A community-designed healthy food system
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Session Overview

• Community developers interested in local food systems, urban agriculture, regional food hubs, entrepreneurial support and practical business models.

• Learn how partners planned to make the production, processing, distribution, preparation and celebration of food a central feature of the low-income Weinland Park neighborhood.

• The project included research, designs for a network of neighborhood facilities and business plan development.
Project Overview

- The overall goal of the project is to help the neighborhood transition from low-income to mixed income, with minimal gentrification, while providing greater housing affordability, education and employment opportunities for low-income residents.

- Project funding from the U.S. HUD and project partners
Project Partnership
practitioners, academics and community members

• Ohio State University Extension
• Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
• The Godman Guild
• Local Matters
• The OSU Knowlton School of Architecture
• The OSU South Centers
• Waggenbrenner Development
• Members of the Weinland Park Community
• Other potential business, education, investment and community partners
Project Steps

- Reviewing existing community assets, city ordinances, soil analysis, street improvement options and precedence research on best practices.
- Facilitating interaction between residents, nonprofits, agencies, existing business owners, emerging entrepreneurs and other local food leaders.
Project Steps

• Drafting designs for a network of neighborhood facilities for food production, processing, storage, distribution, preparation, sales, education and business incubation.

• Developing business and campaign plans to ensure that the planned facilities, improvements and programs could become well-funded and sustainable operations.
Community Assets
Learning From Other Communities

- Precedence Research
- Evaluating models from other cities
- Adapting research & best practices
Community Engagement

- OSU University District
- Community Dialogue
- Surveys, needs assessment activities throughout community
Lessons Learned

• How partners:
  – promoted participation from diverse community members.
  – enhanced the leadership capacity of groups within the Weinland Park community.
  – connected the project to other regional food projects for long-term sustainability.
Next Steps

• Education Plan

• Business & Capital Planning

• Community Economic Development Corporation of Ohio (CEDCO) – Godman Guild
Next Steps

• Housing improvement
Education Plan

Food Production

• Vegetable & fruit production
• Marketing
• GAP/GHP training
• Bees, poultry, aquaponics
Education Plan
Food Business

• Farmers market development
• Food business incubation
• Business development training
• Business Retention and Expansion (R&E)
Education Plan
Food & Family

- Nutrition education
- Health & wellness
- Food preparation
- Food preservation
Education Plan
Local Food Community Development

• Job training and apprenticeship
• Infrastructure planning and development
• Neighborhood design
Education Plan

• Common Themes
  – Food Safety
  – Linking Food with Health & Wellness
  – Neighborhood connections and linkages
  – Entrepreneurism
Urban Redevelopment Through Agriculture
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