

Los Angeles Department of City Planning
Neighborhood Vision Workshop: Skid Row Community

Monday, June 5th 2017 | 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
James M. Wood Community Center | 400 E. 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026

Consolidated Notes from Breakout Group Discussions:

Observations and Recent Trends:

- There has been an increase in homelessness and residents who live on the streets
- There has been increased development, resulting in the need to find housing for people
- Some group members expressed that trends are staying constant; little changes
- Single Room Occupancy limits the housing options for families, especially those with children
- Infrastructure is aging
- Seniors, women, and families with children are not adequately being taken care of
- There is a disconnect between community street life and community that reside in service provider spaces
- There is a digital divide, the area could benefit from free Wi-Fi access
- As population increases, there are greater public service and amenity needs
 - Burden is often shifted to service providers, which are at capacity
- Range of age groups exist in the community, and all need to be addressed
- Community engagement and public outreach strategies should be inclusive and collaborative
- Community needs to be viewed & advocated for in a manner that acknowledges Skid Row as a community

Land Uses:

- Identify areas that prioritize permanent supportive housing
- Prioritize housing affordability at all levels and lifestyles, including; seniors, families, women, children, homeless, those in need permanent supportive, mixed gender housing
- Need mix of housing types, including boarding care, services, traditional housing
 - Some group members voiced a desire for these, others did not
 - Some voiced the need to focus on permanent housing
- Consider implementing interim housing options to meet immediate needs
- Create more incentives for development to include affordable housing and community amenities
- Limit liquor licenses. Desire to see less access to alcohol, as current uses are incompatible
- Ensure that zoning tools supporting social services allows for the widest range of services so that it is flexible in its application, while also being enforceable
- Support social enterprise within the community
- Expand opportunities for mixed income housing
- Need program to ensure no net loss of affordable units

- There is a need for expanded services and recovery programs
- Suggestion to set low base FAR in areas where housing is not allowed
- Incorporate community meeting & collaborative spaces in new development
- Allow for more healthy and affordable food options
- Allow for trade schools and skills training programs to locate in the area
- Maximize the range of land uses along Main Street

Streets & Public Realm:

- Make streets safer, with traffic controls such as speed bumps
- Improve east-west linkages
- Enhance streets to be more inviting, with pedestrian-oriented design and wider sidewalks
- Streets should better support bicyclists, install more bike infrastructure
- Require new development to include meaningful open space
- Encourage creation of more open spaces
 - When public space is included in private development, these spaces need to be identifiable and accessible from outside of the building, with proper and legible signage.
 - Open space with community-driven programming for art and performances
 - Green, shaded spaces, vertical gardens
 - Expanded park hours
- Publicly accessible resources and amenities, look to *Our Skid Row* document
 - Public restrooms and other public facilities in parks
 - Facilities that are not affiliated with a particular service provider, this would allow those who are not affiliated with the service provider to benefit from the facilities.
 - Water fountains, hand washing, mobile showers
 - Property storage
 - Electric charging stations, laundry
 - Benches and seating
 - Workout equipment, outdoor recreation, and playgrounds for children
 - *Case study: San Francisco pit stop program & city attendants
 - *Suggestion to include these amenities in private development, and in public spaces such as parks

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