

Equitable and Sustainable Redevelopment in Abandoned Communities: A Path Forward

Save the Date: March 9, 2013 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Baltimore, MD

As the book *Race, Class, Power, and Organizing in East Baltimore: rebuilding abandoned communities in America* boldly documents: “We rarely acknowledge the history of racism and classism as reasons for urban poverty and decay in U.S. cities. Usually we blame the current residents for deterioration. Seldom do we consider the role of developers in contributing to future urban decay, benefiting from it through public:private development projects. Usually we see them as “saving” a neighborhood’s residents from themselves. And seldom do we include the residents of the area in the process of rebuilding their community. Usually we remove the people, rebuild the place, and invite people with power—from a different race and class—to live, work, and play in the renewed community. And we do all this without ever addressing the root causes of poverty in the process of rebuilding a healthy community.”

Using this compelling history and current story of rebuilding an abandoned community in Baltimore -through displacement of more than 1000 low-income and poor African American families through eminent domain- as a departure point, this one day symposium will vision a path forward to more equitable and sustainable redevelopment practices. It will:

- highlight successes/striving/limitations that comes from grass roots and research-based rebuilding projects
- create a space for listening to past and present experiences and ideas
- reframe and vision going forward with/toward more transformative models of people and place-based community rebuilding strategies
- grow future leaders in more comprehensive, sustainable, and equitable rebuilding practices
- strategize for actions that can be adapted into local rebuilding processes

We will highlight the newly released book *Race, class, power and organizing in East Baltimore: rebuilding abandoned communities in America* as an example of 'what not to do' in community rebuilding, and bring together presenters and audience to strategize from their own experience of what can be done better moving forward.

Summary: A morning panel will cover four aspects of development:

- Housing
- Education
- Health
- Employment and Economic Development

Each aspect will be presented through a dialogue of an 'academic' and 'on the ground' practitioner followed by 10 minutes for audience participation.

The afternoon will begin with a 30 - 45 min presentation from academic and on the ground organizers followed by breakout groups to strategize and capture experiences and ideas to move forward to equitable and sustainable development.

A report of the breakout section will be forwarded to all participants and a listserv developed to continue the dialogue until a future gathering.

Invited audience include:

Government, private and non-profit organizations involved in learning, teaching and practicing in community and economic development, urban planning, transportation, health, housing, preservation, social services, public safety, recreation, education.

Community organizations, foundations, non-profit organizations involved with community organizing, political action, social justice and alternative governments, neighborhood improvement, re-entry programs, after-school and elderly programs, mental health and substance use programs, youth programs, leadership development.

Sponsored by:

Baltimore Racial Justice Action
Red Emma's Bookstore
Social Health Concepts
Sojourner Douglass College

Fee for attendance is \$40.00 (sliding scale) and includes a light breakfast and lunch.

Location: 200 N. Central Avenue (enter from rear of auditorium on Aisquith St),
Baltimore, MD 21202

Please RSVP to: socialhealthconcepts@gmail.com

The Day:

March 9, 2012

900 am - 400 pm

- 900 - 925 am Harold McDougall (Howard University, DC)
- Opening remarks: hopes / aspirations in spending this day together. Importance and significance of recognizing the mutual expertise in the room that can benefit each other through sharing. Frame this in the context of the book Race, Class, Power and Organizing in East Baltimore AND use this as the point of departure for the remainder of the day. How do we move forward within a 'human rights' framework?
- 930 - 100 am Housing
- Dominic Moulden (One DC, DC)
Rhonda Williams (Case Western Reserve, OH)
- 1005 - 1035 am Education
- Maia Bloomfield-Cucchiara (Temple University, PA)
Saafir Rabb (Sr. Clara Muhammed School, MD)
- 1040 - 1110 am Health
- Mindy Fullilove (Columbia University, NY)
Unconfirmed presenter
- 1115 - 1145 am Employment and Economic Development
- Richie Armstrong (Community Churches United, MD)
Roque Barros (Jacobs Family Foundation, CA)
- 1145 - 1245 pm Lunch in house
- 1245 - 130 pm Organizing panel - Jamal Mubdi-Bey (Sojourner-Douglass College, MD)
- Donald Gresham (Community Housing & Relocation Working Group, MD)
Luis Larin (United Workers, Baltimore, MD)
Gus Newport (CA)
Jesse Wimberley (NC)
- 130 - 300 pm Break-out groups facilitated by BRJA and panelists (cross topics) + an organizer in every group

300 - 345 pm

Workgroups report back to the full gathering

345 - 400 pm

Closing remarks and next steps

Paper will be developed and emailed to all participants and placed on various pertinent websites (sign in MUST include email)

Listserv for participants to continue to share their experience and research on community development in abandoned areas