

Project Profile (1 page maximum)

Project Name: Planning Institute for Leadership

Lead and Partner Organizations: Urban Habitat

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Sub-Grant Program: Equity

Project Type: Planning Institute

Total Grant Amount: \$90,000

Total Match (if any): \$7,000

Geographic Coverage of Project: Contra Costa County and Region

Description (150 words maximum): Planning Institutes will train the members of seven community based organizations in urban planning from a racial and environmental justice perspective. These schools are intended to build the capacity of local organizations to address the land use and transportation patterns that shape access to economic opportunity for low-and moderate-income workers. Curricula will be developed collaboratively with community based organizations in order to most effectively support their work and priorities.

1. Goals and Objectives

In order to ensure that the implementation of Plan Bay Area promotes greater access and opportunity for low-income people and people of color, leaders from these communities must be engaged in rezoning/PDA planning, housing element updates, transportation investment decisions, and other critical planning decisions that implement the plan’s vision. These community leaders and non-profits require a shared skill set and capacity to be effective in integrating equity goals and principles into decision-making processes and outcomes with local jurisdictions and regional agencies. The Planning Institute aims to equalize and integrate foundational knowledge, technical capacity and relationships for under-represented community leaders around topics like affordable housing, transportation and access, and land use planning – using a shared racial and class equity lens and analysis. In particular, the Planning Institute targets communities (such as Central and East Contra Costa County and Marin) that have not historically had strong networks of organizations working for equity.

A Planning Institute is a collaborative learning community co-hosted by Urban Habitat and a partner organization, comprised of emerging and established grassroots leaders and activists who

are seeking to root their collective action in common frameworks and knowledge bases. For each Planning Institute, Urban Habitat, Contra Costa Health Services and/or another partner organization will work with the community partner to design learning objectives and develop curriculum to meet unique learning needs and situations.

2. Work Plan

TASK 1: Program Preparation

Urban Habitat entered into an agreement with Contra Costa Health Services to create four workshops for fifty participants. Urban Habitat evaluated and made available our pertinent existing educational materials as an organized and shared list of curriculum agendas, materials, presentation, and webinars. Urban Habitat designed the basic program format, and developed a description that was used to recruit workshop hosts and participants. Additionally, UH designed a learning needs assessment template to work with partners on identifying critical skills and knowledge that will be imparted to participants and an evaluation process to assess the program and identify improvements based on feedback of participants.

TASK 2: Contra Costa County Planning Institutes

Urban Habitat worked with Contra Costa Health Services and other local organizations to host a series of 4 workshops based on the issues that the local organizations identified as critical to their health and wellbeing. All of the workshops were evaluated by participants based on a survey that was distributed after the workshop, with the exception of the workshop in partnership with First 5 which used a visual display to provide feedback on the three main objectives of the workshop.

Renter's Rights Workshop with Tenants Together and Monument Impact

Urban Habitat and CCHS conducted a workshop with Tenants Together focused on tenant rights, with an education component in the morning and an advocacy component in the afternoon. Tenants came away from the training with a deeper knowledge of their rental rights, as well as a strong understanding of how to conduct local tenant advocacy. 24 people attended the event.

For the renter's rights workshop, as well as the parent advocacy and foreclosure workshops, participants filled out a two-page evaluation questionnaire with a 5 point scale to assess their agreement or disagreement with a set of evaluative statements (5=most positive, 1=least positive).

In this workshop the average score per question ranged from 4.23 to 5.00. The lowest scores were in how well the workshop matched participant learning needs and how well participants knew how to apply what they learned. The highest scores were in the format of the day and the location of the event.

Parent Advocacy Workshop with Building Blocks for Kids

Urban Habitat and CCHS worked with Building Blocks for Kids (BBK) on a parent advocacy training series. The focus of the workshop was on relationship building among the parents, as well as setting group guidelines, and a starting to create a vision of their advocacy goals. 5 people attended, and all participants responded to the survey.

In this workshop the average score per question ranged from 4.50 to 5.00. Some of the lowest scores were in how well participants learned new techniques or something about themselves, and some of the highest scores were about the quality of the facilitation and the presentation.

Foreclosure Advocacy Workshop with Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organization

Urban Habitat and CCHS worked with Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organization (CCISCO) on a workshop that focused on building advocacy capacity around the issue of home foreclosures in the Antioch area. The workshop included a presentation of local foreclosure data, as well as

a deeper discussion of foreclosure's impacts on the community and advocacy strategies to address the issue. 4 people participated in the training, 3 completed evaluations

In this workshop the average score per question ranged from 3.33 to 5.00. The lowest scores were in whether new concepts were learned and whether new information was gained that would strengthen their work. Some of the highest scores were in engagement level of the speakers and the quality of the presentation.

Communications and Messaging Workshop with First 5

Urban Habitat and CCHS worked with First 5 Contra Costa to create curriculum that enhanced the communications and messaging skills as related to First Five's public park advocacy work. The goal of the workshop was to have participants come away with a clear sense of how to develop and tailor messages to use in their work. There were 44 participants.

TASK 3: Regional Planning Institute

Urban Habitat worked with Housing Leadership Council in San Mateo County to host a Planning Institute in San Mateo County. Housing Leadership Council was chosen because they were participants in a larger anti-displacement coalition that had many questions and concerns regarding rent stabilization policies. Urban Habitat worked with Tenants Together on a workshop to provide basic information on rent control and rent stabilization in California and shared best practices from around the State.

TASK 4: Outreach in East Contra Costa County

Contra Costa Health services met with 9 Pittsburg city planners, 2 staff members from the Board of Supervisors, 5 Pittsburg City Council members, Supervisor Glover, 5 Antioch City Council members, and 4 Antioch city staff (including the city manager).

As a result of Pittsburg City Council presentation, CCHS was requested and implemented presentation to Pittsburg Community Advisory Council on 11/5/14. Group received report very favorably and were interested in following up with Healthy and Livable Pittsburg work (collaborative group CCHS has founded and is supporting to address health equity issues in the city.) In addition, CCHS sent a coalition of high-level East County stakeholders to the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference 1/29/15-1/31/15. At the event, participants held multiple meet ups and discussed ideas, next steps, and ways to collaborate in the future. After the conference, the group met to debrief and decided to meet on a quarterly basis in the future to partner on smart growth issues in East County.

3. Role of Lead and Partners

Urban Habitat managed the project. UH holds relationships with many grassroots organizations throughout the Bay Area that request training on Housing and Regionalism. Working with CCHS, we expanded that work to include public health and with this grant, worked with organizations to identify the areas that they wanted to focus on and provide in-person training as well as educational collateral including videos, webinars, and information sheets that can be used by the organization after the official training is complete. Urban Habitat currently coordinates the Transportation Justice Network, which has broad participation from community groups.

Prior to this grant, Contra Costa Health Services provided public health training and technical assistance on planning processes, like housing elements, to a variety of base building organizations in Contra Costa County. Working with UH through this grant, they expanded the trainings to include Affordable Housing, Transportation, and Regionalism. Additionally, CCHS conducted a "train the trainer" for and support UH's adaptation of this public health curriculum to suit community needs,

allowing UH to provide public health planning training to communities outside Contra Costa County.

B. Challenges and Outcomes (1 page maximum)

4. Challenges

Describe the main challenges faced of implementing the project. How did your team address them? Describe what worked well and what did not work. What would you have done differently if you could start over?

There weren't many challenges that were above and beyond the normal challenges of a project of this scope - scheduling meetings and events, coordinating with partners, etc. If we were to do this project again, we would probably chose one community group in one geographic location and create a series of workshops that each built off each other on a common theme, rather than doing four groups with four very different topics. It would also help in developing training materials if all they were on similar, complementary topics.

Feedback we got from the groups we worked with was that the information would be useful in their advocacy efforts in the community. Participants expressed a desire for additional workshops.

Elected officials and city staff were interested in the data we presented about their communities and engaged in dialogue with CCHS staff about the data. It was easy to calendar meetings with so many high level people, thanks to Doodle polls.

5. Outcomes

Urban Habitat and CCHS has deepened the relationships with the community groups we partnered with and have begun planning follow up activities, such as additional workshops. Our relationships with residents, elected officials, and staff in East Contra Costa has deepened significantly, from having only passing acquaintance with most individuals at the beginning of the project, to being in regular correspondence with many of them. CCHS is implementing next steps in our previously-existing place-based initiative in Pittsburg and meeting with a group of East Contra Costa elected officials and staff where we are continuing to educate them on health data and strategize about regional health priorities.

Additionally, through this project we now have curricula developed in topic areas that we did not previously, such as the effects of foreclosure on a community.

C. Replicability and Dissemination (1 page maximum)

6. Replicability

This project can demonstrate for other communities how to set up collaborative learning experiences that draw upon local expertise and employ adult learning theory best practices – including learning communities, a “flipped classroom,” interactive teaching methodologies, and educational technology. We aim for our partners to learn and share best practices from each other throughout the design and implementation of the Learning Institutes. The curriculum development process and education assets (i.e. videos, webinars, presentations, interactive sessions, syllabi) can be modified in the future for any educational format to meet current and local needs.

7. Tools and Resources

The research, power points, exercises, and games developed for the workshops are transferrable with varying degrees of updating and tailoring needed. To obtain copies of the materials, contact UH staff.

8. Sharing and Dissemination

Describe how and with whom you will share these tools and resources over the next 12 months. How can other communities access the tools and resources developed through this process?

Other communities can access the tools and resources by contacting our staff and we can arrange the best way to share the information.

D. Recommendations and Next Steps (1 page maximum)

9. Recommendations

The implementation of Plan Bay Area is having dramatic consequences throughout the region, spurring new or altered planning processes such as rezoning/PDA planning, housing element updates, and transportation investment decisions. Underrepresented communities, who are often not a part of these processes, need strong voices to ensure that new plans and investments create new economic opportunity, more housing options, and reduced displacement pressure. Changing who participates in local planning processes, and the information they have available to them about planning and policy options, can change the public debate and the outcome of critical decisions. By building capacity at the suburban edges of the region, such as Eastern Contra Costa County, the Planning Institute also has the potential to shift regional decision making toward equity. These communities have often lacked a strong voice for equity at the local or regional level. With increased leadership capacity and technical savvy, communities from low-income suburban communities will be increasingly able to partner with already established equity networks to win policies and investments that serve under-represented communities across the region, and that also respond to the unique set of needs of suburban communities.

10. Next Steps

Describe the next steps for your project and how the proposed recommendations will be institutionalized in your community.

Urban Habitat will continue to partner with local organizations and coordinate local workshops and use the information gathered for the completed workshops for our Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute.