

GROUP 9 – BUILDING INNER CITY OPPORTUNITIES

TOP 5 Topics from all groups – Observation to avoid duplicating work.
(# of teams which referenced each topic)

- 8 Engaging keeping training young professionals*
- 6 Codes, gov. action regulations
- 6 Communication clearing house – ideas needs and activities*
- 6 Positive attitude - speech and messages*
- 5 Demolishing/Restoring old buildings
- 5 Creating green space
- 4 Business opportunities and training*
- 4 Activities for sports
- 4 Jobs and job training*
- 3 Creating strengthening existing neighborhoods*
- 3 Health and wellness

* Denote topics referenced in GROUP 9 opportunities

Prioritized Session 1 Comments:

#1 Neighborhood and Individual Focus

- **Partnerships, Resident Focus, People Centered**

#2 Life Skills Training

- **Developed through neighborhood jobs and volunteering/mentoring**

#3 Business Development

- **Neighborhood Resource Pods and Business Partnerships**

#1 Neighborhood and Individual Focus **Partnerships, Resident Focus, People Centered**

- Partnerships to be more efficient/stability in homes & business
- People centered – need to care on individual basis to stabilize families & instill dignity
 - Ownership: homes & neighborhoods
 - Representation/decision making/autonomy
- Create neighborhood atmosphere
 - Activities
- Peoples' perception of certain areas – “you don't want to go there/walk there”
- Perception of being overlooked
- Everyone wants to do better – no matter who they are/where they live
- Relationships: mentoring self-worth of individuals “adopt” & train
- Connect those who want to serve with those who need service
- There are a lot of areas that need attention
 - Pershing
 - Oakland □□ 22nd
 - South Shores
- Cohesive effort/plan “see it through”
- Community is “US”
 - Support each other
- Police presence/response in neighborhoods – not referenced by any other group
- Police/Fire living in neighborhoods
- Trust issues: govt. vs. people
 - Long term investment

Session Two notes Nov. 28th:

Working to involve residents that are actually impacted

Black Chamber revitalization plan – Still need to obtain

Inner city clean-up activities

Mapping neighborhoods – neighborhoods already labeled

Police presence – not available during shift change problem

Require Police and Fire to live in inner city neighborhoods

Problems not in neighborhood, but when outsiders come into neighborhoods

Neighborhoods afraid to speak up when issues arise

Vacant houses creates atmosphere of mischief

County already working on 24/7 electronics recycling

Bottom up approach

- Neighborhood mapping
- Looking for assets of each neighborhood
- Interview residents from each neighborhood
- Need to focus on relationships not brick and mortar

Grant money to neighborhood youths for clean up or activities

Double output – opportunity for training

- Ownership in community
- Talks of Charity

Low Hanging fruit projects

- 1- Dumpsters by neighborhood – instead of civic center
- 2- Adoption of neighborhoods by churches – list available – include schools
Super neighborhoods – based on core organizations or resource pods
How to communicate – CONO, churches, schools
- 3- Identify groups to seek input from each neighborhood – canvas churches, neighborhoods, and work with schools

Dec. 12th

Seek small town initiatives and apply to inner city

Black Chamber Revitalization Plan – Presented to City Council

- Focus on key neighborhood

#2 Life Skills Training

Developed through neighborhood jobs and volunteering/mentoring

- Job training/home maintenance skills/retaining employment
 - People need life skills
- Break generational patterns
- Kids roaming the streets in summer
- Website with opportunities listed
- Clean up neighborhoods/No dumping
 - Neighborhood dumpsters, part-time jobs cleaning up
 - Make people responsible
 - 70% low income
 - City holds landlords responsible for tenant irresponsibility
 - Paying someone to clean up.
- Dumpsters
- Host activities
- First impressions of neighborhoods.

Session Two notes Nov. 28th:

- Relationship building between city and landlords
- Training on home ownership
- Conflict resolution
- Programs for kids – identify what already exists

Dec 12th Notes

Work with schools involved in community efforts through coordinated class work

Life skills training

- Survey high school kids
- City has access to survey all English Students
- Coordinate with various departments
- Shop teachers, home economics teachers, civics classes, create clubs for service learning hrs.
- Work with churches/banks to oversee clubs
 - Create subcommittee to qualify the questions asked in a survey
 - Need to be cautious of information requested of young adults – illegal.
- Opportunity for inner city teens-
 - Transportation to jobs
 - Ride sharing
 - Rental cars by days
 - Bike-ability
 - Expanded bus service
 - **Bike racks on front of bus.**
- Trade school taught after school by local business or contractors. Practical Living skills for parents and kids
- Need adult learning
- Maker spaces – hands on locations that allow access to tools
 - Exist today at Good Samaritan Inn.

- How to address the adults
 - Survey the adults
 - Survey adult diploma programs
 - Expand on Faith community Educational Institute.
 - Includes life skills training.
 - Access to tools, know how
 - “Inner city tool sheds” donations
 - Enclosed trailer
 - “Tool library” - program that requires participation first (video, group work, individual work)
 - Class one attend a class
 - Class two – help with yard work
 - Class three - help habitat
 - Class four – allowed to rent tools for own home improvement.
 - Retired tradesman – provide tools for Library or Tool Trailer
 - Tradesman are currently working with homework hang out.
 - Companies buying homes for their workers.
 - Provide list of foundations that individuals can seek
 - Banks all have foundation that provides funding.
 - Douglas Lee - Contact

#3 Business Development

- Property – govt. regulations, property values
- Retail/small business/literacy & job readiness
- First impressions/corridors
- GIVE NEW LIFE!!! “Revitalize”
- Impressions of investors
- How do we put Decatur “back on the map”
- Cohesive effort/plan “see it through”
- Build on Strengths

Session Two Notes Nov. 28th:

- Business development
 - Strengthen small business through training
 - Already exists and problem funding
 - Identify opportunities that already exist
 - NE Community Food Pantry has mentoring program
 - Homework Hang Out
 - Mrs. Kays Community Center Project Read
 - Mama Shu
 -
 - Mapping neighborhoods with existing hoods vs not
 - Public transportation
- Booth at Decatur celebration
- Recruit members/meet members
- Count neighborhoods that have best neighboring communities to reward collaboration

Resources

- Detroit Michigan – U-Haul – shot down by City
- 101 ways to improve your City
- Engaging Youth in Community Decision making.
- Provide links to sites
 - Allstars Project – allstars.org
 - Year up – yearup.org

Dec. 12th notes

Seek inner city hotel

- Employment
- Attraction

Connect inner city to bike trail

Lack of transportation

- No way to transport garbage or large trash items
- Drive through Neighborhood to collect trash

Work with industry to create discount opportunities
Enter into a contract with RR's to access tracks for clean-up.

Business opportunities

- 95% of kids are cash basis
- Amish model
- Condition of crisis – Kids and adults lack a long term planning horizon
- Electrical inspection of every home
- Release feral cats to get after rats
- Create a volunteer bank –
 - o Land of Lincoln in high school
 - o System of credits to collect at graduation
 - o Zero interest lending to combat loan sharks
- National programs for jobs
 - o Paid internships
 - o

The Cristorey High school Model

- Work with Inner city kids
- School gets corporate sponsorship of jobs and internships
- Kids get prep school education as payment
- Graduation rate 100%