

## Open Space Working Group #3 Connections

### Previous Goal

#### Equitable Access to An Active, Healthy Lifestyle:

Connections are the urban fabric that weave together neighborhood assets to promote civic life and principles of human wellness. While Los Angeles is considered a young city, it has gone through many transformations that left behind cherished vestiges such as stairways and pedestrian-friendly greenways as opportunities for pedestrian connectivity. Creative, flexible use spaces that include complete streets, plazas, and parklets will be valued resources to be celebrated and strengthened. These renewed connections throughout Los Angeles increase our quality of life by offering active travel alternatives, beautifying the urban landscape, and promoting climate smart design integration.

#### Goal Notes

- Do we acknowledge our past?
- Mentioning the word 'lifestyle' puts more emphasis on the people aspect of the goal, and less on the ecological function of connectivity.
- Acknowledge the 'passive' aspect of connectivity, not just as a 'people mover' from one place to another
- Descriptive words: Green, Comfortable, Flexible, Abundant, Networks/Areas/Spaces, Multi-Beneficial, Enhanced, Comprehensive, Advancing, Balanced, Community,
- Connections are not just pedestrian, focus on multimodal'/active transpo
- Do not be specific about plazas... etc.
  - The way we think about solutions may change in the future
- Streets are a part of the open space network
  - Not only do we need to reclaim "green space" but we need to reclaim our streets
  - Safety - (Like Safe Routes to Schools)
  - "Global Design"
- Address the Multi-Purpose of Connections
  - Buffer zones
  - Infill
  - Flexibility for retooling network for a new, future system of connectivity
- Other "Connections"
  - Don't forget about waterways as connectors
  - Connectivity between amenities and neighborhoods and connectivity in its inherent value
  - Linear connections and rural parks
- Address cooling / Urban Heat Island
  - Amenities on pathways
  - Reduce trip generation
  - Carbon sequestration
- Elevate climate change in the discussion
  - \*\*Note: Climate change may need to be pulled/added from the goal and placed in the element vision / overall guiding principles.
- Do we still want to call it "Green Infrastructure"
  - Industry may shift to the term "nature-based infrastructure"
  - Multi-Purpose infrastructure
  - ESRI terminology and check other sources

## Revised Goal

### [Comprehensive, Multi-Beneficial] Network that Supports Community and Environmental Health

Connections are the urban fabric that weave together ~~neighborhood~~ community assets to promote civic life and principles of human wellness. ~~While Los Angeles is considered a young city, it has gone through many transformations that left behind cherished vestiges such as stairways and pedestrian-friendly greenways as opportunities for pedestrian connectivity.~~ As Los Angeles continues to evolve and transform, it is essential to preserve historic spaces and create new opportunities for connectivity. This network of creative, flexible use-spaces ~~that include complete streets, plazas, and parklets will be~~ will be valued ~~resources to be celebrated and strengthened~~ to connect neighborhoods and serve as a cohesive citywide network. ~~These renewed connections throughout Los Angeles that will increase our quality of life throughout Los Angeles, by offering active travel alternatives, beautifying the urban landscape, and promoting climate smart design integration.~~

Connections are the urban fabric that weave together community assets to promote civic life and principles of human wellness. As Los Angeles continues to evolve and transform, it is essential to preserve historic spaces and create new opportunities for connectivity. This network of creative, flexible spaces will be valued and strengthened to connect neighborhoods and serve as a cohesive citywide network that will increase quality of life throughout Los Angeles.

## Activity Notes

### Achieve

- air space as open space
  - build across impediments (tunnels, wildlife, ped/bike bridges)
- climate smart design integration
- active transportation networks
- contextualized standards for development
- creation of more creative, flexible use spaces (complete streets, plazas, parklets, etc.)
- injury reduction
- robust 'green' network
- access/ connections to (amenities, resources/os network) for underserved communities
- sensitive to the needs of all residents, and not just the immediate neighborhoods
- safe routes to open spaces
- waterways as part of a complete open space network
- rooftop as open space (public)

### Preserve/Enhance

- ~~beautified urban landscape~~
- ~~historic spaces and networks (stairways, etc.)~~
  - Enhance/retrofit historic connections and identify opportunities for new connections
- existing linkages between open spaces
- injury reduction
- multi-beneficial ~~benefits/purpose of~~ connections

#### Address/Mitigate

- fragmented connections/segmented communities
- poor connectivity between active transit corridors
- car-oriented standards
- high injury network
  - safety issues

#### Avoid

- unilateral approach to connectivity
- fragmented networks

#### Additional Notes

- leverage roofscaping opportunities – air space!
- defining air space as open space
- Health and human comfort principles
- Access to \$- leverage existing/future funding
- How do we avoid balkanization
- Stack funding opportunities to maximize impact of connection development
- Development should be prioritized for projects that ensure continuity of design in connectivity and other open space priorities
- Define pathways – not ‘alternative’ because that implies it is car-centric – use pathways or bikeways etc.
- ID and prioritize/elevate/value/contextualize local/regional connectors for implementation funding
  - Look at role of local community character, citywide needs balance, lack of connections, climate smart strategies (needs based) -- look at heat maps and HIN – balance with other existing projects
- Need to ID existing connections that are not currently mapped (alleys, etc.)
- Look at Connections from a District lens (scale) – the connections plan
  - This will strengthen implementation to avoid isolated develop/promote bundling of benefits
  - What are the high level amenities we will need to identify – WHAT are we connecting to?
    - Scale: regional parks, neighborhood parks, addressing HIN
    - Categories: signage, lights, furniture
  - Inherent value of connections – what must they be/have
    - Safe, accessible, comfortable (tree canopy)
    - Population density needs
    - Look at equity and disadvantaged communities
    - Support regional/local connectivity

#### What are some Tools for Implementation?

- Funding sources

- Ordinances
- Quimby
- Arts dev fee
- Cap and trade
- Measure A
- Safe routes to schools methodology
- Dev standards

#### Public Engagement

- Need to frame topic to community (city's role, vs. developer, vs community eng. Etc) with proactive messaging

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