

Creating Cool Cities by Building Great Neighborhoods



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Project Purpose

- » Determine interest of target city CBOs in neighborhood-based planning
- » Adapt the Grand Rapids manual to a statewide audience
- » Have manual available to interested community groups

Project Implementation

- » Edit Team provided overall guidance
 - » Marie Ruemenapp
 - » Dave Ivan
 - » Mike Thomas
 - » Linda Patrick
 - » June Thomas

- » Focus group meetings were held in three cities to determine the level of interest
 - » Detroit - organized by Monica Smith
 - » Flint - organized by Linda Patrick
 - » Lansing - organized by Judi Gardi

Focus Group Input

- » Neighborhood associations affirmed the viability of the planning process - less interest from CDCs
- » Participants supported the “bottom up” planning approach

Project Outcomes

- » Input was incorporated into chapter re-writes by Edit Team
- » 150 hard copies of the new manual were printed and distributed
- » Website has free download:
<http://www.ssc.msu.edu/~urp/outreach/upp.htm>

Why Neighborhood-Based Planning?

- » One approach to neighborhood revitalization
- » Empowers current stakeholders
- » A consensus building model
- » A capacity-building model
- » Assists in managing change

South West Area Neighbors

- » Deteriorated neighborhood
- » 5,500 population - ethnic white, Native American, growing Hispanic
- » High % of rental housing
- » Declining commercial corridor
- » Adjacent to downtown
- » GVSU's downtown campus

Neighborhood Planning Process

- » Leadership Team organized
- » Neighborhood Profile and SWOT
- » Worst Case Scenario
- » Visioning & Preferred Scenario
- » Neighborhood Survey
- » Neighborhood Summit
- » Action Teams & Action Plan

SWAN's Neighborhood Plan Update

- » Vision adopted June 2002
- » Business Action Team continues to meet to revitalize commercial district
- » April charrette => area-specific plan
- » Area is now “hottest” real estate market in town
- » Whose vision will prevail?

Conclusions

- » Step-by-step manual on neighborhood planning revised
- » Hard copy and digital versions available
- » Useful tool for citizen initiated neighborhood revitalization effort