# COLUMBUS NEIGHBORHOOD TOURS

Wednesday evening, 4:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

**Weinland Park**

The area that now constitutes Weinland Park developed as a mixture of industrial properties along the railroad tracks which serve as the neighborhood’s eastern boundary, and residences for the factory employees. A strong manufacturing sector provided employment to many area residents and helped Weinland Park to become a stable working class neighborhood in the early and mid-1900’s. To this day Weinland Park, by and large, retains its roots as a working class community.

Like so many urban neighborhoods, Weinland Park saw a decline in home ownership and stability following World War II as families left the urban core for the suburbs. This out-migration, partnered with industrial decline, led to decades of disinvestment, concentrated poverty, and increased crime in the community. By 1990, Weinland Park had one of the highest concentrations of subsidized housing in the county and suffered from rising unemployment along with gang and drug activity.

Since the mid-1990’s, renewed attention and investment has been focused on the Weinland Park neighborhood by public, private, and non-profit organizations. The Weinland Park Collaborative, a partnership of more than a dozen agencies and organizations, has worked for the past several years with residents and the Weinland Park Community Civic Association to improve the neighborhood, jointly support projects, leverage assets, and meet the needs of the community. In November 2012, the Weinland Park Collaborative was selected by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as one of three partners nationwide to receive funding to support programs and services for children and families in vulnerable neighborhoods.

**King Lincoln/ Near East**

The King-Lincoln District is steeped in history. It lies within the greater Near East Side; it overlaps and is adjacent to both historical and recent neighborhood boundaries. Initially established as an elite area on the outskirts of the City of Columbus, by the 1930s and ‘40s, downtown Columbus’ near east side was home to an affluent African-American business and entertainment district. At the time, segregation actually fueled the commercial and cultural development of the area, as African-American consumers could only patronize the African-American businesses in the neighborhood. As a result, a thriving, self-sufficient community developed which celebrated its cultural heritage and created its own opportunity.

Later, the landscape and economics of the King-Lincoln District changed dramatically as desegregation and public policy encouraged middle-class flight and promoted demolition and redevelopment of certain areas within or near the KLD. Since 2001, Mayor Coleman and the City of Columbus have been dedicated to the re-development and revitalization of the King-Lincoln District on Columbus’ Near East Side.