



February 4-6, 2010
Seattle, Washington

9th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities

Equitable Development, Environmental Justice and Smart Growth



Smart growth encourages development that creates healthy, vibrant places that give people greater opportunity and choice. How can smart growth support equitable development, environmental justice and economic vitality and empower communities of color, tribes and disadvantaged groups to shape the neighborhoods, communities and regions in which they live? The 2010 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference includes several sessions and a pre-conference workshop that explore these critical issues and showcase strategies and opportunities for greater collaboration among the smart growth, equitable development and environmental justice communities.

www.newpartners.org

Talking about Race and Smart Growth: What Are the Next Chapters of the Dialogue?

■ THURSDAY, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

The most intensive remakes of central cities, whether driven by the private market or pushed through public redevelopment plans, have often brought new higher-income, predominantly white residents into areas whose existing lower-income people of color can be threatened with the loss of their homes and communities. This familiar pattern has provoked questions about the racial consequences of smart growth, and has generated new forms of activism to prevent displacement and define what a diverse, socially just city would look like.



A Revolutionary Approach: Bringing an Equity Focus to Smart Growth by Engaging Marginalized Populations

■ THURSDAY, 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Seattle is updating plans in three neighborhoods with a station on its newly opened light rail. These neighborhoods are home to communities with rich cultural, ethnic and economic diversity. This session explores the City's proactive efforts to support local residents and businesses as it works to transform the areas into vibrant transit-oriented communities, including an extraordinary outreach and engagement effort and the incorporation of the City's Race and Social Justice best practices.

Civil Rights Groups and the Smart Growth Movement

■ THURSDAY, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Mixed use and compact development patterns, typical of many communities of color, are touted as a model for smart growth, yet new and beneficial public and private investment is lacking for inner cities and declining suburbs. This panel will discuss a vision, framework and set of tools, policies to



promote equitable development outcomes through civil rights laws, and empowerment strategies. New strategies can address improved public involvement in land use decisions, stimulus funding, relief for fiscally strained localities, inclusionary development and the need to forge alliances linking environmental conservation with revitalization.

Plenary: Smart Growth at the Intersection of Environmental Justice and Green Jobs

■ FRIDAY, 8:45-10:00 a.m.

A truly sustainable economy will not only enhance environmental protection, but can also lift people out of poverty. This plenary articulates how smart growth can foster green jobs, social equity and affordable housing, as our nation moves towards a more sustainable, green economy.

Equity and Environmental Protection in Transit-Oriented Communities: Local Approaches

■ FRIDAY, 10:15-11:45 a.m.

The Seattle region is building a 52-mile light rail system to help move 1.6 million new people expected in the region by 2040. Addressing the competing pressures of population growth, economic development, affordability and climate change will be a challenge. Will the region choose to build parking lots or create affordable, walkable, livable communities with great transit options? Innovative station area plans in Bellevue and Seattle to integrate TOD principles with affordable housing and efforts by Tacoma to update its Mixed Use Centers plan to encourage walkable, bike-friendly development connected by transit will be highlighted.

Smart Growth and Tribes

■ FRIDAY, 10:15-11:45 a.m.

Indian Country faces some unique challenges when it comes to planning. Many more tribes are seeing

new funds coming from casinos and other tribal enterprises, and are recognizing the need and ability for expanding housing and community services for their members. However, tribes want to make sure that their planning efforts also reflect their tribal identity and traditions. Some are now beginning to realize that they need to rethink the way they have been planning their communities. This session will explore various stages of planning in three tribal communities, and the lessons learned. Not only focusing on intergovernmental relations at the federal, state and local levels and outreach to non-tribal members, but also on how smart growth principles can be applied while keeping planning efforts culturally relevant.

Regional Organizing and Environmental Justice

■ FRIDAY, 1:45-3:15 p.m.

This session will highlight the importance of "regional organizing" to provide for regional equity/ environmental justice in decisions about land use planning, community development and economic development. Current development patterns typically disperse jobs more often in the suburbs than the central city. The lack of public transportation to suburban job centers and zoning codes that limit construction of affordable and workforce housing means that city residents — often times minorities — are cut off from economic opportunity. This session will provide information on how regional planning has successfully been used in communities with environmental justice concerns to effectuate a positive change resulting in the improvement of the environment, public health and economy.

Equitable Development in Asian Communities

■ FRIDAY, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Throughout the U.S. many ethnic neighborhoods in cities are undergoing significant changes. Their population is often getting older, less affluent and less connected to the broader metropolitan economy. At the same time, these neighborhoods are increasingly desirable locations for new development and growth, and facing concerns of neighborhood gentrification, displacement of existing residents, and the loss of neighborhood identity and function. We will hear from community development practitioners, planners and advocates that are working with Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities about the



development challenges and issues facing these communities, smart growth policy impacts on API neighborhoods and strategies that can promote smarter and more equitable development outcomes.

Equity in the Suburbs

■ SATURDAY, 10:15-11:45 a.m.

More than half of the nation's poor families now live in the suburbs. This trend raises challenges for meeting the immediate needs of these families and for making their disinvested neighborhoods into communities of opportunity. The urban framework for addressing neighborhood poverty does not necessarily apply, and human services, transportation and community design need to be rethought to be effective in suburban settings. Fortunately, there are some remarkable efforts underway to do just that. The panel will describe the Skyway neighborhood improvement project, part of the King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative, a groundbreaking civic engagement and planning effort in this unincorporated lower income area outside Seattle. There will also be a presentation about mid-Multnomah County, where 1960's-era suburban tracts, home to many of Portland's lower-income families, are being remade to encourage walkability and bicycling as part of a broader effort to improve health equity and enhance neighborhood viability.

Remaking Older Cities, Reimagining Metro Areas

■ SATURDAY, 1:45-3:15 p.m.

Older industrial cities face great challenges in maintaining the viability of neighborhoods and shopping districts when there has been significant population decline and disinvestment. The proliferation of vacant properties, decline of the tax base, and loss of good jobs can create a grim forecast for these cities. However, some of the most creative and effective responses to neighborhood decline have emerged in precisely these places, and their paths toward sustainability and equity provide some of the most important and inspiring lessons for revitalization. This session will feature leaders from several cities that are working their way back.

Working Together for Equitable Development

Voices and Lessons from Environmental Justice and Smart Growth

Wednesday, February 3 ■ 8:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Explore the connections between smart growth, environmental justice and equitable development. Learn how to overcome barriers to integrating complementary efforts.

Smart growth, equitable development and environmental justice all strive for development that creates healthy, vibrant places and that gives people greater opportunity and choice. Given this common goal, how can smart growth, equitable development and environmental justice efforts work together to ensure that development decisions meet the needs of disadvantaged communities?

How can collaboration ensure that lower-income communities, communities of color and indigenous communities participate in and benefit from the decisions that shape their neighborhoods and the communities and regions in which they live?

■ On the Workshop Agenda

During this one-day workshop, participants will:

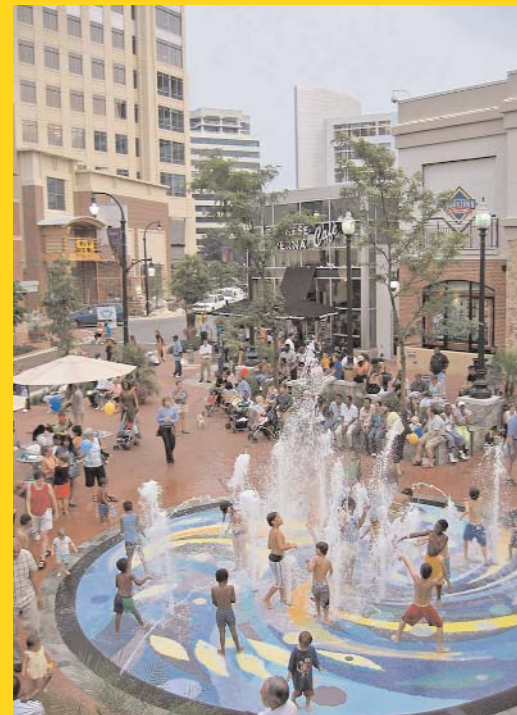
- Get to know federal, state, local and tribal tools and programs that support equitable development.
- Hear from community leaders who have forged successful partnerships.
- Learn about opportunities for collaboration between smart growth, equitable development and environmental justice.
- Explore why integrating these efforts is critical and necessary to right past wrongs, revitalize America's disadvantaged communities, grow the economy, and create healthy and sustainable urban, suburban, rural and tribal communities.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Registration is \$25.

This workshop will be held immediately prior to the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference and complements the Equitable Development Track of sessions to be held during the February 4-6 conference. Arrive early to attend both.

■ To Register for the Pre-conference Workshop:

www.newpartners.org





THE 9TH ANNUAL **NEW PARTNERS FOR SMART GROWTH** CONFERENCE

Among the invited speakers...

- Kahlila Barnett, Executive Director, Alternatives for Community and Environment
- Majora Carter, President, Majora Carter Group, LLC
- Don Chen, Community Development Program Officer, Ford Foundation
- Larry Cohen, Executive Director, The Prevention Institute
- John Frece, Director, Office of Smart Growth, U.S. EPA
- Angela Glover-Blackwell, President and CEO, PolicyLink
- Charles Lee, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, U.S. EPA
- Vernice Miller-Travis, Vice Chair, Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities; Co-founder, West Harlem Environmental Action
- Professor John Powell, Executive Director, The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Ohio State University Law School
- Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator, Solid Waste and Emergency Response, U.S. EPA
- Heaster Wheeler, Executive Director, Detroit NAACP
- Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE

Presented by the Local Government Commission • Supporters include:



Register Now!

www.newpartners.org

Visit the conference web site for registration information and more details about these and many other exciting sessions!

■ DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

The LGC has received foundation support to establish a Diversity Scholarship Fund for this event that will allow us to waive the conference registration fee and provide small travel stipends to community leaders from lower-income and traditionally minority communities, and representatives from organizations whose primary work is focused on social equity, environmental justice and equitable development. For information on how to apply for a Diversity Scholarship: Shani Alford, salford@lgc.org, (916) 448-1198 x330.

■ CONFERENCE LOCATION

The conference will be held at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in downtown Seattle. The Sheraton Seattle Hotel is the headquarters hotel for the conference, and is offering a special group rate of \$159 single/double occupancy until January 13. Make your reservations by calling (888) 627-7056, and indicate you are attending the New Partners Conference.

■ FOR MORE INFORMATION

Noelle Nichols
Local Government Commission
(916) 448-1198 x327, nichols@lgc.org