

Neighborhood Task Force Meeting Notes – January 26, 2015

- Welcome & Introductions
- Discussion on revisiting overarching Vision Statement for Russell Choice Neighborhood Initiative in conjunction with review of the Neighborhood Component of Transformation Plan Outline
- Sam Watkins/LCCC – Presentation on SDAT
 - Originally to focus on 9th to 32nd Streets, expanded east to 6th
 - Change is difficult, key is creating shared enthusiasm for change
 - Summary of findings include:
 - Create art and culture district along Ali from 6 to 18th with 18th being a connector to rest of West Louisville
 - Kentucky Center for African American Heritage (KCAAH) and LCCC's new conference/event space is an opportunity to attract people into neighborhood for events
 - Remove fencing barriers on Ali Blvd. – anything that prevents people from accessing public/commercial spaces, example: KCAAH
 - Removing gaps/parking lots on Ali between 6th and 9th Streets – taking late added façade off Mammoth Building and adding apartments to upper floors
 - Must work consistently and continually
- Questions:
 - What was said about FoodPort and other food efforts in the neighborhood? Response: SDAT highlighted them as important assets to build upon
 - Were residents involved in the SDAT charrette and do they want an arts & culture district in their neighborhood? Response: Residents participated.
 - Amy Lockett/NDHC – Overview of NOWs community outreach, neighborhood survey, and community conversations efforts. NOWs are currently conducting “kitchen conversation”. Held one on Health at Russell Apartments. Next will be at Baptized Pentecostal on Homeownership.
 - Jeana Dunlap/Develop Louisville – participated at the SDAT charrette and feels the report accurately reflects roundtable discussions
- Next Steps on SDAT: present to community leaders, hold a public presentation and share with community stakeholders during the 2nd or 3rd week of February
- Question – what is the next step after presenting report to public? Response: Stay connected to the CNI process
- Discussion on potential bus stop improvements on 18th St. and elsewhere in the neighborhood.

- Kevin Fields/LCCC – suggestion to have CNI Transformation Plan to adopt the SDAT report and to make this recommendation to the Coordinating Committee
- Additional discussion clarifying the role of the Task Forces in the overall CNI planning process.
- Additional discussion on how one of Russell’s central problems is disconnection
- Question about overall vision statement – can it explicitly say that we want to create an arts and culture district?
- Discussion on Action Activities grant application – role of taskforces in selection process and which activities qualify for funding.
 - Question – How can items in the SDAT report fit into Action Activities grant? Answer – Activities will be selected from the transformation plan and final decisions will be made through a Russell resident vote.
- Suggestion to table the rest of the SDAT conversation until the next meeting. Also to talk at that meeting about goals, strategies, partners, metrics, and how the Russell’s art district relates to arts development in Portland. Also start planning work on the Community Conversation on Crime and Safety.
- Wrap Up
 - Next meeting on Feb 9 (6:00 – 7:30 PM at LCCC’s Old Walnut Street)