

# University to play role in redevelopment project

BY LA'EL HUGHES  
*The Jambar*

YSU will be at the center of Youngstown's urban renewal, several members of the Youngstown 2010 committee said.

Youngstown 2010 is a committee-formed project that follows two strategic plans created in 1957 and 1974. Members of the committee said they pro-

vide a comprehensive guide to maintain Youngstown's positive attributes while revitalizing the city's decaying areas.

"YSU shares in the vision created by the city of Youngstown and will work hand and hand with the objectives created by the city by creating a master plan for the university reflecting the city's objectives," said University President David Sweet, a mem-

ber of the committee.

The committee's project addresses issues such as Youngstown's place in a changing economy, realizing the city's limitations and improving Youngstown's image. The plan will be introduced to the public at 7 p.m. Dec. 16 at Stambaugh Auditorium.

Youngstown Mayor George McKelvey and Sweet

will be at the city's official unveiling of the plan, and each will help to introduce a few key elements.

There are some general questions listed in the committee plan pertaining specifically to YSU's relationship with the city: How do we convince faculty and students to stay in Youngstown? How does [Youngstown] keep students in the area once they graduate?

How [can we] link YSU's teachings with the needs of the local economy?

Jay Williams, director of Community Development Planning, said one of the most important groups for Youngstown 2010 would be YSU students.

"We want students to stay here," Williams said. "All the reasons that a student might

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leave Youngstown after they graduate, we want to eliminate those reasons."

Sweet said a few of the specific details of the plan might include YSU receiving expansions in its medical curriculum. The Y-2010 project calls for continued development around St. Elizabeth Health Center.

This would give YSU an opportunity to participate in the increased development in the city's human health services by producing more projects and programs where YSU students can work along side with the medical community.

"Human health services is a growing area and we can be apart of that growth," Sweet said.

With continued expansion in and around the hospital, Sweet said the university may be able to provide more course offerings and projects for YSU medical students to help meet the needs made available from the project.

Sweet said some of the developments around the city's North Side might include building up a residential area for the doctors and medical students.

"The developments that the 2010 project wish to put in place could be compared to that of the Cleveland Clinic area, where that area has developed a series of medical institutions and quality residential areas," Sweet said.

Said Williams: "It is possible that the city's North Side will become a medical corridor."

Tom Finnerty, associate

director for YSU Urban Studies, said YSU has been a part of the Youngstown 2010 project since the beginning of its inception. Finnerty has been one of many YSU officials that has been involved and sat on the committee since the early planning stages.

"YSU has been with the city through the whole process," Finnerty said. "We were apart of the selection process for the committee and we have been a part of the vision."

Finnerty said that after the meeting on Dec. 16 the actual implementation for the project might not occur until May 2003.

Chief Planner Anthony Kobak said some of the projects might include simple plans, such as fixing windows of buildings and acquiring tax delinquent properties.

While Williams said much of the plan is still in its visionary stage, much of the funding for Y-2010 is already accessible.

"We have hundreds of millions already," Williams said. "What the university and the city will have to do is re-prioritize where their money will go.

"So the money is already there, but some state monies will need to be secured."

Bill D'Avignon, deputy director of Planning, agreed with Williams.

He said he hopes the project will make Youngstown attractive and most of all competitive for students.

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