Wherever you are, there’s the URA.
HERE WE ARE.
IN HERE.
OVER HERE.
A bold new vision for Pittsburgh

Your neighborhood bistro. Your favorite bike trail. Your go-to shopping spot. The roof over your head. Everywhere you look, the URA is a big part of the picture.

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) is many things to many people. But most of all, we are a resource for getting things done. With an ethos of innovation and a strategic vision for Pittsburgh grounded in stability and sustainability, the URA’s influence can be felt everywhere there’s excitement, energy, growth, jobs and people.

WHO WE ARE

The URA’s Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship provided 50 loans/grants totaling $40 million with $10 million of URA investment. (2006-2012)

$418 million of direct investment in economic development projects leveraged over $1 billion dollars in total project costs that created or retained 6,983 jobs. (2006-2013)

814 million in Tax Increment Financing to create $520 million in total investment. This has created or retained over 3,579 new jobs in the City of Pittsburgh. (2006-2012)

Housing development projects totaling $545 million were initiated, creating 4,024 housing units with $138 million of URA investment. (2006-2012)

URA-financed housing units will generate an estimated $97 million or a $3.9 million increase in annual City/School District tax. (2006-2012)

URA provided approximately $9.4 million in loans and grants to rehabilitate 611 housing units and approximately $20.3 million in mortgage loans for the purchase of 422 housing units. (2006-2012)

Since 2006, the URA has leveraged $345 million in Tax Increment Financing to create $2 billion in total investment. This has created or retained over 3,579 new jobs in the City of Pittsburgh. (2006-2012)

Housing development projects totaling $545 million were initiated, creating 4,024 housing units with $138 million of URA investment. (2006-2012)

SPARKING ECONOMIC AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

We understand how people want to live in today’s cities and what makes a region grow. As times change and new challenges or opportunities arise, the URA is poised to move Pittsburgh forward in two areas: economic development and housing development.

From funding basic home improvements to spiffing up storefronts to dramatically transforming entire neighborhoods, big things are happening. You can see them everywhere.

URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH

The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) is the City of Pittsburgh’s economic development agency, committed to creating jobs, expanding the City’s tax base and improving the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods. The URA achieves this mission by assembling, preparing and conveying sites for major mixed-use developments; and by providing a portfolio of programs that include financing for business location, relocation and expansion, housing construction and rehabilitation, and home purchases and improvements.
We make Pittsburgh livable

The time has come for Pittsburgh to shine. With main street business districts booming, “old” neighborhoods like Lawrenceville, East Liberty and the Strip District are suddenly new again. And “new” neighborhoods like Summerset at Frick Park, Federal Hill and Crawford Square are redefining the modern, vibrant urban lifestyle.

Making our City livable—not just to the list-makers but to the people who actually call it home—is the goal of the URA. And when a city is livable, good things follow. Tax revenue grows. Property value grows. Pride grows.

GROWING OUR GREEN REPUTATION

With the URA’s Sustainability and Green Design Policy, we are keeping Pittsburgh front and center when it comes to environmentally responsible planning and innovation.

From news stories touting Pittsburgh’s embrace of green technology and innovation to its return appearance year after year on just about everybody’s list of best places to live, there’s a new momentum you can see and feel.
ATTRACTING AND RETAINING A STRONG WORK FORCE

If Pittsburgh works, it’s because we keep enough of our young talent here and attract exceptional employees from other places. But we could do better. And we will.

From bike trails to coffee shops to popular retailers within walking distance of where you live and work...we’re working on it. Maintaining and improving the local flavor of Pittsburgh’s urban neighborhoods...we’re working on it. Helping small business owners take off and making sure big players get into the game...the URA is working on it. And that’s why Pittsburgh works.
**FUNDING THE DREAM**

Economic development that changes lives

All too often, developers and small businesses find themselves in an uphill battle trying to put together financing. So they decide it’s easier to give up rather than tackle yet another hurdle or overcome still one more roadblock. And when projects stall out or go under, nobody benefits. That’s not acceptable.

The URA is here to get things done. We are the bridge, the helping hand or the pedal to the metal for people who have a vision for improving our City.

**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LENDERS**

Through strategic lending to developers and small businesses, we close the gap and bring projects to life.

First, we conduct a thorough analysis of a project’s potential for success, its ability to make a positive impact on a neighborhood and its alignment with the goals and objectives of the community it will call home. If the project meets these objectives, the URA steps in to help out.

**ACQUIRING AND PREPARING SITES FOR DEVELOPMENT**

If we believe that developing a brownfield, abandoned or other underutilized site could positively transform a neighborhood, we may purchase that site ourselves and prepare it for development.

The URA is always ready to proactively acquire locations that could enhance a community’s vision of where it wants to go.

“We located in Garfield because that’s where we found the perfect space and the URA helped us every step of the way. We may have been pioneers when we first opened in Garfield, but today, it’s way beyond a renaissance. The streets are still packed with activity at 10:30 at night where there used to be only dark storefronts. We’ve blown our initial projections out of the water by more than 50 percent.”

Kevin Sousa
Chef, Co-Owner
SALT OF THE EARTH
SALTPGH.COM
Employs: 20
Locally Owned
Opened September 2010

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**TOP TEN TOTAL PROJECT COSTS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEALS ($581 MILLION)**

- Three PNC Plaza: $175 MIL
- Bakery Square: $130 MIL
- Piatt Place: $83 MIL
- Eastside V-Target: $46 MIL
- Bridgeside Point II: $46 MIL
- Market Square Place: $37 MIL
- American Eagle: $21 MIL
- Pittsburgh Technology Center Garage: $17 MIL
- Eastside II: $34 MIL
- South Shore Riverfront Park: $13 MIL

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URA: THE URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF PITTSBURGH
Bakery Square, in Pittsburgh’s heavily populated East End, is a trailblazing lifestyle center environment at the former Nabisco Bakery location. An abandoned industrial site designated “blighted” in 2006, Bakery Square today brings a unique urban aesthetic to the neighborhood by integrating historic architecture with sustainable new construction. It includes retail, dining, hotel, fitness and office space that has spurred new excitement and complements the more than $500 million in investments in the East Liberty and Larimer neighborhoods. Bakery Square is also home to the newest offices of Google, a major employment magnet for young people graduating from the nearby University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. Google currently employs 275.

Bakery Square is also home to UPMC Technology Development Center, CMU Software Engineering Institute, VA Human Engineering Research Laboratory and Pitt SHRS — bring high playing technology jobs to the area. Due to the overwhelming success of Bakery Square, the developers have embarked on Bakery Square 2.0 which will feature over 400 new apartment and townhomes and 400,000 square feet of new Class A office space.

“The URA quarterbacked this entire project. Their involvement very early on made all the difference. When you look at the amount of public money spent, the return on investment is immeasurable. The effect of Google opening an office here and then doubling its space is already great, but it’s nothing compared to what it will be. Without the URA, this project would have been a shadow of what it is today.”

Todd Reidbord
President
WALNUT CAPITAL
MANAGEMENT, INC.
Housing development strengthens neighborhoods

In addition to helping finance commercial development, the URA invests in places people want to live. In other words, high-quality, affordable housing. Working with developers, we help bring residential properties to life that have a sense of place and belonging within the larger community. Whether for sale or rent, housing development is part of the URA’s strategy to attract more people to the City and make them feel right at home.

TARGETING DEVELOPING NEIGHBORHOODS

The URA also invests in qualified homeowners who want to purchase or improve homes within the City limits. We fill the gaps between what the bank will lend and what the homeowner needs.

By focusing our resources on neighborhoods where the market could use a boost, the URA has been and will continue to be a valuable resource for countless homeowners who contribute so much to the fabric and character of the City of Pittsburgh.

“The URA has helped us have that critical conversation about what a sustainable community looks like—a community of tomorrow, not just of today. From our community garden, to a community oven through our projected new housing developments, we are allowing the residents to stake out an equity claim in their neighborhood.”

Malik Bankston
Executive Director
KINGSLEY ASSOCIATION

“In our neighborhood, URA funded development is contributing to the crime rates going down, the blighted properties disappearing and the feeling that together, we’re building a safer community. People should live with pride and dignity, and the URA is helping us ensure that. Success is gradual, but it is absolutely happening right before our very eyes.”

Aggie Brose
Deputy Director
BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORP.
Community Development

BLOOMFIELD, EAST LIBERTY, GARFIELD, LARIMER

Neighborhoods that have struggled in recent decades to attract and keep residents are once again attractive places to live. For the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, URA support has come in numerous ways, including the formation of its Homeownership Choice Project, which is creating demand for 50 new homes that are selling as quickly as they can be built. Bringing new, high-quality rental units to the area is also a priority, as is pushing the positive momentum of its recent North Fairmont home rehabs further into Garfield. For East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI), URA support has come in the form of helping ELDI take control of every abandoned or vacant property in the neighborhood, rescue 337 rental units from negligent landlords and strategically plan for the development of new construction that has seen the neighborhood’s highest home price go from $150,000 in 2002 to $340,000 in 2011. For the Kingsley Association in Larimer, URA support has helped create a 20-year Vision & Land Use Plan that encompasses everything from infrastructure and housing to green space, density, stormwater management and neighborhood retail development.

“We thought we’d end up buying a classic old Pittsburgh house. But when we heard about the Garfield Homeownership Choice program through the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, we took a look. The home was brand new and beautiful. Given the amazing location just a block from my daughters’ Waldorf School, and with green space that you rarely find in Garfield, we were sold. The URA helped us get a second deferred mortgage and today, I feel so connected to this neighborhood and thrilled that we found this home.”

Zuleikha Bjork
Garfield Homeowner
Since August 2010

“AT HOME IN THE CITY” by Zuleikha Bjork
Harnessing Pittsburgh’s green power

“Going green” has brought a lot of green to Pittsburgh. One of the URA’s top priorities is to keep the green money flowing in, in terms of investment capital and development.

Pittsburgh’s growing reputation for sustainable building and land use practices has garnered national and international press. The URA has played a large role in helping Pittsburgh pump up its green stats and, in 2011, had almost two-dozen green projects in the works.

Today, the URA’s Sustainability and Green Design Policy includes all aspects of our activities from day-to-day office operations to the development of large-scale mixed-use developments. All new URA-funded residential construction must earn the ENERGY STAR® rating and the URA strives to include “green” aspects in every project and across all lines of our business.

GREEN GROWS OUR ECONOMY

An emphasis on sustainable practices has paid off for Pittsburgh and will continue to do so in a big way.

It makes good economic sense for businesses for so many reasons; it lowers operating costs, increases health and productivity, reduces absenteeism and brings higher rental and retail sales rates.

“Developing SouthSide Works on an old steel mill raised numerous issues like stormwater management and capping the slag under the site. But the extra money and effort paid off. To make it happen, we needed the URA and they needed us. Ultimately, our joint vision came to life with a truly unique shopping and entertainment destination, plenty of public access to the river and 35 acres of developed space that includes the global headquarters of American Eagle Outfitters.”

Mabon Lichtenfels
Former Vice President of Construction
Soffer Organization
SouthSide Works
Employs: 2,700
Opened 2002-2004
330,000 sq. ft. of specialty retail, restaurant, hotel and apartment space
700,000 sq. ft. of office space
“Because of the sheer size and scope of this project, we worked with multiple mayoral administrations over more than a decade. The one constant was the URA. Of our 240 acres, we’ve remediated and returned 110 back to the City as parks, bike trails and stream crossings. Our standards for this project have even been adapted by the U.S. Green Building Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to sustainable building design and construction and developers of the LEED building rating system.”

Craig Dunham
President
DUNHAM REGROUP, LLC
HOWDY, PARTNER

NOBODY SHOULD GO IT ALONE

The URA always works in partnership with other lenders and developers because we believe it’s through teamwork and shared ideals that the best things happen.

We don’t go it alone, and neither should you. When a developer, business owner or homeowner partners with the URA, we all work together and suddenly, it’s a go.

Developers get their financing. Families get their dream home. Small business owners set up shop. Large employers get the kind of building people want to work in and live near. And everybody shares in the pride of creating something special.

“The URA partners with us to do the challenging deals that we could never do on our own—then we do the rest. Without the URA at the table, we would not be seeing the kind of transformation we have now in East Liberty.”
Maelene Myers
Executive Director
EAST LIBERTY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

“The URA required continuing partnership to advance the Summert at Frick Park project, secure financing and keep adjusting the scope to make it the best it could be.”
Craig Dunham
President
DUNHAM REGROUP, LLC

“I know that working with the URA is not our fathers’ URA. Today’s URA is not only interested in deals, but most importantly, in where and how the deal develops. They partner with us to support the growth of ideas at the neighborhood level in unique and special ways. They have put ‘community’ back into community development.”
Malik Bankston
Executive Director
KINGSLEY ASSOCIATION

“The URA has partnered with us for decades. Together, we began the Manchester revitalization in the 1980s. Along with the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, they literally saved the neighborhood. They are critical to any neighborhood development strategy and are one of the most respected public authorities in the country.”
Stanley Lowe
Former Managing Director
MANCHESTER CITIZENS CORP.

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We have been partnering with the URA since Bob O’Connor was mayor. They went through their whole menu of what they could do for us and Bakery Square would never have achieved its full potential without the URA as partners. A public-private partnership is the only way this project could get done.”
Todd Reidbord
President
WALNUT CAPITAL MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC

“The URA is very forward-thinking and open minded. They introduced us to some great investment prospects. They are a great partner and are aligned with our goal of being a viable young tech company that is creating jobs and recruiting young people from the local university system.”
Tom Costa
Chief Operating Officer
SHOWCLIX, INC.

“The URA is very responsive, professional and pragmatic partner. On our Federal Hill residential project, they had a ‘let’s get this done, let’s be flexible’ attitude, but they were still strong monitors of the funds. With them, it wasn’t an open checkbook. But they believed in our project and made it happen.”
Andy Haines
Vice President
S & A HOMES AFFORDABLE HOUSING DIVISION

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Former Managing Director
MANCHESTER CITIZENS CORP.
“The URA is basically our extended staff. That’s the kind of partner they are. Do we always agree? No. But without the staff at the URA, not one of our projects would have happened. They live and breathe ‘partnership’ and they have utterly transformed these neighborhoods.”

Aggie Brose
Deputy Director
BLOOMFIELD-GARFIELD CORPORATION

“The most impressive thing about the URA is that they are a strategy partner, not just a deal funder. They sit at the table and help us work through large strategic issues and are deeply invested all the way through the process.”

Steve Mosites
President
THE MOSITES COMPANY

“The URA was a very responsive partner. They guided us through the process of opening a Downtown business and at every step, when we’d submit something, they’d get back to us immediately and always keep us informed of where things stood.”

Alexis Shaffer
Co-Owner
21ST STREET COFFEE

“We have always had a very good, cooperative relationship with the URA. It’s a strong public-private partnership that also gives the local communities a voice in the process. In the end, the result is well worth the time it took to get there.”

Mabon Lichtenfels
Former Vice President of Construction
SOFFER ORGANIZATION

“In the past, it has been challenging to develop Downtown, but it’s turning around thanks to the URA. They were the common denominator to the success of all our projects in the City.”

Lucas Piatt
Chief Operating Officer
MILLCRAFT INDUSTRIES, INC.

“The URA lent us money to build it out, helped me develop the business plan and gave us leeway on our payments in the early days, as we started up. They had faith in me and what we wanted to do. There is so much energy in the area now and the URA partnership is the only reason it’s happening.”

Kevin Sousa
Chef & Co-Owner
SALT OF THE EARTH

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You are the URA.

If you live, work or play in Pittsburgh, the URA touches your life.

By giving shape and form to the collective vision of everyday people, in proud urban neighborhoods, the URA is your voice.

By transforming Downtown and giving rise to a bold new vision for Pittsburgh, the URA is your catalyst.

By working to protect the environment we all share and holding ourselves to a high standard of sustainability and stewardship, the URA is your resource.

To learn more about the URA, visit URA.org/everywhere