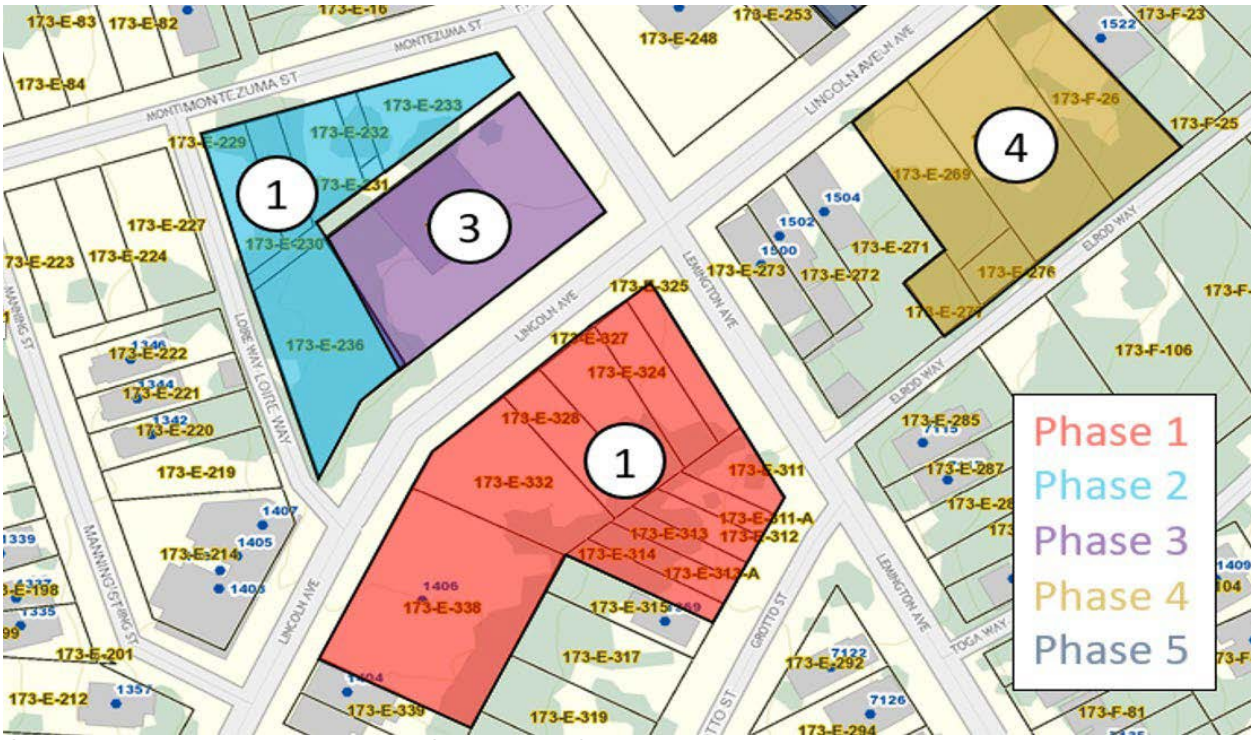
School of Architecture
College of Fine Arts, CFA 201
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213




*Student Team: Brandt Evans, Anlin Li, Sheldon Pei, Clara Torres*

48-725: Real Estate Design & Development
Units: 9 or 12
Instructor: Valentina Vavasis

This course teaches the fundamentals of real estate development in the U.S. You will learn about the real estate development process and the social, economic, and regulatory context in which land use and development take place. We will learn about project team members and processes; market research; site constraints and zoning; basic project budgeting and types of funding sources. We will also touch upon social equity issues related to land use, including affordable housing, racial segregation, and economic inequality. The course typically includes international students which also allows us to learn from each other and compare real estate and land use issues in various countries.

The primary objective of this course is for students to understand how these issues may affect their professional lives, whether they become designers, contractors, engineers, public policy professionals, or real estate developers.

This course includes learning terminology, reading current news articles, and completing a team project, typically with a Pittsburgh-based client. Students will have the first two weeks of class to select 9 or 12 credits; 12 credit students will complete additional work.

*Open to graduate students from all schools*
*Undergraduates with instructor permission only*