Equitable Community Engagement New Voices

September 11, 2019
Experience effects our choices

History of inclusion | History of exclusion
Community Engagement

Public involvement

Community engagement

Community organizing
The voices:

C. Terrance Anderson, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Arturo Nevarez, Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, Los Angeles, CA

Julieta Cruz, Valley Metro, Phoenix, AZ

Ask questions PollEv.com/arturonevare607
Community Engagement
Community Organizing
X
Transit Development

Equity In Community Development

C TERRENCE ANDERSON
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH PROGRAMS
WHO AM I?
The Twin Cities love to show up on the “best of” and “worst of” list
Hennepin County report finds stark racial disparities in traffic stops

The report also made several specific policy recommendations, including discouraging stopping vehicles for an equipment violation unless there is an immediate threat to public safety.

By Libor Jany | Star Tribune | OCTOBER 3, 2018 — 9:45PM

Those reacting to the report on traffic stops included, from left, Chief Public Defender Mary Moriarty, Police Chief Medaria Arradondo and Minneapolis police union President Bob Kroll.

"Black drivers in a section of north Minneapolis are disproportionately pulled over for minor infractions and therefore are far more likely than whites to be patted down or have their vehicles searched, according to a new citywide study by the Hennepin County Public Defender's Office."

Twin Cities suburban poor outnumber those in urban core

By Jon Collins | Jul 17, 2018 6:15 am

"I'm happy we are moving in the right direction," said Mirinda Anderson, a St. Paul resident who works as an organizer with the faith group ISAIAH. "Let's be honest, that's not fast enough."

Anderson noted that black families continue to earn significantly less and have less wealth compared with their white neighbors, despite often working multiple jobs.
LOSS OF AFFORDABILITY IS EXCLUSIONARY DISPLACEMENT

Source: Author calculations, 2000 Census, 2010-2014 ACS, 2000 IPUMS, 2010-2014 IPUMS
All bolded values adjusted to 2014 dollars

Incomes for households

CURA Center for Urban & Regional Affairs
“.... these conditions and actions reflect a prevailing belief that the vulnerable are unworthy of investment, protection, or even the most fundamental provisions of the social contract. As a result, they can be erased and abandoned and left to die.”

– Marc Lamont Hill, Nobody
Working in a power institution as a change agent means owning the debts of the institution.
Who and what do we imagine when we’re doing this work?
Key Concepts for Community Organizing:

Community organizing is about building power in communities that have been robbed of it.

Marginalized people have been primarily denied their agency to be creators of their own context.

Equity is a project of personal healing in tandem with societal material redistribution.

We need to retrain our ears to listen to voices we are conditioned to ignore and/or discount.
RACIAL EQUITY FRAMEWORK

Ensures solutions are addressing a systemic inequity

Creating solutions that are commensurate with what caused the inequity

We are working with the population negatively affected by said inequity to co-create solutions
We can’t settle the debts of our housing inequities with Section 8 housing in wealthy white areas.
We can’t settle the debts of our transportation inequities with ________ through poor black and brown communities.
HENNEPIN COUNTY
PUBLIC RELATIONS
GENERAL MANAGER
BUS OPS DIRECTOR
SERV DEV DIRECTOR
MINNEAPOLIS
BIPOC COMMUNITY
ME
NON-BIPOC COMMUNITY
PROJECT MANAGER
CONSULTANT
TRANSITWAY DEVELOPMENT POWER ANALYSIS ON DECISION MAKING
“Leaders who do not act dialogically, but insist on imposing their decisions, do not organize the people--they manipulate them. They do not liberate, nor are they liberated: they oppress.”

Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed
BIPOC COMMUNITY

EQUITABLE POWER IN DECISION MAKING
TANGIBLE ACTIONS FOR EQUITABLE DECISION MAKING

1. Build community capacity to understand transportation more complexly
2. Resource community organizations/groups to do organizing work for projects and beyond projects
3. If you give yourself months to understand and develop a project, don’t give community hours to understand and comment
4. When concerns/ideas go beyond the scope of the project, then expand the scope of project
Key Resources

- Paulo Freire’s “Pedagogy of the Oppressed”
- Marc Lamont Hill’s “Nobody”
- Ta-Nehisi Coates’ “The Case for Reparations”
- Rap music
  - Kendrick Lamar’s *Good Kid, MAAD City*
  - Mobb Deep’s *The Infamous*
- Engage the philosophies just as much as you engage the technicalities of your work
  - Critical race theory, corrective racial justice, reparations, agency
“Won't reparations divide us? Not any more than we are already divided. The wealth gap merely puts a number on something we feel but cannot say - that American prosperity was ill-gotten and selective in its distribution. What is needed is an airing of family secrets, a settling with old ghosts. What is needed is a healing of the American psyche and the banishment of white guilt.”

— Ta-Nehisi Coates, The Case for Reparations
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
Rebuilding Neighborhoods One Block at a Time
Background

- Established in 1994 to stimulate community-driven revitalization
- Designed to utilize a community planning process
- Constructed over $25 million in neighborhood improvements
- Leveraged over $30 million in additional public, private and in-kind improvements
What we do...

- LANI targets its efforts in challenged communities where infrastructure improvements are needed.

- Vacant lots, a lack of neighborhood identity, unsafe street and sidewalk conditions, and dilapidated and underutilized storefronts plague many of Los Angeles’ diverse communities.

- Engaging residents, community organizations, and private/public sector leaders, successfully transforms neighborhoods and improve quality of life.
Taking it to the Streets: Participatory Planning Strategies that work

Tactical Urbanism:

How to create meaningful temporary, or permanent, interventions that can attract attention, change perceptions and engage the public.
Taking Planning Exercises to the Streets

City of Walnut Park

Culver City

City of West Covina

La Cañada Flintridge

City of Costa Mesa
Communities in California
Meaningful Community Involvement
Advisory Committee Formation
Advisory Committee Meetings
Taking it to the Streets
Making it Festive
Making it Festive
Increase Involvement
Building Support & Laying a Foundation
Lessons Learned

• Bringing new voices to the table
• Going to where they are
• Plan & budget the event for the entire family
• Laying strong foundation & partnerships
Use your smart phone to access the live Poll for comments or questions. Go to..

PollEv.com/arturonevare607
Community Engagement: New Voices

By
Julie Cruz Gilfillan
Valley Metro
What is the meaning of equity?
Light Rail System – Future
South Central Extension Light Rail / Downtown Hub

LEGEND
- Valley Metro Rail / Station Platform
- South Central Light Rail Extension / Station Platform
- Capitol / I-10 West Extension
- Park-and-Ride
- Traction Power Substation (TPSS)
- Signal Building

5.5 / 9 / 18
MILES / STATIONS / ARTISTS
Mistrust towards the Government & Transit Agency

2018

Loss of identity & culture of the community
Provide opportunities for the community to take ownership

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
4.34 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The goal of this initiative is to generate long lasting opportunities by bringing jobs, workforce training and economic impacts to the communities our capital projects will serve.
Out of the 18 selected artists, 11 are local or regional

- The Latino, African American, Native American, Anglo and Asian communities are symbolized here as Animalia
- The artist illustrates how powerful animal icons transcend across cultures
By Blessing Hancock

- Mexican folk art tradition of papel picado described in the screens and metalwork
- Artwork explores local landmarks: Grant Park and Central Park neighborhoods, American Legion Post 41, Friendly House and the Warehouse District
- Star and sun shapes represent military service, celebrations and religious objects

By Priscila De Carvalho

- Artwork illustrates natural environment as well as cultural connections
- Celebrates history of the Riverside Park Ballroom, ballet folklórico, papel picado and low rider culture
- Explores the surrounding riparian area, birds and canal system
- Screens highlight agriculture (farm workers), civil rights leaders and Carver High School
By Hugo Medina

- Migration of butterflies symbolizes a community raising children
- Butterfly details inspired by students crossing from school to church
- Roses reference St. Catherine of Siena Parish and School

By Zarco

- Iconic sculpture represents ancestral connections to origin stories of earth, wind, fire and water
- Screens will include poetry and ancestral patterns
Meet the community where they are at
Community Office Before…
After…Community Center Office
Utilizing community organizing principles to create a more EQUITABLE conversation
Build Trust & Relationships
Engage through existing relationships

DOWNTOWN HUB
- Downtown Hub connects people and places
  - Riders will be able to transfer between light rail, bus and other modes

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY CORRIDOR
- Over 10 miles of continuous bike lanes
- Bike share connections where feasible
- 23 additional signalized pedestrian crosswalks
- New sidewalks, curb and gutter along Central Avenue
- Walkable and safe pedestrian paths during construction
- Landscaped buffer between sidewalk & roadway at many locations
- Bioswale pilot program

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE
- Free business assistance before and throughout construction
- 129 business signed up

COMMUNITY
- Design workshops
- Staffed community office
- 7 Initial design public meetings
- Career and student development programs
- Continuous public outreach since 2012

LIGHTING & UTILITIES
- LED lighting for visibility and safety throughout corridor
- New underground utilities along Central Avenue for improved reliability

ART
- 19 artists; 13 local
- Art-inspired wayfinding elements designed into the Downtown Hub

VEHICLE ACCESS
- 15 additional traffic signals to provide connectivity
- Central Avenue repaved from downtown to Baseline Road

BUS PULLOUTS
- Pullouts at most (over 80%) bus stops provide easy passing for automobiles

SHADE
- Passenger stations designed to provide passenger comfort through shading, landscaping, building materials and air flow
- Landscaped areas with shade to be included along Central Avenue where buildings are not directly impacted
Informed and educated the public about light rail initiative

- 60+ group presentations:
  - Neighborhood Associations
  - Non-Profits
  - Business Coalitions

- More than 2500 people reached
Takeaways

• Provide opportunities for the community to take ownership

• Meet the community where they are at

• Build trust and relationships through an authentic approach to community engagement
Thank you