South Flint Community Plan

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING INITIATIVE
Historical Context

- The City of Flint and its citizens have a tumultuous relationship with urban planning.
- The 1960 Flint *Master Plan* called for slum clearance, redevelopment of underinvested areas, and the creation of I-475.
- The result of this plan and subsequent policies created massive amounts of urban sprawl, social imbalance, and racial segregation.
- The South Flint neighborhood, and particularly the Atherton East Housing Development, are direct products of this era.
Imagine Flint Master Plan for a Sustainable Flint

- 2013: Imagine Flint Master Plan is adopted after two years of group sessions, neighborhood and block club meetings, and public hearings with over 5,000 community participants
- Designed to address the new and unique challenges of a legacy city in transition, as well as rectify past injustices
- Guiding principles: social equity & sustainability, reshaping the economy, quality of life, adapting to change, youth, and civic life
- Neighborhood planning and development of quality affordable housing are called out as key implementation strategies
Atherton East Profile

- 1967- Atherton East public housing development is built on the urban fringe, within a flood plain
- Budget cuts, poor design, lack of amenities, and isolation have led to Atherton East being a community in need of relocation
- Imagine Flint Master Plan goal to relocate Atherton East to an area better connected to transit, services, employment, and schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Atherton</th>
<th>South Saginaw</th>
<th>Flint</th>
<th>Genesee County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$8,202</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>$27,199</td>
<td>$43,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Rate</td>
<td>81.61%</td>
<td>35.96%</td>
<td>36.64%</td>
<td>18.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>19.15%</td>
<td>21.66%</td>
<td>15.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing cost &gt; 30% of income</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44.63%</td>
<td>36.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>52.62%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>72.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>39.57%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>20.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 0-17 years old</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>28.43%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The South Flint Community Plan

- The City of Flint and Flint Housing Commission were the first community in Michigan to be awarded a Choice Neighborhoods Grant by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Purpose: revitalize distressed public housing and improve conditions in the neighborhood.
- Three extensive goal areas: People, Housing, and Neighborhood.
The Community as Planner

“"A plan is only as good as the community’s commitment to its implementation”"

Given the history of prior planning in Flint, it was critical that relationships were built based on trust, transparency, and equality.

A concerted effort was made to ensure that the community not only had a seat at the table, but were equipped with the tools and information to actively engage.
Listening and Learning

- The first phase of the planning process included resident meetings, interviews and the creation of a project Steering Committee.
- Community meetings were used to learn resident perspectives on the best and worst parts of the neighborhood, assessing resident needs and preferences.
Visioning

- The second phase invited Atherton East and neighborhood residents to discuss, develop, and define a broad outlook for the future of the community in groups of all sizes and ages.

- Community members wrote out words that described a prosperous future of south Flint and the word bubble on the right is what was created.
The Community Vision for South Flint
Neighborhood Early Action Projects

- Resident outreach staff conducting survey of needs
- MTA bus stop re-installed @ Atherton East
- Bike safety training day @ Atherton East
- Footbridge brush clean-up project as a strategy for crime prevention