

City Heights Building Healthy Communities

Built Environment Momentum Team

PROGRAM SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

This multi-year resident capacity building process sees City Heights residents as the central and primary movers, with community organizations, organizers and existing community leaders providing the necessary tools and support to engage residents. The goal is to engage a group of community residents that represents the diversity of City Heights including ethnicity, culture, age and gender to create a land use centered Community Development Action Plan (CDAP) that will be adopted and implemented.

The proposed capacity building process will focus on land use, defined here as how land is used, and issues that build a healthy and sustainable community to foster resident knowledge around the concept of *Why Place Matters* and develop skills to organize and advocate for change. This emphasis is chosen because of City Heights' unique history of inequitable land use decisions by empowered entities and decision-makers, the lack of robust, diversified community engagement in these decisions, and the limited acknowledgment of the significant connection between land use, health, and resident concerns.

GOALS

- ◆ To create a City Heights community where residents live with health-promoting land use, transportation and community development. (**TCE Outcome 4**)
- ◆ To increase opportunities for diverse low-income City Heights residents to organize and actively advocate for desired changes in land use planning issues and health concerns.

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Establish community control
- ◆ Develop a Community Driven Action Plan
- ◆ Develop land use policies that will improve community health
- ◆ Promote health and economic development for community residents
- ◆ Reduce environmental impacts that damage health

MAJOR STRATEGIES

- ◆ *Increase Capacity* - build community power and leadership through training and hands-on experience.
- ◆ *Community Organizing* - train and support local community organizers from a social justice perspective to address root causes of problems.
- ◆ *Engage in local land use planning opportunities* (community/specific plans, general plan, regional plans, etc...)
- ◆ *Promote and advocate* policies to ensure safe and healthy homes/communities.

PLATFORM ISSUES (created from survey data)

- ◆ Improve health conditions in homes (lead, mold, and other toxins)
- ◆ Improve access to healthy food (farmers market, food distribution, community gardens, etc.)
- ◆ Address incompatible land uses
- ◆ Improve green spaces, parks and recreation facilities (Access and Safety)
- ◆ Improve Residents safety: sidewalks and lighting
- ◆ Improve transit systems
- ◆ Increase amount of accessible and affordable housing for residents (rental and ownership)
- ◆ Promote economic development (job creation for residents)
- ◆ Improve community gathering spaces