

3/4/10 **Built Environment Momentum team meeting**

Those in attendance: Irasema Garcia, Georgette Gomez, Rich Magurn, Virginia Angeles, Branden Butler, Kathleen Ferrier, Jeanette Neeley, Steve Silverman, Sheila Mitra Sakar, Axel Montepeque, Karen Suri, Mandy Dittman, Lindsay Goodwin, Saima Bahramzi, Steve Sullivan, Diana Ross, Michelle Luellen, Wendy Hope

Agenda:

Welcome and intros
Review of Last meeting
Outcome prioritization
Fan out Process
Community Concerns

Summary of last meeting:

Anti-racism and discussion of the built environment and the history of City Heights: the building of freeways, densification, and its relationship as to why City Heights looks the way that it does now.

Outcome prioritization

Have been collecting data and concerns relating to the built environment. We have been spending much more time on Outcome #4 than Outcome #8. We could do number 4 and bring in #8 (job creation) as part of a community plan that we are creating.

We need to make sure that we really focus on discussion, because silence does not mean consensus.

Outcome #4 Residents live in communities with Health Promoting land use transportation and community development

Outcome #8 Community Health Improvements are linked to Economic Development

Discussion:

Both of these issues are interrelated. If someone is able to have a job then they are able to have the energy and the empowerment because they have met the basic needs in their life. (farming jobs) There are a lot of ideas that people really want: Talapia fish farm, skate park, community center, fixing sidewalks and lighting. Basic needs to be developed is to have a job. Stability and capacity building, and then we can begin to get some things accomplished down the line.

There is a lot of progress here in City Heights in regards to gardens. There can be support for projects that are already in place and we can just put a kick in some of these who are already moving. We should decide in priorities for these existing projects.

The job creation situation in City Heights is primarily recent immigrants who don't have a broad range of skills so if we focus on outcome 8 it's all focusing on green jobs because

the initiatives out there are focused on community colleges. This isn't something that we want to focus on because if you look at outcome four it all relates to building something that is possible in this community: if you don't have the right land uses then you can't build a fish farm you can't build a light manufacturing facility.

Even through safety you can create more jobs. If you create more jobs then you create more safety because there are more eyes on the street. If you improve transportation then you increase access to jobs. Land use: southern part of city heights where there are larger parcels: maybe a warehouse or light manufacturing opportunity

There are no other momentum teams that may be addressing jobs.

There has been some random conversations here and there about starting a momentum team that would be looking at workforce, jobs, job training in the community.

Land use, permits, and zoning is a good opportunity. We also have a lot of vacancies here. Translators College, acculturation classes. Keep jobs in this community. When they can go into the clinics and the courts, they need interpretation. These jobs are very high paid skilled jobs. We have talent and skill that we would like to use.

I'd like to move on with this conversation and this agenda because we have decided up to this point that we want to engage in the community. I think that this is a false distinction at this point.

It's important to put the built environment process into the rest of the building healthy community process. So we don't need to go backwards. We may not need to go through the logic model process and just skip to the end, which is capacity building.

At some point in the education process if there is a solution (some of the solutions have been already outlined in previous planning processes)

We need to take both 4 and see how we can connect them to 8 have our plan, and present them to the residents, but I think that it's important to start with 4 because it connects with all of our concerns as well as how it connects with 8

Do we have to pick an outcome?

Do we have to define what this means?

These definitions have been preset and are in the language of the Endowment, not of the community. We should decide what this means and what it means for the community. If we were to move ahead with 4 and these definitions from the survey are tied to the built environment. We don't really need a definition because we took the information from the data which makes this more clearly.

Land use and all of these issues are not within the parameters of what people inside city heights can do themselves. We have had to send these out. This is part of capacity

building. We want to be able to make what we want happen here without having to look outside of the community.

We're looking at health promoting land use, not just land use
Economic development always needs to look at improving the health of the community.

Picking number 4 as our outcome of focus with the understanding that economic development is inside this outcome. It was unanimous to agree on voting for this outcome.

Based on last meeting, the idea is to move the group into more capacity building for the residents. Taking information from the survey and going deeper with the idea that we can go into different community places and share this information it means a lot of things with different people. To define it and spend a little bit of time to where are these gathering spaces and focusing on capacity building and a menu of opportunities for the group that will be guiding this process.

These types of settings (meetings such as the one that we are in now) are not always good to engage with residents. So it's good that we want to take this information out to the community. How would we be doing this? What type of materials would we bring to them?

Capacity building:
Spending time during the "implementation period" we would be working on capacity building.

(examples) Leadership

Technical

Resources

Assets

What are the areas that you need to work on, and then creating a timeline as to where you want to be: building a capacity building plan with whatever you want to accomplish.

These are the most important aspects and identify this as a way to move forward:

Education

Community organizing

Leadership development

Technical resources

This is a model that can be used in every team...for the teams that are following the logic model steps they will eventually hit capacity building at the end down the road, but we

are skipping the beginning part because we have decided what we want to work on already, which is capacity building.

We will analyze this, we will map technical resources, it's figuring out what are the key things. Identify areas where we want to build capacity and we can begin to frame this as we are pulling together this strategy to move forward.

(Georgette, Rich, and Irasema put a list of headings on the board that we were to look at. They were points taken directly out of the surveys such as Crime Prevention by Environmental Design, etc.)

Looking at the headings:

Look at all the headings and define them for ourselves. Take them to the community and ask them if we got it right.

What we are looking at is the whole world. We go to the community to begin to prioritize. We can't educate everyone on everything but we can educate some people about one idea and then these leaders can help educate their own community.

These topics are from the data and then they are weighted. They can be sorted into four and 8 and then show the weight. This is the beginning of trying to find the focus and talk through the meaning of each one.

How will we go back to the community? What is our strategy?

What does capacity building look like?

We think the perfect example of Capacity Building is what Casas Saludables is doing: teaching people what their rights are and creating leadership through education. We have to invest ourselves into the residents. The people themselves begin to ask what can they can do and how they can help...

We always have to think about how can we go forward. All of these issues are from the residents, so it won't be as hard to begin to speak to the residents. It may take us a little bit more work to speak to them from the bottom up instead of from the top down. It's more work to meet with residents and work with their issues so that we can take them with us and they can work with us and not have them working for us.

From the surveys, residents want to see changes. They want to see results. They want to accomplish something.

We need to plan for capacity building. We have to turn something in by May. We have a missed opportunity because the Endowment will decide how to run this and will rob the team.

Building capacity is difficult because we have issues that are so much harder to wrap our arms around. Casas Saludables has an easier job because they have picked very pertinent issues that relate directly to people's lives and well beings.

We should begin to map this out. Pick one issue that we can map out.

Break this down into components that we need to explain. We can take this into simple terms:

If you don't have physical activity than you can get diabetes

If you don't have a healthy house you can get asthma

We will focus on outcome 4 and focus on capacity building

What does capacity building mean to you exercise:

We were all given pieces of papers and we all wrote out what we think capacity building looks like. We all discussed what we wrote on our papers.

All of the papers get put onto the board

Will take these statements and type them up and then this is what we will begin with next week. "What capacity building looks like"