

Information and Communication Technologies in Community Development 11.423

February 3, 2004

Introductions

1. Instructors
2. Students; Program group/interests
3. What you hope to learn/experience; Why you are interested in the subject
4. Syllabus

Schedule

1. Course Introduction
 - a. Pedagogical Model – Community Development; E-planning; Action Research
 - b. Problem – Home Ownership, Context – the City of Lawrence
 - c. Client – Lawrence Community Works, Inc.
 - d. Project – A Strategic Vision for Strengthening Families and Neighborhoods
 - e. Logistical Matters – Transportation, Language Issues, etc.
2. BREAK (5:15 to 5:30)
3. Client Introduction
 - a. Presentation by Andre Leroux, Neighborhood Planner, LCW Inc.
 - b. Q & A
4. END (7:00)

Pedagogical Model – Community Development; E-planning; Action Research

Community Development

- Homeownership and neighborhood stability
- Building as a community revitalization strategy
- Vacant and abandoned property problems

E-Planning

- Data Collection and Local Knowledge
- Public Participation GIS
- What if?

Communication

- Building institutional capacity through collaborative planning
- Information in communicative planning
- Reflection

Problem – Home ownership, Context – The City of Lawrence

Impressions and knowledge of Lawrence

- What do people think they know?

Facts about Lawrence

- Founded in 1847, highly planned industrial town - population of about 72,000
- Located 25 miles north of Cambridge; textile manufacturing (cotton/wool)
- Long known as “Immigrant City” - Mid 1800s; Ireland/Canada/Eng/Germany
- Early 1900s; Italy, Poland, Lithuania; Mid 1900s; DR, PR, Vietnam, Cambodia
- 2000 Census; 60% inhabitants self-identify as Latino (N and NW – map)
- Highest proportion of Latino student enrollment in the state, 81%
- Median household income \$28K; \$47K Massachusetts
- 68% of housing units are renter occupied; national home ownership rate 68%
- Unemployment around 14%, around 6-7% region
- Size and age; Third Tier City like Camden, Lowell, Reading

Facts about the North Common Neighborhood

- Residential; North of the Merrimack River; Poorest neighborhood in the city
- Former working class white community, began to change in the 1960s/1970s
- About 90% of residents are Latino (DR and PR)
- Today more than half the residents live in poverty
- Home ownership from 7% in 2001 to 9% in 2002
- One-third of land vacant/abandoned buildings

Client – Lawrence Community Works, Inc.

A Bit of History

- Formerly Lawrence Planning & Neighborhood Development Corporation
- 1986 by affordable housing activists/170 unit; 1998 defunct
- 1999; Bill Traynor, native, community development consultant
- Tamar, Kristen, and Jessica beginning community org efforts

Community Works Today

- Staff of about 30/a multi-million dollar operation
- Bricks and mortar; Community organizing
- Other - Tom Gaglianni. Mollye Wolhan, Maggie Super

Project – A Strategic Vision for Strengthening Families and Neighborhoods

The Reviviendo Gateway Initiative (RGI) – a movement; smoke and mirrors?

- Entrance off of 495; Opportunity to redevelop/reframe
- Resident led strategy (700+)
- Zoning Overlay District; expedite development

The LCW Design Center

The IDA Program

- Family asset building
- Investing in people as well as place
- Matched savings accounts
- For purposes such as home ownership, education, & small business
- At rates as high as \$4 for every dollar saved
- Allows states to use welfare block grants to match savings in IDAs
- Sponsored by Carol Mosely-Braun; bi-partisan support
- Local organizations (often non-profit) counsel and monitor participants/control match funds