities for meaningful input from individuals, community groups and other stakeholders. One opportunity for public input will be an interactive workshop, to be held at 6 p.m. Nov. 2 at the former fairgrounds. The workshop also will be an occasion for representatives of both institutions and planning NEXT to share details of the five-month planning process.

A second workshop is planned for early 2018, with a goal to complete the master plan by spring.

“Redeveloping this 38 acres is a rare opportunity to advance the community-minded missions of both Premier Health and the University of Dayton in a meaningful way on the doorstep of..."
downtown Dayton,” said Mary Boosalis, president and CEO of Premier Health. “Our work with planning NEXT will be deliberate, thoughtful, and inclusive, and we also intend to move with speed so that this property can reinforce the momentum of revitalization efforts in the city’s core.”

The public also will be able to share thoughts about the property’s future through a new interactive website: fairgroundstofuture.org.

“This property served as a community destination for more than 160 years as home to the Montgomery County fairgrounds,” said Eric F. Spina, president of the University of Dayton. “As anchor institutions, we’re committed to working with planning NEXT to build upon our missions and values in a way that ensures this property continues to offer a strong, authentic sense of place and serve broad community interests.”

planning NEXT was chosen from several planning teams based upon its track record of public engagement, innovative urban design, economic strategy and analysis, and ability to craft a space that supports and complements culturally rich communities. The firm was carefully vetted, and was selected from a field of 10 teams with expertise in world-class urban design, planning, architecture, real estate and economic development.

About the University of Dayton
The University of Dayton is a top-tier, national, Catholic, research university with offerings from the undergraduate to the doctoral levels. Founded in 1850 by the Society of Mary, the University is a diverse community committed to advancing the common good through intellectual curiosity, academic rigor, community engagement and local, national and global partnerships. Guided by the Marianist educational philosophy, we educate the whole person and link learning and scholarship with leadership and service. udayton.edu.

About Premier Health
Based in Dayton, Ohio, Premier Health has a mission to improve the health of the communities it serves. The health system operates four hospitals: Miami Valley Hospital with an additional site at Miami Valley Hospital South; Good Samaritan Hospital; Atrium Medical Center; and Upper Valley Medical Center. In addition, the health system offers a
large primary and specialty care network, along with home health services. The health system is the second largest employer in the region and is the largest health-care system in Southwest Ohio. premierhealth.com

**About planning NEXT**

*Planning NEXT* is a nationally-recognized community planning firm based in Columbus, Ohio. For 20 years the firm has helped communities come together and create plans to move them forward. This includes neighborhoods with strong anchor institutions. The firm’s work is grounded in a philosophy that brings people together with a shared sense of purpose to develop feasible, quality-of-place plans. Many of these plans have been awarded the highest level of professional recognition. *planning NEXT* will lead a consulting team practice leaders in urban design, development economics, market feasibility, and implementation team. planning-next.com

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The planning process for the redevelopment of the former Montgomery County fairgrounds has entered a new phase.