

Our Community, Our Ideas

*Summary Report of Leader and Stakeholder
Interviews About Eastern North Philadelphia*

September 2010

SCI Eastern North is a partnership between LISC Philadelphia and Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha. Its goal is to make the community a healthier, safer place to live, work, play, and raise a family.



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SCI Eastern North Partners and Collaborators

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Leaders Interviewed

Ada Rendón	Gardening Committee
Alan Greenberger	City Planning Commission
Alex Abraham	Temple University
Andre Mears	Block Captain
Angel Coleman	Girard Coalition
Angel Rodríguez	Empowerment Group
Ann Weaver Hart, PhD	Temple University
Anthony Pérez	Jr. Block Captain
Anthony Rocco	Business Owner
Beth Centz	Philadelphia Catholic Workers
Betsy Casañas	Semilla Arts Initiative
Beverly Coleman	Temple University
Bill Bergman	Temple University
Bishop Dwayne Roysler	Living Water Christian Community
Bob Grossman	PA Horticultural Society
Byron Comati	SEPTA
Carl Greene	Philadelphia Housing Authority
Carmen Febo-San Miguel	Taller Puertorriqueño
Cynthia Figueroa	Department of Human Services
Danilo Burgos	Dominican Grocers Association
Dario Bellot	Congreso de Latinos Unidos
Darnell Wilkerson	Health Center 6, City of Philadelphia
Darrell Clarke	Councilman 5th District
David Ortiz	City Planning Commission
Debbie Hall	PA Horticultural Society
Denis Murphy	Commerce Department
Dinorah Diaz	APM
Donna Brian	PHMC Health Connection
Dr Mulloy	Health Clinic
Dr. J. McMonagle	Hartranft School
Edda Loredo	Kensington International Business HS
Elizabeth Grimaldi	Village of Arts & Humanities
Erika Tapp	South Kensington NAC
Esteban Alegre	APM
G. Wang	William Penn Foundation
Gil González	CCP
Gustavo Castro	APM
Hakieme Mace	Cookman Methodist Church
Iris Santa	APM
Israel "Izzy" Colón	City of Philadelphia

Jacquie Fonseca	APM Childcare Parent Council
Jill Feldstein	WCRP
Joan C. Pinkney	New Greater Straightway Baptist Church
Joanna Otero-Cruz	Concilio
John Lavery	Lighthouse
Jonathan Centeno	Aspira
Jose Rico	Riko
Josephine Quinones	School District of Philadelphia
Julia López	Kimmel Center
Karen Warrington	Congressman Brady's Office
Kathleen Cannon	Philadbundance
Ken Lawrence	Temple University
Kevin Dow	Commerce Department
Kimberly J Allen	Wachovia Foundation
Lisa Padilla	El Cafeito
Lisa Segarra	Norris Square Civic Association
Luis Mora	FINANTA
Margarita Garcia	Gardening Committee
Maria Mills-Torres	Philadelphia School District
Maria Quiñones-Sánchez	Councilwoman 7th District
Marlene Brito	Kimmel Center
Michael McKeown	Cruz Playground
Michael Koonce	RDA
Miriam Piñeiro Cortés	NSCA
Mr. Wanamaker	Ludlow Community Association
Nakea Fuller	Philadelphia Housing Authority
Napoleón Garcia	Impacto Newspaper
Nora Lichtash	WCRP
Norma Morales	Gardening Committee
Orlando Quevedo	Artist
Oscar Santos	19th Ward
Oscar Torrealva	TruMark Financial
Pat DeCarlo	Norris Square Civic Association
Rachel Rojas	La Familia Rojas Dance Company
Rev. William Pinkney	Greater Straightway Baptist Church
Rosi Vega	703 Diagnostic Medical Center
Rubi Pacheco-Rivera	City Finance Department
Sen. Shirley Kitchen	PA Senate
Sister Rose	Hope Partnership School
Stephen Buckley	Managing Director's Office
Tyree Dumas	Dollarboyz
Varsovia Fernández	Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber
William Gonzalez	CEIBA
Zeina El-Halabi	Arab-American CDC

Our Community, Our Ideas

Executive Summary of Leader Interviews

Based on National LISC's Sustainable Communities Initiative, SCI Eastern North is a partnership between APM and Philadelphia LISC that builds on the premise that sustainable communities are good places to live, do business, work, and raise families.

In Eastern North Philadelphia, the initiative will begin with a year-long community-based quality of life planning process, *Our Community, Our Ideas*. The goal is to provide residents and stakeholders with opportunities and tools to develop a vision for the future of the community. Our Community, Our Ideas is a three-step process:

- **SWOT with Community Leaders.** Community leaders representing diverse interests are asked to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in Eastern North Philadelphia.
- **Community Visioning.** Community leaders, stakeholders and residents are invited to come together to develop a vision for the future of the community.
- **Development of Quality of Life Plan.** A steering committee produces a Quality of Life Plan that reflects the community's collective values and priorities.

Overall Community Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats

Strengths. Generally, the data shows that community leaders are most positive about improvements to the physical environment, the community's human and institutional capital, and the richness and diversity of its people.

Weaknesses. Most frequently, leaders identified crime and safety, lack of collaboration among groups, and residents' lack of self-sufficiency as detrimental factors in Eastern North Philadelphia.

Opportunities. According to the leaders interviewed, Eastern North Philadelphia is rich with opportunities for creative and innovative partnerships that could build human capital, revitalize underutilized assets, and focus energy and resources to stimulate the local economy.

Threats. Overall, concerns about outside influences centered mostly on availability of funding and resources, long-term neighborhood affordability, and larger social forces such as the drug and violence culture.

What is SCI Eastern North?

Based on National LISC's Sustainable Communities Initiative, SCI Eastern North is a partnership between APM and Philadelphia LISC that builds on the premise that sustainable communities are good places to live, do business, work, and raise families. SCI Eastern North has five primary focus areas:

- Developing, preserving, and investing in the physical environment
- Building family income and wealth
- Stimulating economic activity locally and regionally
- Improving access to quality education
- Fostering livable, safe and healthy environments

In Eastern North Philadelphia, the initiative will begin with a year-long community-based quality of life planning process, *Our Community, Our Ideas*. The goal is to provide residents and stakeholders with opportunities and tools to develop a vision for the future of the community. Our Community, Our Ideas is a three-step process:

1. **SWOT with Community Leaders.** Community leaders representing diverse interests and groups are asked to identify strengths; weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) in Eastern North Philadelphia. This step concludes with the report included herein, which summarizes the results of the interviews and with the presentation of findings at a Report Back Event.
2. **Community Visioning.** Community leaders, stakeholders and residents are invited to come together for a day of activities where the goal is to develop a vision for the future of the community that will inform the development of the Quality of Life Plan.
3. **Development of Quality of Life Plan.** A steering committee consisting of residents, stakeholders and leaders produce a Quality of Life Plan that reflects the community's collective values and priorities. The process concludes with the public rollout of the plan.

SWOT with Community Leaders

Community leaders representing diverse interests and groups are asked to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) in Eastern North Philadelphia. This step concludes with the report included herein, which summarizes the results of the interviews and with the presentation of findings at a Report Back Event.

The Process

During the summer of 2010, a team of 11 volunteers interviewed 83 community leaders. Volunteers were trained by a consultant on how to administer the SWOT and were provided with recording tools and supplemental materials. The team met periodically to assess its progress. During the SWOT, leaders were asked to answer two questions:

1. What do you believe are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in Eastern North Philadelphia?
2. Is there anyone else we should interview?

The SWOT was undertaken in two rounds. The first round consisted of one-on-one interviews with community leaders and stakeholders that were identified as persons who have the ability to influence people in Eastern North Philadelphia. Leaders were identified from a variety of sectors, including government, religious institutions, schools, community-based groups, block captains, youth groups, businesses, etc.

The second round consisted of leaders recommended through the SWOT process. They were invited to provide their perspective on the quality of life in Eastern North Philadelphia in one of three roundtables conducted during the month of August.

The data gathered by the volunteer team was entered in a database. A total of 1,029 statements were captured by the interviewing team. Each statement was classified as belonging to one of four SWOT categories (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat) and one of eight focus areas (Physical Environment, Income & Wealth, Economic Development, Education, Leadership, Healthy Environment, Arts & Culture, Children & Youth). For each of the eight focus areas, the data was analyzed to look for frequency (how often were certain things mentioned) and themes, which provide a sense of priorities and form the basis for this report.

What Did Community Leaders Say?

During the summer of 2010, a team of 11 volunteers interviewed 83 community leaders, to whom they asked, "What do you believe are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in Eastern North Philadelphia?" A total of 1,029 statements were recorded. This section analyzes the findings.

What do you believe are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in Eastern North Philadelphia?

Overall Community Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats

Strengths. Generally, the data shows that community leaders are most positive about improvements to the physical environment, the community's human and institutional capital, and the richness and diversity of its people.

Weaknesses. Most frequently, leaders identified crime and safety, lack of collaboration among groups, and residents' lack of self-sufficiency as detrimental factors in Eastern North Philadelphia.

Opportunities. According to the leaders interviewed, Eastern North Philadelphia is rich with opportunities for creative and innovative partnerships that could build human capital, revitalize underutilized assets, and focus energy and resources to stimulate the local economy.

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SWOT in Detail

What do you believe are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in Eastern North Philadelphia?

The Physical Environment

[there has been a] dramatic improvement in the neighborhood.”

[There is an opportunity] to build the community as to embrace the old and the new.”

Most of the positive comments (strengths) in this category, 47%, center on recent investments in the build environment, which have improved the “look and feel” of the neighborhood. Prominent are also positive views about accessibility and location of the neighborhood, easy access to Center City, the region, and the availability of public transportation.

Nevertheless, the revitalization has yet to reach some areas. According to 45% of weakness statements in this category, blight, graffiti, and the abundance of vacant land continue to be detrimental to the quality of life in Eastern North Philadelphia. Other comments, 20%, relate to the lack of quality recreation and open spaces.

Those weaknesses also provide opportunities for improvement, of which ideas were obtained (50 statements of opportunities in this category). The dominant themes point to the redevelopment of vacant land, the American Street Corridor, and the Temple University regional rail station as assets that could be maximized.

Leadership

"We do not collaborate very well in North Philadelphia."

"If you're a service provider but [are] not cultivating civic leadership, you're not doing enough."

Strengths in this category focus on the recognition that there are a lot of people doing good things to improve the quality of life for the community at the institutional and individual level. Approximately 34% of comments related to leadership strengths are aligned along this theme. Nevertheless, a high percentage of comments also point to fractured leadership or lack of collaboration among leaders as a weakness in the community. Of 97 weakness statements, 41% of them would fall under this theme. Another weakness revealed by the data is that, among the leadership weaknesses, 17% of comments relate to the lack of an organized voice among residents.

Consistent with the challenges presented, most opportunities in this category consist of building leadership capacity and engagement among residents, and on fostering collaboration among leaders.

Children & Youth

"Our kids are very capable of doing a lot of things. They are unbelievably intelligent."

"Bring more employment opportunities and recreational activities for our youth to take them out of the streets since they are our future."

Statements about children and youth largely centered on concerns about the inadequacy of support systems and guidance for this group and the opportunities that could be created to harness and develop their potential.

Thirty two percent of weakness statements in this category, point to the lack of parental guidance and/or involvement in the lives of children and an additional 25% focus on the lack of programming for youth such as after school programs and youth employment.

The respondents also indicated that there is an opportunity in the community to meet children and youth needs through programs that target youth (12% of opportunities in this category) and programs that teach parenting skills.

Income & Wealth Creation

"There needs to be a balance between social support and self-reliance. Give them fish, but teach them how to fish."

"Creating job training programs in the community would be fantastic."

Generally this area presents a challenge to Eastern North Philadelphia, as reflected by less than 6% of comments indicating strengths in the area of income and wealth.

Of all weaknesses stated in this category, over two thirds (37%) indicate that there are too many residents that cannot support themselves or their families without assistance from government programs and an additional 31% agree that there are too few opportunities for upward mobility available in the community. Those interviewed generally suggested investments in job training as an alternative to be pursued.

It is this category that outside influences or threats are most clear. Respondents showed concern for long-term neighborhood affordability as a result of property appreciation, the city's tax structure, and other external forces.

Education

"The only problem here is education, everything stems from that."

"No education = No jobs"

Most of the strengths in the area of education focus on new schools being build and the charter school movement. Most respondents in this category agree that the quality of education in Eastern North Philadelphia does not meet the needs of the community. Poor educational outcomes are cited as the most significant weakness with 40% of comments.

Aligned with the strength statements, most comments about educational opportunities, 36% of them, focus on the idea of charter schools and alternative educational programs.

Respondents in this category see government support and Philadelphia School District policies as potential threats to the availability of quality educational programming in the community.

Economic Development

"If the area improves, it will be more attractive to businesses, which will create jobs."

"We have the infrastructure for developing the local economy."

Strengths in this category focus on the potential for growth and the enterprising culture that exists. Thirty percent of the comments reflect an appreciation for small business and entrepreneurs.

Respondents also reflected on the barriers for economic development, with similar weight (8%) given to the lack of resources available to build the capacity of entrepreneurs and the inadequate commercial mix and options available for consumers.

Most of the responses in this category dealt with the opportunities existing in Eastern North Philadelphia for economic growth. Twenty eight percent of responses focused on the realignment of existing community assets, such as American Street and community nonprofits, with economic development priorities.

Arts & Culture

"[There is an opportunity] for showcasing the various cultures and build on them through the arts."

"[A strength is] diversity, [this is] a very mixed community (African American, Latino, Arabs) where all live well together."

In general, strengths in this area focus on positive feelings about the community's culture and identity (57% of responses). Many of the comments, 39%, made reference to the inclusiveness and diversity of residents. Respondents also highlighted the richness, talent and heritage of the different groups and an asset. No salient weaknesses were noted.

Respondents felt strongly that that the community's cultural strengths could be better capitalized, suggesting programming, cultural and recreational activities, etc.

Healthy Environment & Lifestyles

"Criminal influences from outside invading our community-drugs, gangs, etc."

"Violence has become normalized, accepted."

This area is generally perceived as one that negatively impacts the community. On the positive side, respondents agree that there are support systems available to support the health of residents. Forty five percent of strength responses in this category are aligned along this theme.

Nevertheless, most comments center on issues of crime and safety and the opportunities available to address them. Respondents are concerned about the level of violence and the drug culture in the community. Combined drugs and crime captured 48% of comments related to weaknesses. Another theme that surfaced in the data was that of lack of access to healthy and fresh foods. Nearly 10% of weakness responses in this area cited this as a problem.

The opportunities to address the weaknesses in this area are many and the responses are varied, however, two themes come across in the data. Thirty seven percent of opportunity statement point to outreach, education and programming focused on health issues and 14% suggest collaboration and partnerships as a strategy to reduce crime.

This is another area where respondents clearly articulated concern for external threats. Over half of responses (57%), are concerned with drugs and violence as a larger societal problem influencing Eastern North Philadelphia. Other comments are also concerned with funding and the overall funding environment and how programs could be affected.

SCI Eastern North SWOT Analysis

Physical Environment

Strengths

Location: close to center city, I-95, Broad Street. Easy connection to other areas.

Efforts to revitalize

Vacant land

Businesses take care of properties

Housing Development

Advancement - community revitalization

The environmental and green sustainability work being done in the target area.

Transit systems

Vacant land

Block cleanup days are great, everyone comes out.

Neighborhood revitalization

The community is like a blank canvass. You could do anything and it would be an improvement.

Housing developments look inviting.

Upkeep of outside of homes, appearance

Investments and Real Estate Projects

Area linked to downtown, regional rail, the university and other employment hubs.

Infrastructure/efforts to date/targeted efforts

Development opportunities (vacant/private properties)

Transportation systems

Projects that APM has built are of good quality, they look good.

S, Graffiti has improved

Having the El so close.

Good access to Broad Street on the west.

Easy access to I-95, takes you everywhere

The area around Norris Square has beautiful gardens.

S, Some strong blocks

Real estate

Public transit

Community ordinance, folks taking pride in their appearance

Girard Avenue's and American Street's easy access to I-95

People taking care of their homes

PHA new development

Girard Avenue's and American Street's easy access to I-95

Transportation systems

Beautification of lots through partnerships like Ready, Willing and Able
S, Norris Square, great area, could be the Rittenhouse of N. Philly
Dramatic improvement in the neighborhood.
Sense of neighborhood.
East of Broad ST feels more community-oriented than west of Broad ST.
The community is located in an strategic area in the city with a lot of resources around
Location of neighborhood
APM Pradera homes are well-kept.
Proximity to Center City, transportation systems & Temple University
Access to Center City jobs
A balanced approach to development-eliminates concern about gentrification.
Non profits/ community revitalization
APM has done a good job w/ training new residents about property maintenance
Parks/green spaces are well used by the community
Tremendous amount of change evident.
Location
Quality of development is good.
Cruz recreation center's baseball field seems well organized.
S, Proximity to Center City
S, APM's target neighborhood is now on the City's radar screen; city support is huge
S, Transportation
Residential and business proximity to Center City
Good public transportation infrastructure.
The changes in the community are a reminder of how South Street changed.
All the new development (shopping center, Trumark)
Investment to date
Homeownership pride is evident.

Weaknesses

Housing affordability is becoming a problem as the area improves.
Limited recreational areas
RW Brown is the only good recreation center.
Gentrification moving in from the east.
Homeowners with fixed incomes like SSI cannot afford to maintain their homes.
Lack of consolidation of the land - separate strategies leading to misguided and inappropriate efforts
Graffiti
Garages/Mechanics on 2nd St.
Lack of respect for neighborhood property
Space is needed for community meetings, library, resource center.
Vacant land maintenance.

Poor zoning enforcement
Not enough open, gathering spaces like parks.
APM maintenance of their developments.
W, Appearance of American St.
Property management- stewardship of vacant land.
Borinquen Plaza shopping center property management.
Transit can be expensive to ride. The rail system is much more expensive than the bus system.
No one doing blight elimination
Blight, even though there is more attention being paid to it today, it still exists, drug activity ensues
A lot of vacant land.

Graffiti
Kids playing in front of homes is dangerous, but there is nowhere to go.
Poor lighting on recreational parks, trash, graffiti, sidewalk deterioration
Poor green areas
An aging housing stock.
Too much trash/graffiti
American Street zoning.
Too many vacant buildings/lots
W, Need more places for families to go, 'libraries'
There are not a lot of beautiful gardens.
W, Gates, fully gated community, looks 'scary'
Lack of beauty in the neighborhood
Abandoned properties
Parks are in poor repair
Cruz recreation center is dilapidated.
Weatherization needs
W, Entertainment options?
Substandard housing
Inadequate housing that leads to health issues.

Graffiti
Lack of affordable recreation.
Methadone clinics located close to schools and community centers.
Lack of integrated, coherent planning among CDCs.
There aren't enough resources to maintain property.

Opportunities

Development of Girard Ave and Front Street will influence the area.
Vacant land/Housing opportunities
Abundance of vacant land
O, Need a people-oriented strategy versus place-oriented strategy

To build the community as to embrace the old and the new.

Temple regional station as an opportunity for residents and students to access the region.

PGW

Beautification of the area

Finding a proper way to develop vacant land so that people are not displaced.

Improvements to real estate in the area

Community ownership (development)

To integrate business with housing to make this a walkable community.

Norris Homes, which will be redeveloped.

To develop a marketing plan for the community.

For vacant land to be developed into affordable housing, open space.

\$10 Million project at 5th and Huntington (good for neighborhood overall)

0, Empower people to understand what neighborhoods should look like and give them tools to make that happen

For existing residents to stay in their homes and maintain them.

To develop equitably.

Vacant land (opportunity for development)

American ST and Girard Ave provide space to improve the look and feel of the community.

Need more emphasis on mixed income communities

More development.

Temple University provides an opportunity to create housing opportunities to employees

Vacant land to be connected as part of a comprehensive plan

Bike paths, storm water management, arts

To determine what else is needed to make the community whole.

Fine neighbors if they do not maintain their grounds

Would love to see more neighborhood gardens.

Vacant properties/land presenting development challenges

Parks and open spaces provide opportunities to enhance quality of life for children.

Impact of Northern Liberties rehab at 5th and Girard

Rehabbed, market-rate rental at 5th and Berks ("artist housing")

To create a diverse neighborhood

To create a sustainable plan

Zoning enforcement could help improve the look and cleanliness in the community.

The Temple TOD is an opportunity to demonstrate its principles in a true, integrated partnership.

0, Business attraction is easier because of the proximity to Center City

Vacant buildings/large warehouses are perfect spaces for more business/manufacturing services, etc.

Vacant land and open space.

SEPTA's investment in the Temple University station is an opportunity for placemaking and improved safety.

New storm water management rules could be an opportunity to leverage funding for the community.

More use of alternative energy, such as solar.
Anti-Graffiti Network
O, Walkable options
Community space/COOP (multi use)
O, More benches in parks and green spaces
OHCD (city stuff going on)/partner with city
117 units for persons with disabilities
American St Corridor zoning could be changed to become more flexible in use categories.

Threats

Limited support to develop vacant land
Gentrification—if we don't create a plan we will be ending like the Art Museum Area
Not knowing PGW plans for the use of the land they control could become an obstacle.
Parks and green space, not enough
PHS lost funding for vacant lot stabilization.
The Temple University 2020 Plan. "They are going to take over the community"
Political implications of SCI boundaries; also, the TOD is not included in SCI boundaries
Tax delinquent property/can't get to Sheriff sale
Speculators
City ownership - no support/care
American Street zoning not changing.
Lack of affordable housing due to gentrification
Temple could take away land.
Lack of long term planning. Plans are made in a vacuum without enough realistic forecasting—trying to sell projects.
Rec center conditions, physically they are unsafe and look bad, there are also few programs that are sustainable and stay in the community over the long term
Technology/limitations on broadband opportunities
Proximity to Temple U and Center City. Gentrification could occur. Again, making the case for need to engage and organize the community.
Weatherization needs
Impact of Northern Liberties rehab at 5th and Girard
Land holding and speculation (hard for companies to get affordable land)
There is no traditional town planning in Philadelphia.
Rehabbed, market-rate rental at 5th and Berks ("artist housing")
Balance between revitalization efforts and losing community focus
Temple speculation - sitting on properties

Income and Wealth Creation

Strengths

Many residents willing to be entrepreneurs.

The amount of young people living in the area willing to have a better life.
Potential growth - educate residents to manage equity/assets
Residents and artists moving into the area
Youth willing to work
Community residents know how to use social services to their financial advantage.
Remarkable improvement in homeownership.

Weaknesses

We do not have in our community an organization to support and employ residents
Too many people relying on government sponsored programs.
Government does not provide sufficient support for workforce development programs.
Budget choices that people make--personal choices, professional choices
Poverty
Not the type of jobs to build family income
Not enough opportunities for women to enter the workforce.
Lack of employment.
The working poor are underserved.
Lack of jobs. There are no jobs out there.
High unemployment
There is no easy way for people to access jobs outside of Philadelphia due to lack of transportation.
Gentrification
Limited employment opportunities
Economic forces around values
People live in welfare.
There need to be more job opportunities.
Lack of opportunity/limited resources
Adults and kids do not understand and what money is or how to use it.
The attitude of 'what can I get out of this' instead of 'what can I put into this'
Many residents fall in the category of working poor.
Inability to access services outside of the community due to culture or language barriers
Lack of money
W, The community demographics - household income low, poverty level huge
Our community is not well educated about the resources available
W, High percentage of renters v. home owners
Lack of general employment skills plus specific skills for some manufacturing jobs of the future (green energy, high tech)
Economic challenges
Sense of entitlement
Residents weren't taught to prioritize--have huge big-screen TVs from Rent-a-Center but can't pay their rent
"There is not a desire to reach for more or to have better."

Residents have a hard time keeping a job--weren't taught independence or "soft skills"--be on time, dress appropriately, etc

Poor areas

High rate of unemployment

Non profit dependency

Where are the jobs?

Little chance for advancement

Limited impact of workforce development efforts

Dependency on service providers

The poor don't have the connections or know how that the middle class and rich have to get beyond the boundaries and obstacles of life.

Community not well educated about resources

Self imposed limitations/6 block mentality

Dependency/colonial framework

Resources allocation focused in wrong areas - need to work with women who are head of households

Limited connections to existing resources

Limited access to resources due to shame

High unemployment

W, People need more help getting connected to employment opportunities and training, resources

Low income/economic challenges

Values of property going up and people don't realize they can still find ways to afford to stay in neighborhood

Unnecessary spending

Lack of money

Opportunities

Occupational skills trainings

Job opportunities at nearby hospital (nursing school program)

Job investments

Property values increasing

Income generating efforts

Make the community more mixed-income

Create more job opportunities

To help people help themselves.

migration of residents into the area will decrease

Creating more home ownership opportunities would be great.

Creating job training programs in the community would be fantastic.

We need to figure out ways to get people to stay in neighborhood as property values increase

People in welfare could be trained and given the opportunity for sustainable employment.

Use residents' savvy to help them how advocate for themselves.

There needs to be a balance between social support and self-reliance. 'Give them fish, but teach them how to fish.'

To make the process of getting youth working papaeers easier

More training to persons in welfare to avoid homelessness after benefits expire.

Jobs

Potential role of credit unions and financial institutions (other than banks)--need more opportunities for wealth-building

Homeownership help

Outreach to students re: jobs, etc

There is an opportunity to take gov't dependent people and transform them into more self-sustaining people.

Budgeting support

Immigrant businesses provide an opportunity to create wealth in the community.

Threats

Changing demographics

The upcoming reassessment of properties (BRT)

To apply for a City government job one must pay a \$35 fee

Market forces

Governmental environment because the community depends on government entitlements.

Economy

The bad kind of gentrification.

Financial needs

Increase in rental

Gentrification

Rental over ownership

Re-gentrification will continue and it will drive up the cost of everything.

More difficulty/job market

Gentrification

The working poor cannot even afford to eat; pantries are depleted.

Long-term and low-income residents threatened by property value appreciation.

What happens when the neighborhood goes upscale?

Area of concentrated poverty

High Prices

Economy/unemployment

Hiring practices of larger institutions, not hiring from the community, not helping to grow the community members that leave near their institution

The focus of success in the black community is often on the success of the already successful (the middle class and upper class), the focus needs to be on those that make it beyond all of the obstacles of the poor.

Increased value of property

Little attention paid to the development of the middle class/black flight, leaving no model for upward movement for black people

Vacancies/limited resources

Gentrification

Increase in prices

There is an apartheid in North Philadelphia/work to get rid of it.

Recession

Limitations

Not enough supportive services so that a folk's situation doesn't spiral out of control (e.g. gas bills not paid which causes gas turnoff which causes eviction)

Taxes Increase

Mortgage Foreclosure

Gentrification

Disconnect in terms of work ethics/no foresight

Taxes and fees are increasing in our community

Healthy Environment & Lifestyle

Strengths

Resources available in the community

A lot of food relief relative to the level of poverty

Tree plantings and green work in the neighborhood

Community concern over crime

Lot of activity in the streets/neighborhood

We have a food referral line

Dumping has improved

Gardening culture brings people together.

Drugs are not as bad as they used to be.

Social Capital

There are neighborhoods where there is a great deal of environmental expertise.

Supports through programs and services

Resources/Organizations

Open to offer solutions

Neighbors looking out for each other

Abundance of support services

A good greening committee

Take care of themselves, extended family

Police department support

Organizations offering bilingual/bicultural services

Support systems to engage

Untapped resources, folks, spaces

Weaknesses

Lack of awareness about APM programs.

Crime. This is a BIG drug area.

Childhood obesity

Teen pregnancy
Methadone clinics
Drugs, violence, shootings.
Not having access to good food
Limited knowledge
Former industrial zones/environmental zones
Vacant house and lots create pest control issues
Illegal dumping is tolerated and people don't know what to do, what's correct about dumping, etc.
Isolated group
Crime still persists and traumatizes people.
Stereotyping, labeling young African-Americans and Puerto Ricans as criminals
Drugs still rampant, although less violence past 5-6 years
Children and youth are surrounded by drug addicts.
Drugs
Violence
Some people are not getting what they need.
A lot of crime and a lot of violence
Drugs
Saturation of resources - mental health
"No matter how much food we put in, there will always be a need"
Periodic security issues
Allowing drugs to be sold--turning a blind eye. They don't call the cops--"it's none of my business"
Violence has become normalized, accepted.
There's not a strong and reliable food cupboard that's there all the time
Neighbors come together for block cleanups, etc, but not when there's violence.
Inappropriate behavior that disturbs neighbors - loud music, etc
Vandalization
People not taking care of their children
Children not showing respect for neighbors/gardens, etc
Lack of awareness of resources
Crime rates are high
Youth drug dealing and crime
A lot of single parents in the community.
Burdens due to crime and drugs
Drug dealers have become more aggressive over time.
Drug activities
Violence
Limited recreational spaces
Limited sources of information

People are afraid to speak up about crime issues.

Impact of changes on neighbors

Crime is increasing more and more, lack of police officer intervention

The need (for food) is insatiable due to high poverty

Food centers are not high-performing

There is an insatiable, unending demand for food relief

Food distribution areas not following best practices--no signage, no regular hours. An example of how insular food services are in the community

Residents have poor housekeeping skills

Violence in the community presents a threat to those that would want to speak out.

Lack of response from emergency services

Drug dealing inside recreational parks

Policing issues, specifically policing in parks

Lack of health issues

How safe people feel

Lack of fitness. Obesity is getting ridiculous.

Health related issues will increase with an aging population.

We offer services and people do not take advantage of them.

Crime

Drug problems

People are not reporting crime.

Will not ask for assistance/support needed

Victim mentality.

Lack of access to health care.

There are no options other than Cousins for fresh food.

Trash is a big issue.

Where are the police? They take too long to respond.

Limited knowledge

Violence culture

Dumping needs more help

People utilize services only when they are forced to. (DHS, judicial system)

Families are prematurely accessing SSI due to preventable factors (i.e. environmental conditions).

Crime is one of the big weaknesses, however is a tough theme to talk about

Bad influences

Drug and crime are increasing in our community and prevent other people from other communities being attracted to ours

Drug Culture

Misplaced sense of pride

People using Temple University Hospital as their primary access to healthcare.

Public Safety has gotten worse (it was better when police were more present)

Drug dealers

We do have a lot of social services organizations that only provide continuation of supportive services without finding a solution to residents' problems

Will not disclose needs

Criminality and drug issues

Lack of access to fresh food. Not much of a choice beyond Cousins.

Violence

Opportunities

People need to be taught to work within the system, such as setting up a town watch program

Group agencies so that there is a coordinated food distribution system-share resources

Would like to see strong "best practices" in food cupboard

Not only do children need support, the entire family needs support (financial, educations, etc.)

Opportunity to educate families about preserving their heritage and culture while being healthy.

Must learn to work together on crimes issues; people don't trust the police.

There is a Pathmark opening at Second and Girard—what will the food mix be there?

Remember the importance of building human capacity in the community

People look out for each other's safety and well-being

Latino community needs to start working together to make the police dept accountability working more efficiently

New parents programs at local day care centers

Conversation about littering and the negative message it sends inside and out of the community.

Building family self esteem is important: life skills, drug and alcohol counseling, basic family counseling

Need stronger police activity (i.e. more proactive) so when you call them, they respond.

Anti-Litter Campaign

Paid cleaning through empowerment zone

To growth in different areas, like art, education, sports

More community service opportunities/Service Days & Volunteer Projects

Agencies providing support

Arts and sports

Would like to see major outreach to our professional sport teams to fight childhood obesity and improve nutrition

Better patrolling between police and community organizations to reduce crime, drugs, gang violence and to improve safety on the streets

Nutrition/hunger issues (creating options for good healthy foods that are low cost and accessible/teaching people the value)

For better integration of police and residents.

Organizations

The Fresh Food Initiative

Organizing a cleaning opportunity (models nearby)

Create more opportunities for preventative medicine (access to preventative info)

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Family support initiatives

Access to resources

Resources/Trainings, Health Screenings

Recreational programming

Comprehensive strategy - connections to needs and available services

Targeted resources

Threats

Violence

Drugs

Thinking that sustainability as proposed by the administration should be a priority in low-resource communities.

Addressing health of immigrants and the uninsured.

Criminal influences from outside invading our community--drugs, gangs, etc

Violence

Some people who don't want to change

Age differences/new younger residents

Police are over worked and under paid.

Peer pressure as a larger social dynamic.

Entertainment and media glamorizing sex & violence

Drugs & Violence

Crime

Cleaning services cut back

No funding for recreation.

Prostitution/Abuse of women (young and old)

Environmental threats/more spaces needed

Funding/programs not addressing needs appropriately

The rec centers are not secure, thugs could be standing around near small children playing

Drugs and crime

Drug culture/violence

Break ins

Created an "emergency box" program (E-box) for people who run out of food on the weekend. Had 40 people looking for food--it became more like a food cupboard than what it was originally intended to do

Demand is huge (at food cupboards)--6th and Lehigh site maxed out after 15 min; have to limit number of families and hours.

Crime rate

Limited options

Drug culture

Guns

Education

Strengths

Abundance of educational services
Temple being nearby
People/Social Capital
New Kensington high school (CAPA) - will provide an arts curriculum; an improvement over the old school
People/Large numbers
Academic potential of young people
Being bilingual can be an asset as a professional.
Increase of Charter schools are putting pressure on the public schools to improve
Dedicated teachers
Human Capital
Improved connection between schools and the neighborhood
Students always come back
Building of new high school for performing arts at Front and Berks--about four blocks from target area.
A school to be built in the area

Weaknesses

Not enough options for college in the community. Temple is the only one.
People don't leave the community and are not exposed to new experiences.
Cost is a significant barrier to college.
Significant barriers to college.
Behind in educational outcomes.
Poor education.
Community is not educated--don't complete high school, don't go to college
Public schools are weak.
Needs: libraries, computer ed, GED programs, drivers ed (kids don't have family or funds to learn how to drive)
Few high school students pursue higher education.
Need all kinds of community education. People don't know how to take responsibility for their own life.
Lack of adult literacy
T, K-12 experience not quality
School standards have been lowered.
Low attainment levels
The system does not provide appropriate representation for our Latino children. Public education is an important fabric of our society and needs to be improved.
No support for youth to do things like get a good education
Poor education
No high school in 181 legislative district (Curtis Thomas)
Drop out rate
Lack of parental involvement.

Low number of programs for English learners
"1% have a bachelor's degree, Come on!"
Weak education system.
Schools struggling
Need for political awakening/empowerment
Educational programs - limited afterschool, alternative and adult initiatives
Limited programs/need more efforts targeting youth
Low educational attainment levels
Need more business schools
"The only problem here is education, everything stems from that."
No education = No jobs

Opportunities

New school planned for 8th and Berks or Norris streets (not sure about locations).
Need to teach and speak to principal of new high school
Charter Schools have had success because these have been able to represent our culture and values.
To integrate education in the planning of the community.
Lack of parent input into School District curriculum
Education works program
To build a charter school.
Computer training
Create broader educational partnerships/relationships
The 2010 Census will help the School District allocate needed resources to our community.
Educational base with Temple (satellite classes)
If people are properly trained in working with children there are abundant opportunities to affect a child's life.
To provide tuition reimbursements for college.
Alternative educational programming
City and state funding available to fund charter schools and alternative education programs.
Alternative educational programming
To improve education
Temple provides an opportunity for partnerships and program support to improve education in the community.
Opportunities to prepare for college, career development, future planning
To expand charter schools
Educational options/alternative methods
To bring better educators to our schools.
Educational programs/institutions satellites
Charter schools have improved education.
New charter school planned for 9th and Jefferson.
Alternative school settings are an opportunity to address drop-out problem.
To provide access to college in the neighborhood.

Improve the educational system

Threats

Government not providing enough support for education.

How many scholarships are provided to community groups/students around Temple?

Quality of education

Consequences of mistakes-no access to financial aid due to criminal record

The School District's policy on how to deal with youth that are acting out.

Drug activity

The School districts inability to relate to Latino families due to language and cultural barriers.

The Philadelphia School District management and policies.

Lack of education choices for high school and/or college

Lack of opportunity for quality education

New Head Start state requirements can prevent teachers from serving our community b/c they may not be ready by implementation date.

The SRC is not controlled by the City.

Arts & Culture

Strengths

There is great diversity in cultures

The amount of people with talents, like artists in the community.

Rich history

This community adds vibrancy to the city.

The sense of neighborhood pride

Diversity, a very mixed community (African American, Latino, Arabs) where all live well together.

It is a culturally strong neighborhood.

Strong sense of community

Great potential in the arts

Sense of Community

Family oriented

Rich and diverse community

Strong sense of multi-generations

The diversity in cultures and ethnic groups in the area.

A lot of history.

There are different Latino groups with similar culture.

Being bilingual is embraced unlike in other neighborhoods

S, The togetherness of neighbors, cohesion

Diversity of cultures

Temple university student activity is complement to the diversity.

Mix/Diversity of residents

Diversity/Potential engagement opportunities

There are multiple cultural organizations scattered throughout the community.

It's easy to begin new arts and culture projects.

Abundance of opportunities/events

Pride in the neighborhood

More people seem to be celebrating the Hispanic heritage.

Our Latino community has strengths in its family network and the value placed in culture and family relationships.

Diversity

Weaknesses

Organized events are threatened by lack of space.

Lack of community identity.

Lack of affordable family activities in the community.

Generational gap

Organized events are threatened by lack of exposure.

Non-Hispanics don't feel like part of the community due to cultural differences.

Lack of consideration for neighbors

Anglos do not feel welcome at Cousins Supermarket.

There is a lack of respect among individuals at all levels.

Residents are not aware of the programs and what is going on in the community and are not taking advantage of them.

Organized events are threatened by lack of funding

The yuppies are not happy with the poorer members of the community.

Opportunities

Latino arts and culture could be promoted in the city.

For mural artist to work with graffiti artists to create art.

For showcasing the various cultures and build on them through the arts.

New activities, cultural, recreational, etc

The community has a lot of landmarks of historic value, but there is lack of awareness of their existence.

Exchange of knowledge, opportunity to have a diverse community to help each other out

To develop a cohesive community identity and to name the community.

Landmarks- opportunity for young people to feel pride in neighborhood

The community has a lot to offer externally.

Immigrant population growth. New cultures, foods, languages, etc.

To ensure community continues to be a place that embraces diversity as its makeup continues to change.

To hold classes and workshops that are affordable and will bring people together.

We need to engage with our Arab brothers and sisters.

The bilingualization of the U.S.

Economic Development

Strengths

Rich history & arts/culture as an economic development engine
Immigrant businesses
Latino Business, entrepreneurship
Opportunities to expand market
The pioneering individuals with the will to create businesses.
Strong consumer base/market
Consumer base/strong market
A lot of interest and activity in the area.
Entrepreneurial strength in Latino community
Increase in small business
The underground economy - the entrepreneurial spirit
Germantown Ave has redevelopment potential
Cousin's Market
We have the infrastructure for developing the local economy.
The remaining manufacturing businesses keep unskilled persons employed.
Area has momentum. Recognized as being ripe for additional investment.
Opportunities to expand market
Good restaurants
Programs/Workshops & Community Revitalization Efforts (to be expanded)
Potential connections to employment through manufacturing
Organizations, businesses, empty/vacant land
Opportunity
It seems as though more money is coming into the neighborhood these days.
Diversification & gentrification

Weaknesses

Lack of businesses education
Not a lot of retail
Mom and pop retail only
Too many corner stores
Just enough business to sustain, not enough to build it (what is the enticement to build in the neighborhood?)
Lack of awareness about resources available to small businesses.
Lack of resources for small businesses.
Restaurants
Government and organizations in the community do not provide help to small businesses.
Social service organizations are not focused enough on economic development.
More commerce needed

Opportunities

Opportunities for business start ups
American Street and Girard Avenue

Entrepreneurship training would be very useful in the community.

American St. Industrial Corridor/need to maximize

More support for small business corridor creation should be developed.

For green jobs.

Practices/models/strategies that can work in other neighborhoods

Counsel other communities about our community and bring them to know how to create and support more business in our community

For business attraction along American Street and other commercial corridors.

Institutions

To relaunch urban America to create economic growth.

Temple University provides an opportunity to create employment

Coming along side to expand business and increase job opportunities

St. Bonafice's Projects

SBA, help business owner, local ownership of auto garage (expand services, staff)

Investments- Industries

Changes in zoning/policies/new models

Main St./Elm St. Funding/commercial corridor (PCED) PA State

Retail build up specifically around Cousin's

Girard Ave and American Street could become employment and shopping magnets.

Opportunities to build up Cousin's

Increased tourism activity

Create an economic development community plan to employ more workers, contractors and subcontractors Latinos in all our CD projects

Bring more jobs to our community

If the area improves, it will be more attractive to businesses, which will create jobs.

Litter is so bad that "from an economic development perspective, you lose people"

Temple, charter schools, and social services organizations could focus on economic development programs.

We have many unemployed adults for those businesses to hire

Empowerment Zone, resources still exist, (Trust Board leadership)

New initiatives

Differences with Northern Liberties will be minimal

Potential art spaces, businesses

To find a role for the service sector to contribute in the economy.

Retail opportunities that showcase neighborhood flavor

Retail similar to Progress Plaza, Fresh Food area near Temple

Homeownership is good for city taxes and there is a good deal of it in Ludlow

Businesses need support . They need to learn how to structure their operations.

Vacant lots provide an opportunity for job creation (Ready Willing and Able)

New Kensington Neighborhood as a model for change

Increased value of property
Resources can bring positive impact if leveraged effectively
To use the entrepreneurial culture to develop businesses.

Threats

Connected to our weaknesses
The impact of health reform on small businesses.
Budget cuts
The city's tax structure.
What about businesses to support long time residents when a neighborhood goes upscale? Only high end businesses along Girard Ave.
Most business establishments are not owned by members of the community.
No money/resources from places to fund development/activity
Placita vs. Gap, El Cafeito vs. Starbucks
Lack of support for small businesses may result in job loss.
Economy/little or no business expansion
A lot of unemployed persons are a threat.
Not much real change often times
Hard to access resources from city
Community members moving away from their community because there are more opportunities for work elsewhere.
Changes in zoning policies/new models

Leadership

Strengths

Demonstrable success in the area.
Organizing efforts & solidarity
We have people in the area who will be willing to work voluntarily in the project.
A lot of people that really care about the community.
We have Latino Community Organizations able to work together to improve our community
Cookman United Methodist Church supports youth-led programs, incubates businesses, and provides alternative education
Youth United for Change (YUC)
Growing and established leadership
S, Ludlow will not support bad leadership
Community is forward thinking, progressive.
A lot of unity—people tend to unite in causes—whenever something happens, they get together and help each other.
S, Ludlow is not big-headed and understands what's best for the community.
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
S, Ludlow is a community of people who stick together, love one another
S, Ludlow rewards people for their efforts

Large Latino agency that also provides services to non-Latinos

S, Ludlow is loyal to their leaders as long as they see their priorities align

Community meetings

There is great support from Ludlow to move the communities priorities along.

In the last 50 years non-profits like Congreso, Taller Puertorriqueño and many others have positively impacted our community.

Organizational capacity on the ground. APM has a good track record of completing projects and does excellent development work.

The Hispanic non profits seem to do a good job of working with their constituents because they have with a common language that bonds them at all levels of the population.

There a lot of churches. Temple Presbyterian is an active church.

Support from organizations and resources to work with the community

The interest of some members of the community to improve the area.

APM's history of working with the community.

Good cooperation/collaboration between partners

APM connecting the community to City services.

S, Maria Q. strongest councilperson in the city and one of the best. Her support is great.

While the neighborhoods are not organized, there are informal structures in place where people come together on their own to do things they feel need to be done.

APM- fabulous CDC, one of the best social service agencies in the city

Collaborations between providers and institutions

Community projects where folks can contribute

26th Police District is very community-oriented. They are a solid social pillar.

Groups collaborating to revitalize

Lots of churches

People in the community are active and understand the dynamics.

Stability of residents living in this community for more than 30 years. Always willing to work with the community in order to see improvements

HACE doing a good job of cleaning up neighborhood

CDCs are well organized and represent the community well

New leadership infecting community with new blood

A lot of good people doing good work.

Home Depot Foundation investment in the community

Veteran leadership

Weaknesses

W, When there is a lack of leadership people don't come together

Limited "true" collaboration

Collaborations should not be driven by individual interests

W, When leadership is lacking someone needs to step in and fill the role.

Gaps in leadership (efforts based on past needs)

Disconnect from growing/emerging leadership

Lack of police department intervention

W, There is a cultural issue in Puerto Rican folks trying to work out issues among themselves without involving others

Need for a unified vision

Stepping on each other's toes in terms of services/areas of expertise

Temple University 2020 Plan limited communications/dialogue

Poor communication

It is hard to get consensus.

Same opposition of some people who don't want to change.

Community may not have a shared vision.

Neighborhood & organizational politics

For the most part, the good people the good work are the exception, not the rule.

APM & WCRP historically challenging relationship

Not enough involvement in community meetings

Too much division among different Hispanic groups.

Organizational and institutional support

Plan to address resistance on community plans

Need for a stronger structure

Morning meetings when folks are at work

Organizational support

People aren't coming out because they are skeptical

CDC's with competing planning agendas.

Institutions have not worked to grow their community, and instead reach to bring in people from the outside

Lack of corporate commitment in our community

Struggling CDCs may not know how to do p.r. but understand the pulse of the community, social service agencies then only give to very strong CDCs, needs to be better technical assistance for small and growing CDCs

CDCs that are owned by developers who are in it for themselves, they do everything for themselves, like buy up houses and plant trees and then give a small handout/charity to the poor all while they help themselves

CDCs bring things to the community that don't meet the basic needs of the community.

CDCs that don't understand their community but are good at writing grants that aren't necessarily helpful to communities, CDCs need to understand what the community residents need by working with them

There are too few partnerships.

Competition between community organizations separate vs. more cooperation

We don't see African Americans and Latinos working together.

Non profits telling people what's best for them

25th district police are rough

APM'S relationship could use improvement with the broader community

Community disunion

Lack of leadership development.

The Hispanic community doesn't speak out to express when things are right or wrong

The success of some institutions not integrated into the community.

Its difficult to organize. The community is not united.

Residents are waiting for someone to rescue them. That's why things don't happen.

Under John Street "too few areas turned"

Bickering among organizations makes it hard to fund them

Lack of leadership.

No coordination among agencies

Territoriality between CDC's is a big problem--lack of collaboration impacts funding.

No power broker among community development organizations

The neighborhood does not demonstrate an understanding of the need to organize and be engaged

People don't know how to best make their voices heard.

APM does not consistently engage key elected officials on important matters proactively.

Residents are not formally organized and only tend to rally together when they feel the presence of a threat.

Absence of effective staff capacity to engage and organize the neighborhood and inform the community about APM and its work.

Fighting between APM and WCRP

Professional talent of social services organizations does not come from the community

Fractured community development sector--tied to the politics of community development

Territorial behavior

Leadership vacuum allows drug dealers and other unwanted element to step in.

Education systems and non profits run by outsiders allowing for less opportunity for people within the community to move up the ranks and decide what's best for their community

"We don't have folk who are being developed to become leaders."

The leaders that we have are narrow-minded.

Lack of integrity in the police districts.

Too many nonprofits in the community

Too many churches in the community

Latinos not well represented at City or state level.

Black churches aren't tied to the community like they used to be

No unified vision

No one seems to be on the street organizing the community.

Difficult to turn the community's passion into a reality, to implement the ideas.

A higher level of community organizing is needed to keep residents engaged and distribute information.

APM needs not always a thoughtful partner to residents.

Insufficient community involvement in development discussions.

APM is understaffed.

Power dynamics

Community can sometimes be static and just 'let things happen'

We do not collaborate very well in North Philadelphia.

Neighborhood & organizational politics

Lack of solidarity

No empowerment and enlightenment

As empowerment Zone has decreased spending, gets older, people are not as involved (leadership)

Divisions physical/territorial

Lack of politicians involved in the community

Community is not organized

Different religious groups not talking

Lack of interest from the community to support initiatives

Same opposition of some people who don't want to change.

Lack of vision. ("put a check on that one.")

Lack of political clout.

Not a sense that various communities are working together.

We don't even see the churches working together.

We don't see social services organizations and churches working together.

Politics/Too many chiefs

A sense of hopelessness that creates apathy, so that people do not become engaged.

Same leadership doing the same thing over the last 20 years.

Opportunities

Conversations/exchanges about community and responsibilities to each other

Collaborations with institutions

Wider vision of certain leaders can contribute to local processes.

Seeking funding to connect community groups to work jointly

Create a neighborhood committee

Meet on a predictable schedule to discuss and learn about critical resources available to help maintain the neighborhood..

Elected officials/ re-election/influence their platform

Council mania privilege can be an opportunity when everyone is on the same page.

Needs to be more life long nurturing of community members by large community institutions and more accountability from institutions to make that happen

To develop unity among groups and leaders.

To develop leadership from within our own community.

Empowerment of people

Intergenerational Dialogue project (addressed the disconnect between younger and older leadership)

Congreso's change in leadership

Concilio's change, opportunity for innovation

O, Programs that train for leadership development in the Latino community (at management level)

Urban League's old leadership training serves as a good model

Great for mobilizing new leadership
It is re-election year
Support/strength of Latino based CDCs in making that connection with the community, supporting their needs
Develop better partnerships with government
There needs to be more accountability for CDCs and non profits in terms of the services they provide.
For coalitions to be built
To harness a sense of hope in the community
Advocacy- If the nonprofits banded together, they would be the 800-pound gorilla.
To continue growing non-profit organizations, to strengthen the work they do to serve as anchors to our community.
If you're a service provider but not cultivating civic leadership, you're not doing enough
You can never get anywhere if the people aren't with you
CDCs need to engage people and build civic leadership--criticism is that they are no longer in touch with communities; they're developers and travel in "right" circles
SCI's chance to engage in multiyear efforts and have an impact
Build corporate/community partnership
Getting block captains more involved
Fundraising in innovative and collaborative ways for the things that we really need.
Lasting partnerships as building blocks (multiyear)
To create a neighborhood organization like NoLibs Neighborhood Association, which has representation from all sectors.
Collaborations - cross sectors
To sit together to network and collaborate.

Threats

Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez is too scared to act.
We don't understand Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez agenda. Seems like she is stalling- no action.
Councilman Clarke is indifferent to any efforts. Nonresponsive.
Council manic privilege is a threat when you are not a powerful entity.
Too much money wasted on supporting leaders who are self serving
Politics are a threat.
Politicians forget about us
Political support (lack of political support) funding
Lack of political will from leaders to stop certain non-desirable developments.
Opposition
Political influences/dynamics impacting schools, organizations
People can't seem to get along.
Larger group outside who might impact the community but not understand it's best interests
The city has lost money because we're not unified--money goes somewhere else
Lack of leverage in government if Latinos are not well represented.
Lack of political power/influence in our community

We have a bifurcated community in that it is divided into two council maniac districts.

Territorial attitude

Changes in political leadership.

Other

Strengths

Three newspapers and 2 television stations

Political awareness.

Breadth of opportunities

Media is involved and people are well informed.

Weaknesses

Philadelphia's neighborhood-by-neighborhood way of doing things creates an adversarial climate.

Communication not available to residents

Impact of changes on neighbors

Service/funding is piecemeal

Strong neighborhood identity can isolate us from the rest of city services

Media is sensational and people tend to believe it, not question it.

Diversity of ethnicity in support agencies means that there is a perception that services are only for one ethnic group (e.g. Latino social service agency only helps Latinos)

Government-by-Nonprofit is the way it goes in Philadelphia.

Cannot name a strength

Shrinking Latino population. "I just don't see them anymore."

Communities where change and new ideas do not flow because of racial prejudice and economic inequities which impact and will affect our future in a negative way.

There is a perception of segregated services

Low voter registration; low voter turnout.

Too many people work for institutions and serve as the mouth of the institution rather than the voice of the community

No strengths

Opportunities

To build a relationship with Temple

If a program does work it generally gets funding

Relationships with Temple could go either way, good or bad.

Obama's policies which are targeting inner city communities

Take advantage of money in community and target it correctly

Redistricting

Information on accessing resources for people using support services

Political interest in the area.

O, Grants

To look at the case management model and apply it not only at individual level, but in a whole family approach.

O, Suggestion: use the "Success Measure System" to measure change--this helps non-profit organizations to build an evaluation system.

For faith based organizations to come together to develop a plan to assist in the issues facing the community.

Casinos

Relationship with Temple University. What is the relationship?

Develop policies to support neighborhood stability

To bring out the vote and register people.

Threats

Lack of funding.

The economy--housing market still slow

Deficit in the City is a threat.

A lot of stimulus money coming that will stop--what will happen when money runs out?

Still very hard to work with the City on getting resources for neighborhoods

Market pressure putting pressure on the community.

Reapportionment after the census, due to lack of participation. Resources could be shifted to other more organized and engaged neighborhoods.

The economy. No funding = no development.

Latinos are decreasing in numbers.

Money coming into the community too hard too fast.

Funding is down due to the economy

Economic downturn

All organizations are competing for the same dollar.

If we don't improve Philly as a whole, it will be much harder in the future

Media spreading propaganda

America understands charity not partnerships, partnerships allow people to move up together, charity is giving handouts with no accountability and is not effective in growing a community.

Dependency on grants, no way to leverage resources

Closeout of funding cycles limiting programmatic efforts

Economy as a whole, how funding is used and we don't know where it goes

Poor response from city services (snow plowing, trash, street repairs, police, and utilities)

Lack of funding.

The tax situation

They are closing recreation centers and schools, but are investing in the creation of more prisons

Too many socially-sponsored programs weaken the community. Harming the community by wanting to help 'too much'.

Many programs start but there is never enough funding to keep them going.

"If [the stimulus money] stops, you fall off a cliff"

Good programs/initiatives stop because pilot funding ends rather than programs not meeting goals or objectives

Children & Youth

Strengths

Our kids are very capable of doing a lot of things. They are unbelievably intelligent.
Our kids are adaptable.
Children know who really cares for them
In our community a family member will take a leadership role when there is dysfunction in the family.
Children
Youth willing to take guidance

Weaknesses

We need something for the kids or they will end up killing each other.
Young people don't know how to take care of children (poor parenting skills)
There is so much anger and frustration in teenagers.
A big problem is that middle school children are not getting the institutional support that is needed.
Not enough youth-led programs like Cookman's out there
Kids have great potential but have poor family support systems
Lack of after school programs to supervise youth and children while adults are at work.
Poorly managed programs for children and youth (children injured as a result)
Ability to take care of children also an issue
Lack of youth employment
Development for younger people not there
Programming tends to focus on younger kids, not on teenagers and older youth.
No curfew for children
Kids with low self esteem
Parents don't care or need guidance and leadership
Kids begging for attention and not getting it, girls in particular because boys have sports programs available to them more readily than girls have programs available to them
Basically kids just really need more attention
Bad parenting leads to flash mobs
Lack of parenting skills
Lack of parental involvement
Adults afraid of kids and of disciplining them.
Lack of role models
Lack of awareness about the impact of trauma in the development of a child.
Not enough youth and children activities.
Multiple placement failures...Youth going from one program to another program, not finishing them, but taking advantage of them.
Organizations like YMCA, that use youth to raise funding abut are not genuinely concerned.
Children are not supervised
Focus is on younger children, youth ages 11-18 are overlooked.
Teenage parents with lack of skills

Many young parents in the community. They are not educated about child development (parenting skills).

Lack of role models

Community not at the table on juvenile justice system issues.

Juvenile repeat offenders.

Youth not given the opportunity to be productive

Opportunities

There needs to be recognition for service in the community. Children need to see that working in your community pays off.

Training for male youth

Ways for parents to get involved

Mentoring/parenting classes

To provide workshops for youth

More recreation for youth

If there were a way to have convenient play space for children near to their homes that would be a fantastic opportunity for parents.

New summer camps available for the community

New Parks and Recreation department could be a plus for children and youth.

There need to be more programs that also encourage parental involvement.

Bring more employment opportunities and recreational activities for our youth to take them out of the streets since they are our future

Need more programs for youth in community--properly managed

For churches, businesses and nonprofits to support youth development efforts.

Americorps program can attract youth.

Police Athletic Lead Program

For getting the word out to kids about programs.

Youth

Youth/organizing

Temple, charter schools, social services organizations could create safe havens for youth.

To become organized on issues around the juvenile justice system.

Threats

Funding for youth programs

There needs to be more and better parenting

There is no focus to move the poor kids beyond what they already have.

Kids that want to make it and step over all of the traps and problems in their life have no light at the end of the tunnel in many cases.

Mayor Nutter giving children no help, nothing to look forward to

The overall youth culture..."kids are out of control"

Parks organizations are more focused on the number of trees planted than long term maintenance. Rec centers and places for kids should be more of a priority.