

City
of Asheville
North Carolina



Supporting Equitable Development

EPA Building Blocks Report



Building Blocks Grant

EPA Office of Sustainability:
Building Blocks Technical Assistance Grant

- Grants are in 6 different areas related to sustainability and community development
- Asheville one of 22 cities selected for a Building Blocks grant
- Workshop consists of a 1 ½ days with EPA and their consultants

What is Equitable Development?

Equitable Development:

Approaches for creating communities and regions where residents of all incomes, races, and ethnicities participate in and benefit from decisions that shape the places where they live.

Past and Current Initiatives 2000-2016

West Riversides Weed & Seed (2006-2012)

WECAN and Shiloh Neighborhood Plans (2008, 2010)

CAYLA (2007-present)

South French Broad Neighborhood Visioning (2008)

East of the Riverway TIGER II (2010-2014)

Strategic Partnerships with Nonprofits

CDBG and Strategic Partnership Grants

Neighborhood Advisory Committee (2012)

Edington Center (2012-2014)

Past and Current Initiatives 2000-2016

RADTIP planning (2010-2012)

Minority Business Program (1985-present)

Livingston Street Complete Streets (2014-16)

Town Branch Greenway (2012-13)

Clingman Forest Greenway (2012-13)

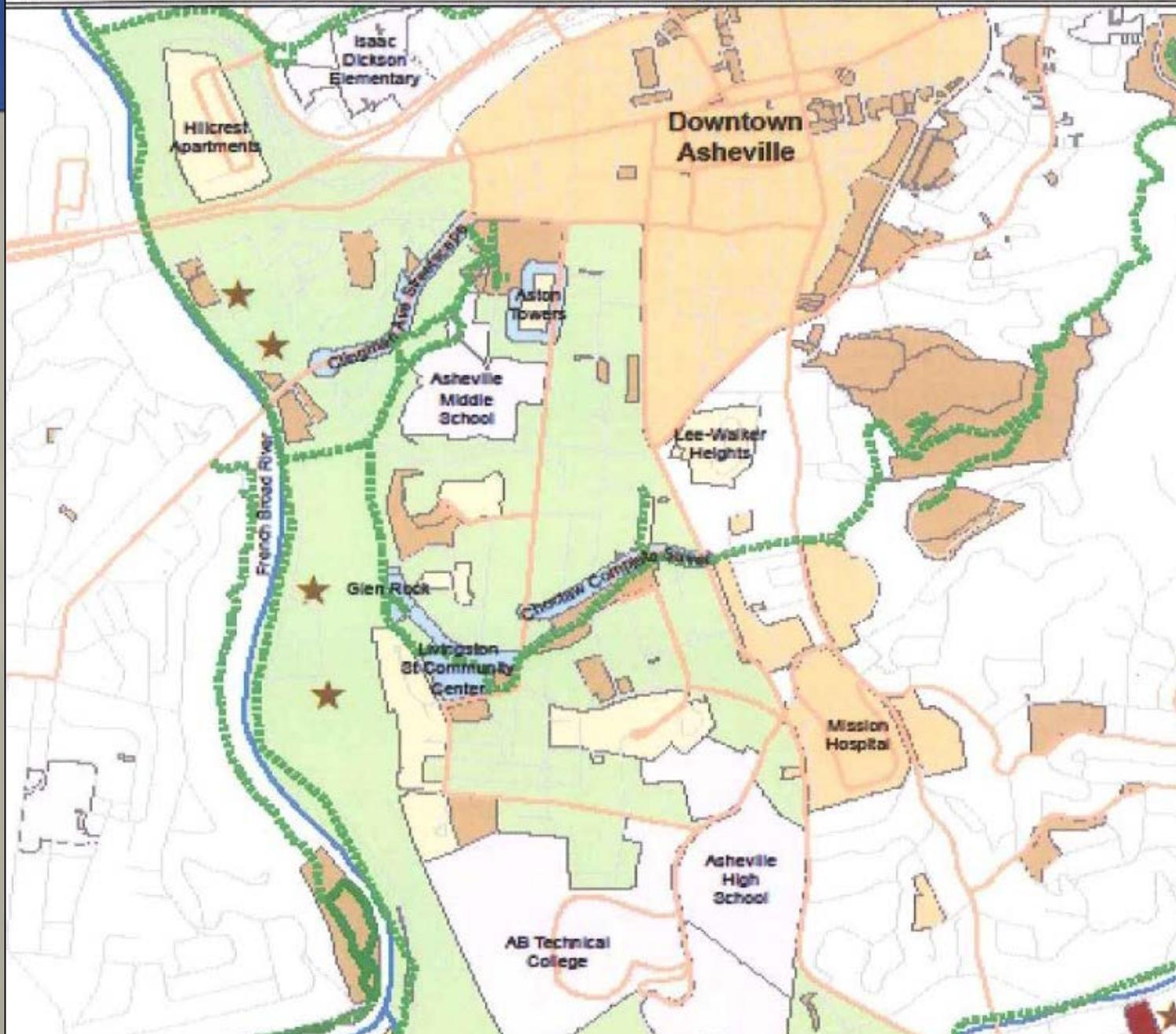
Transit Route Restructure (2012, 2013, 2015)

West Asheville Form Based Code (2013-14)

River Art District Form Based Code (2015-16)

Ban the Box (2015-16)

East of the Riverway Target Area



Alternatives to Gentrification

Study done at the end of TIGER II process

- **Provided data** that confirmed property values are increasing, demographics are changing in the East of the Riverway area.
- Provided **potential strategies** for the community to pursue to help preserve existing neighborhoods and enable residents and artists to stay in the area.

Workshop Goal

The purpose of the workshop was to educate participants about equitable development as a tool to address sustainable, affordable and livable communities and to provide a forum for input on how equitable development might be applied in Asheville.

Developing a common language and learning about best practices from around the country were also goals of the workshop.

Equitable Development Workshop

Evening Public Meeting at the Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Southside Center



Workshop – Second Day



Workshop – Second Day



Workshop – Second Day



Workshop – Second Day



Workshop – Second Day



Workshop Outcomes

Workshop participants:

- Learned about Equitable Development and examples in other places
- Brainstormed ideas about how to move our community forward around four main goal areas

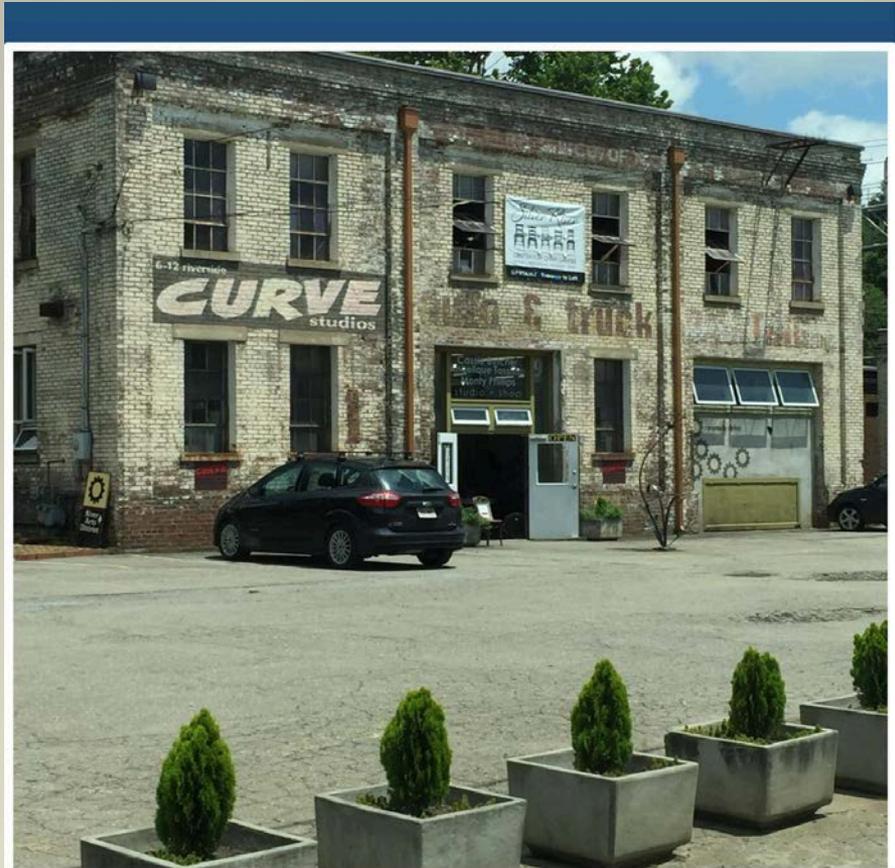
Report is a summary of the ideas discussed in the Workshop.

Report Summary

A summary of ideas from a community meeting and 30 workshop participants

Recommended best practices from around the US

Roles for local government, anchor institutions, citizens groups and non-profits



Supporting Equitable Development
BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Asheville, NC
Next Steps Memorandum

January 15, 2016

Report Summary

Small Groups focused on 4 main areas resulting in recommendations:

1. Communication and Engagement
2. Affordable housing
3. Local Investment
4. Preserving and celebrating history through the arts

Improve community engagement and enhance communication

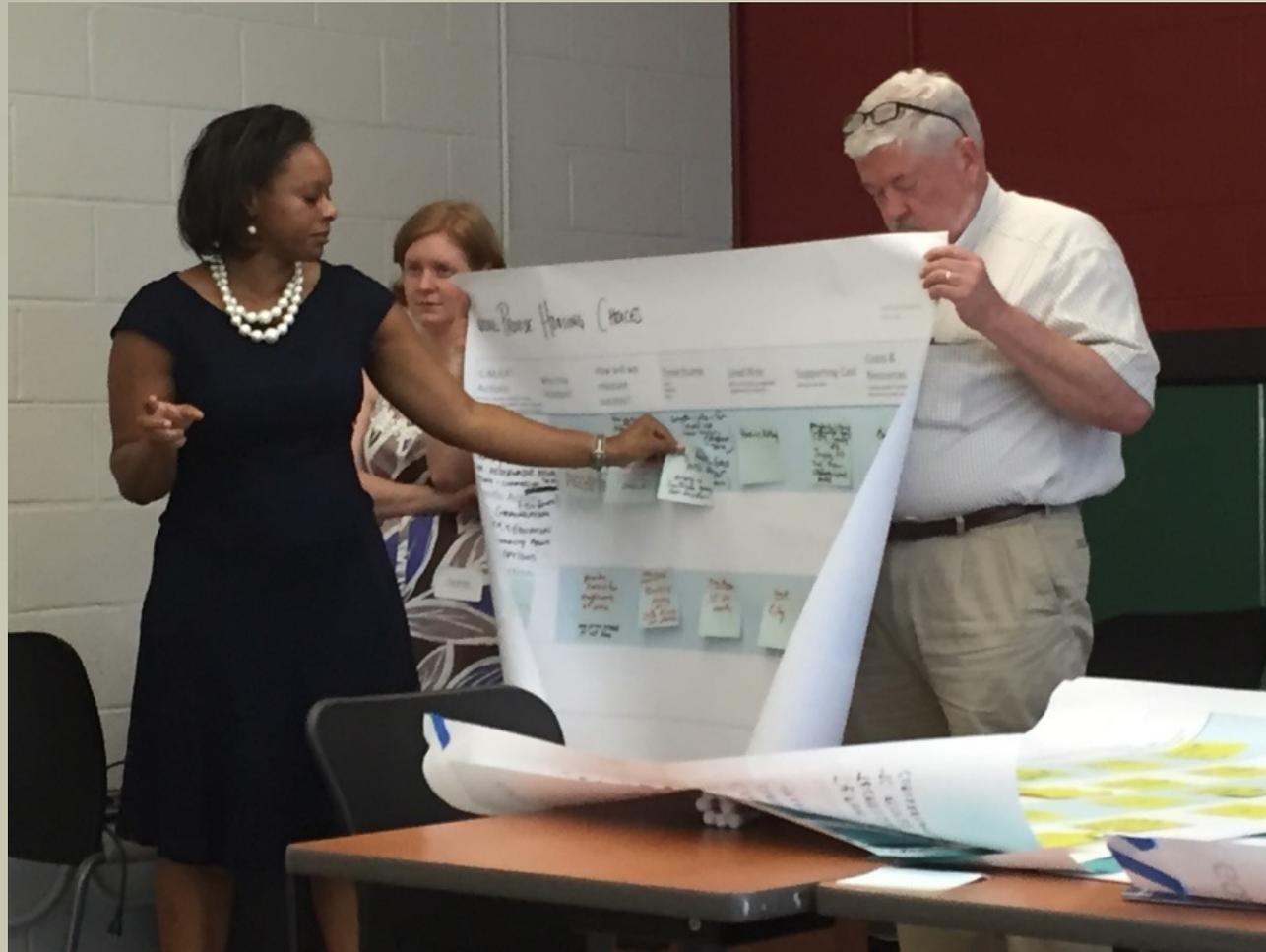
Example

Several historically African-American neighborhoods have been meeting to look at community based economic development strategies.

Opportunity

The upcoming Comprehensive Plan will offer opportunities for the City and neighborhood residents to build relationships and engage in a dialogue around development.

Preserve existing and provide more affordable housing choices within the East of the Riverway neighborhoods.



Preserve existing and provide more affordable housing choices

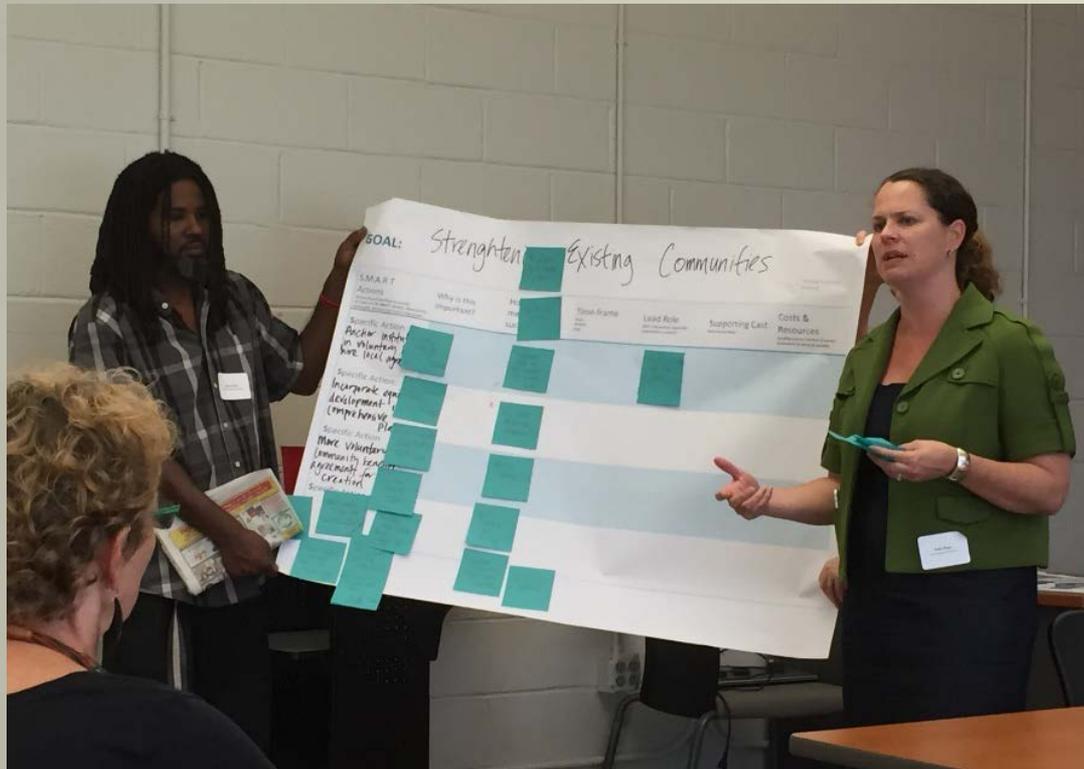
Example

The Glen Rock at 372 Depot - Mixed use, affordable housing projects that provide units within reach of folks below 60% AMI

Opportunity

Community members are exploring a Community Land Trust model which could develop permanently affordable housing.

Strengthen the existing neighborhood through promotion of local investment and community-building commitments by existing and new community institutions and businesses.



Strengthen the existing neighborhood

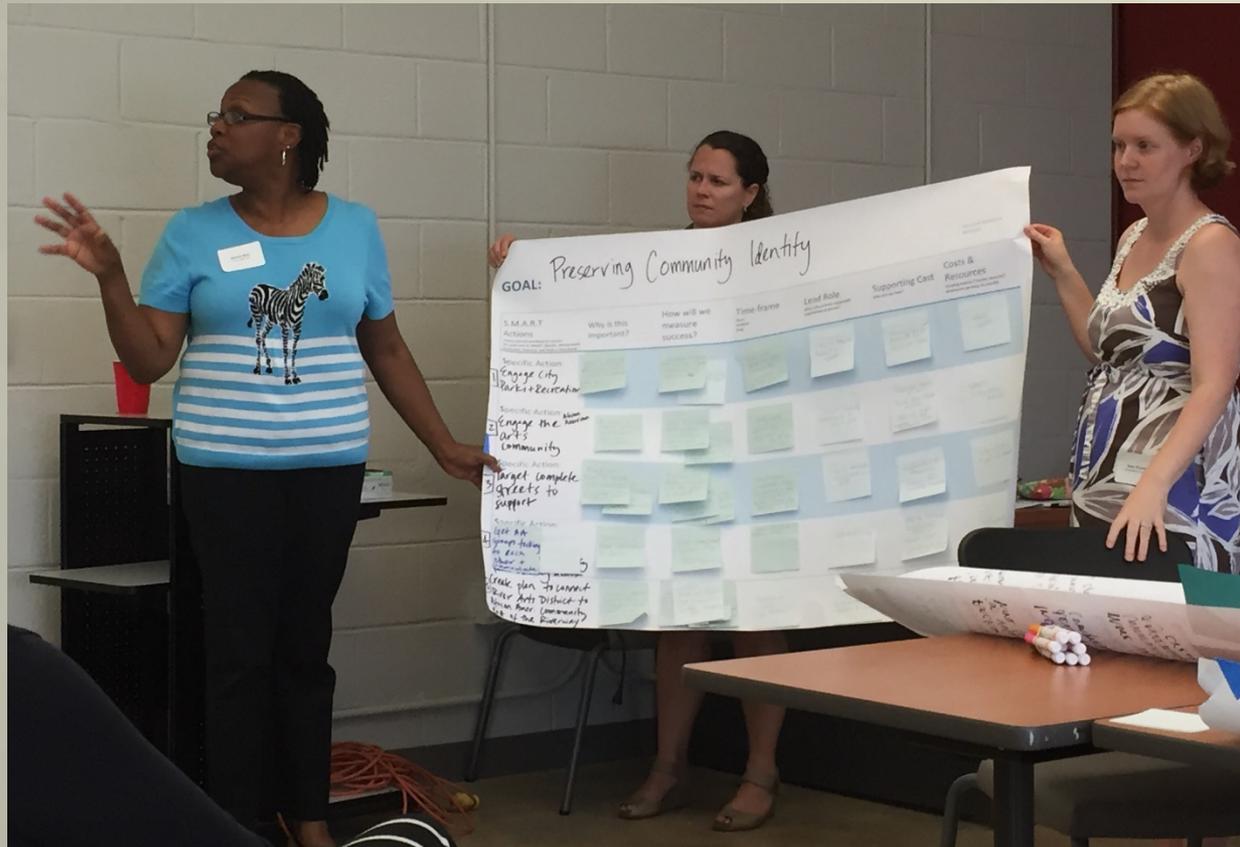
Example

Green Opportunities works with local employers to connect their trainees with jobs.

Opportunity

City and local anchor institutions working with local contractors to identify barriers to hiring local workers for major construction projects.

Preserve community identity by promoting the arts community and celebrating local African American history.



Preserve community identity

Example

Town Branch Greenway will incorporate local history along the trail with educational signage

Opportunity

Public Art installations as a part of the RADTIP could connect local artists, community members with adjacent neighborhoods

Next Steps

- Staff has **distributed the report** to workshop participants
- Staff will **analyze the report** to determine what is feasible and enabled in North Carolina
- Staff will **continue to incorporate** equitable development practices in our projects

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