

The Neighborhood Design Center provides access to pro bono design services in underserved communities in Baltimore City and Prince George's County, MD. In collaboration with neighborhood groups, local government agencies and fellow nonprofits, we support locally driven initiatives for neighborhoods pursuing improved quality of life within their built environments.

NDC has been contracted by the Baltimore Office of Planning to produce a conceptual design for the vacant lot at the intersection of Hayward Avenue and Cuthbert Avenue. The lot will be developed into a community garden as a part of the INSPIRE Program's effort to engage the local community within a quarter of a mile of Arlington Elementary Middle School.

MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting had a very strong turnout. There were representatives of the Baltimore City Department of Planning, Park Heights Renaissance, business owners, faith based leaders and community members from various neighborhoods. The attendees enjoyed refreshments. After Mary Colleen Buettner of the Inspire program and Johnny Macon from NDC opened the meeting, a significant discussion occurred about the crime and community problems that area a priority to many residents, there was questioning about whether a community garden was an important concern in light of the public safety issues. After a strong discussion, buy-in from residents increased and the attendees were able to proceed into the exercises. In the interest of time each table of 5-7 participants worked on the Ease/ Importance exercise and then a visualization card game. Afterwards everyone came together as a group to discuss their major issues. They were able to identify physical elements to change and community goals and values to be included. This community input will now be used by the NDC staff to fulfill the design and meet with the community again.



BREAKOUT EXERCISES



CARD GAME

At each table, participants were given a deck of precedent cards. Residents reviewed the stacks of cards on the table that represent visual examples that can be used to guide the design process. Each card is an example of the types of interventions that have been done in various urban gardens. They selected as a group the images that spoke to you personally and that you want reflected in the design. Record your groups decision on the worksheet & tell us why you picked each card.

Card Games Result:

| Card | Times chosen | Comments |
|------|--------------|---|
| 1 | 1 | pick tall flowers as drugs can be hidden |
| 2 | 2 | good for shade; shady rest area |
| 4 | 3 | fence for security, community can be informed, community info |
| 5 | 4 | we like gate but would like it higher, security factor & more space, security, sturdy can it be highe |
| 9 | 1 | landscaping |
| 10 | 2 | the students can paint the wall, murals |
| 14 | 2 | flower beds, raised garden that doesn't look like #21 |
| 15 | 1 | positive messaging |
| 18 | 1 | herbs (esp. mint) to keep away rats |
| 20 | 1 | Can feed community |
| | | |

EASE/ IMPORTANCE MATRIX

The ease importance exercise is a way to establish priorities while identifying potential changes. Participants asked themselves:

- Which concerns are very important to you? Will your group's ideas have a high or low impact?
- Are your concerns easy or hard to implement?

Results from this exercise showed that safety, clean up, and code enforcement. were major concerns. Pruning plant material and removing of dead plants was important, as well as lighting and general visibility. Walkability for students and the general community was important. Some groups mentioned increased retail in the area, especially food markets, which could be an opportunity for a farmer's market or flea market on the site of the garden. Programing for



**the
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**ARLINGTON COMMUNITY GARDEN
KICKOFF MEETING SUMMARY 09/28/2017**

students as well as community members, including health, arts, and dance and including public/private collaborations is another opportunity. Many of the concerns related to public safety are beyond the scope of the project. The garden may still play a role in community safety, property upkeep, and policing as it is an opportunity to bring active use to an area that is currently under-utilized and attracting illicit activity. The full matrix is below.

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| High Impact | <p>Different stores Need a market</p> <p>Less drug treatment centers More commercial properties</p> <p>Mandatory skill training; Drug tips from the community</p> <p>Community centers Stop drugs</p> <p>Rec centers Exercise equipment Address high murder rate</p> <p>Institutional health collaborations food markets Decrease vehicular drugs traffic</p> <p>Youth Arts program Poetry reading</p> <p>Stop Squatters in vacant houses Mandatory youth training programs</p> <p>Crossing Guard on the corner of Hayward & Cuthbert</p> <p>Pest Control More light Football center</p> <p>Food markets Dance Center</p> <p>Community control Address rodents Lighting</p> <p>More police patrols</p> | <p>Assistance for neighbors needing home repairs Prune trees near lamp posts</p> <p>Control trash in vacant yards better city agency coordination Increase police involvement in drug control stop dumping of trash at alley</p> <p>Code enforcement on vacant homes clean up the block</p> |
| | <p>Make repairs to the steps on Beuford Avenue</p> <p>Community Walk</p> | <p>Remove dead trees Make slumlords accountable private public collaboration Prune plant materials</p> |
| | Easy | Hard |