2020 by the numbers

Promoting Equity

- Began to bring communities into the planning process that had historically been omitted.
- Engaged employees to identify and address instances of systemic racism past and present.
- Secured funding for a pilot project to survey historic and cultural resources at a neighborhood level.
- Recruited small and minority contractors for home improvement contracts.

Responding to COVID

- Emergency Rental Assistance
  - 9,086 households
  - $41.8 million
- While working remotely
  - 2,607 permits processed
  - 767 appeals processed
  - 850+ cases heard by ZBA
  - 89 bills written or reviewed
  - 50 Civic Design project reviews
- Connected developers with government agencies to keep projects moving.

Investing in Communities

- Worked with community to design traffic safety and public space improvements at Broad/Germantown/Erie.
- Began computer modeling study to use public land in Eastwick to mitigate flooding.
- Capital improvements to support Central Germantown business district.
- Land Care program: 12,920 parcels cared for.
- 104 community garden agreements signed.
- Connected developers with government agencies to keep projects moving.

Planning and Zoning

- Launched Zoning Summary App that shows by-right options for every property in Philadelphia.
- Provided best practices to help RCOs hold remote community meetings.
- 52 properties added to Philadelphia Historic Register.

Supporting Housing for All Income Levels

- Evictions diverted: 370.
- Homes preserved through repair programs: 3,799.
- Produced/Preserved: 489 affordable homes; 742 homes under construction.
- Launched a “Housing Helper” app that lists all programs a resident might be eligible for.
- 21 new affordable homes and $3.5+ million contributed through Mixed Income Housing Bonus projects.
- 1,895 Philly First Home first-time homebuyer grants.
- Average grant: $9,028.

Supporting Development

- Osage/Pine homes rehabbed by minority developer into workforce housing: 36.
- Construction projects worth $27.5 million bid, managed and/or completed by PHDC: 34.
- RFPs will produce homes on city-owned land: 9.
- 600+ Requests for help with residential, retail and commercial development answered.

philagov/plan-develop phdcphila.org
The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all Philadelphians, but particularly the most vulnerable. The once-hidden challenges many of our neighbors face are now there for all to see.

In 2021 we must do more than recover. To go beyond recovery the Department of Planning and Development will:

- promote equity and inclusion
- support our most vulnerable residents
- increase access to and the efficiency of its programs

Promote Equity and Inclusion

Led by the City Planning Commission, DPD will create an outreach strategy to engage residents and communities who have been ignored in past planning efforts.

DPD and the Philadelphia Historical Commission will begin a process to identify, document, and preserve historic and cultural resources citywide, especially in neighborhoods outside of traditional historic areas and explore new means to recognize that history.

DPD’s Division of Development Services will promote the City’s inclusive growth goals by connecting available resources to projects that support neighborhood-based job creation.

Support our Most Vulnerable Residents

PHDC will distribute nearly $100 million in rental and utility assistance to residents affected by the COVID pandemic.

The Division of Housing and Community Development’s foreclosure and eviction prevention programs will help keep residents in their homes and prevent homelessness.

DPD and PHDC will continue to produce new affordable homes and preserve existing ones.

PHDC will leverage vacant land to support affordable housing, community open space and business expansion.

Increase Access and Efficiency

DPD will improve the efficiency and transparency of the Zoning Board of Adjustment to support the creation of new jobs and homes.

DPD will enable more residents to apply to its programs remotely through smart phone-compatible online applications.

DPD will collaborate with partner agencies to support economic development with streamlined electronic review and approval processes.