Advancing Neighborhood Change Through Equity and Inclusion

A Presentation for America Walks

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Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Our Mission

To help neighborhood residents create healthy and sustainable places of choice and opportunity – good places to live, work, raise children, and conduct business.
Since 1980

369,625
Affordable Homes and Apartments

61 million square feet
of commercial, retail, and community space

$17.4 billion invested
leveraging $48.5 billion in total development
Investors
- Companies
- Philanthropy
- Banks
- Government

Local Community Development Organizations
- Grants
- Loans
- Equity
- Technical Assistance

Great Places to Live
- Healthy Neighborhoods
- Health Clinics
- Jobs
- Homes
- Schools

LISC
What is Equitable Development?

_Equitable development_ is a positive development strategy that ensures everyone participates in and benefits from economic transformation—especially low-income residents, communities of color, immigrants, and others at risk of being left behind. It requires an intentional focus on eliminating racial inequities and barriers, and making accountable and catalytic investments to assure that lower-wealth residents:

- live in healthy, safe, opportunity-rich neighborhoods that reflect their culture (and are not displaced from them)
- connect to economic and ownership opportunities; and
- have voice and influence in the decisions that shape their neighborhoods.

Source: PolicyLink  “Equitable Development: The Path to an All-In Pittsburgh”
11th Street Bridge Park

http://www.bridgepark.org/
Bridge Park Equitable Development Plan (EDP)

- LISC DC provided intensive technical assistance to Bridge Park throughout the EDP Process
- Equitable Development Task Force formed in Fall 2014
  - Baseline Data
  - 3 areas of focus: Affordable Housing, Workforce Development, Small Business
- Year-long EDP Process
  - Brainstorming Session in February 2015
  - Community Stakeholder Meeting in May 2015
  - Public Meetings in June and October 2015
  - Report Released in November 2015

Images courtesy of Becky Harlan Photography
Bridge Park Equitable Development Plan (EDP)

• **19 Actionable Recommendations**
  • Affordable Housing
  • Workforce Development
  • Small Business

• **Example Recommendations**
  • East of the River Homebuyers Club
  • Community Land Trust
  • Community Workforce Agreement
  • Kiosk-Based Café on Bridge Park
Elevating Equity

- $50 million LISC DC initiative
- Neighborhoods within a 1-mile radius of the future 11th Street Bridge Park
- Focus on LISC’s 5 pillars of Community Development:
  - Expanding Investment in Housing & Other Real Estate
  - Increasing Family Income & Wealth
  - Improving Access to Quality Education
  - Stimulating Economic Development
  - Supporting Healthy Environments & Lifestyles
Elevating Equity

Tools
• Loans
• Equity
• Grants
• Technical Assistance

Investment Portals
• Affordable Housing Production and Preservation
• Living Wage Jobs and Economic Development
• Resident Leadership and Empowerment
• High-Quality Education
• Arts and Culture
• High-Quality Health Care
• Advocacy
Elevating Equity Investments

Total Invested to Date: $11,942,126

1. 1847-1849 Good Hope Road SE
2. Hunter Place
3. 2255 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
4. Parkchester Apartments
5. Sasha Bruce Youthworks

1. The Commons at Stanton Square (Martha’s Table and Community of Hope)
2. Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative - Busboys & Poets
3. Anacostia Coordinating Council
4. Bread for the City Expansion

1. Family Engagement Program

1. Anacostia River Festivals
2. Black L.U.V. Festival
3. Anacostia Playhouse
4. The DC Poet Project

MORE HERE: www.liscdc.org/elevatingequity
Advancing Neighborhood Change Through Equity and Inclusion Starts with Community Engagement

• **LISC Perspective**
  • Identifies and relies on the expertise and execution of local nonprofits serving neighborhood residents
  • Intentional focus on racial and economic equity
  • Residents have influence and ownership over decisions and outcomes
  • Continual, long-term
  • Not one-size-fits all
More on Community Engagement

Increasing Level of Engagement

- **Inform**
  
  To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, or solutions.
  
  **Examples**
  
  - Email newsletters
  - Send press releases announcing progress milestones

- **Consult**
  
  To gather feedback from targeted stakeholders on the project's goals, processes, shared metrics, or strategies for change.
  
  **Examples**
  
  - Ask for input on initiative strategies
  - Invite to small group or individual presentations about initiative

- **Involve**
  
  To work directly with stakeholders continuously to ensure that concerns are consistently understood and considered.
  
  **Examples**
  
  - Invite to join Working Groups or an advisory body for the initiative
  - Partner in policy advocacy

- **Collaborate**
  
  To partner with stakeholders in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and priorities.
  
  **Examples**
  
  - Appoint to a leadership role on a Working Group to help shape strategies

- **Co-Lead**
  
  To place final decision-making in the hands of stakeholders so that they drive decisions and implementation of the work.
  
  **Examples**
  
  - Invite to join the Steering Committee and/or similar body with decision making power in the initiative

Source: Collective Impact Forum, adapted from Tamarack Institute and IAP2
Why Engagement Matters

• Lasting impact of project or initiative is dependent upon comprehensive community engagement
  • Builds TRUST and creates stewards, advocates

• Empowers local residents and organizations to be at the center of transforming their neighborhood
What we have learned

• Importance of local nonprofits on the ground
• Multiple methods of engagement are key
• Meeting fatigue is real
• Acknowledge people’s time
• Don’t keep asking the same questions / know what engagement has occurred before
• There is no single “community” opinion or view
• People change their minds and that’s OK
• Importance of engaging with youth
• Childcare and interpreters are a must
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