

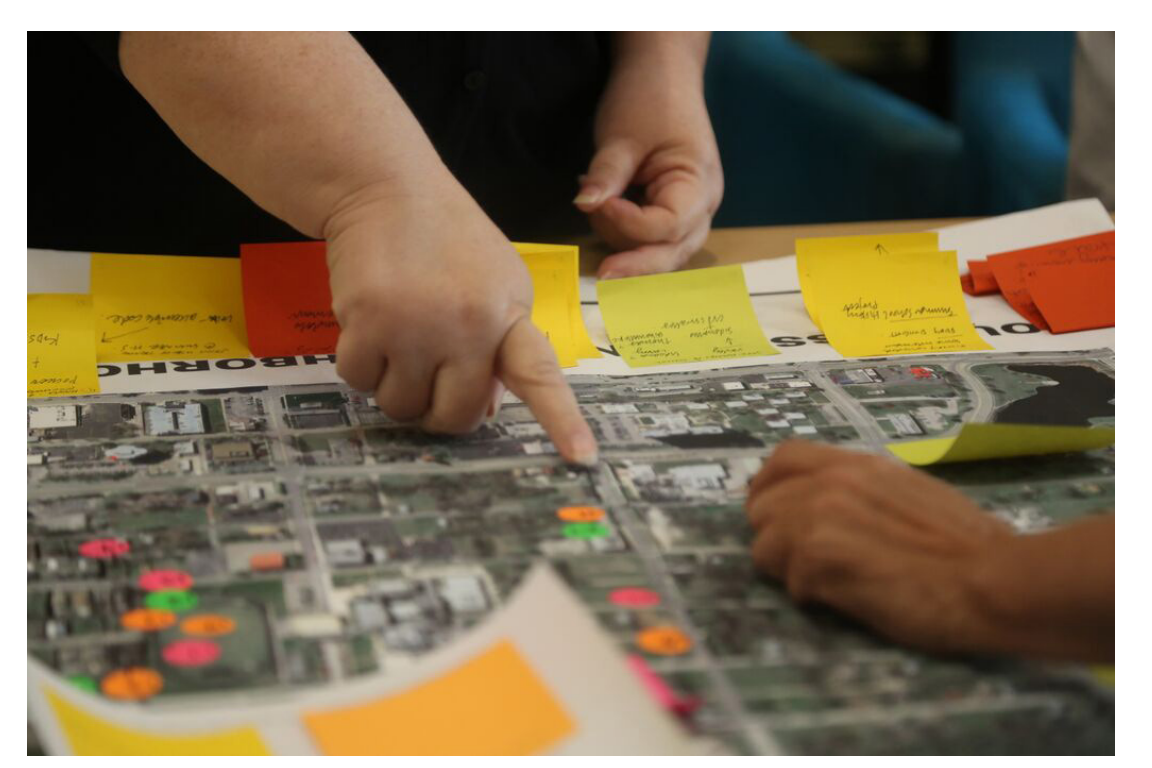
Understanding the Impacts of Community Development Investments on Resident Health: Investments on Resident Health:

Downtown Kansas City, KS

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In support of LISC's "Impacts of Community Development Investments in Resident Health" report to the Greater Kansas City Health Care Foundation, Dotte Agency met with the Downtown Kansas City Shareholders and members to determine the location of priority issues among residents in 2017.



The goal of this exercise was to record resident perceptions on: 1) Visible community development improvements; 2) Potential community health improvements; 3) Recognized community events/programs/agencies/leaders; and 4) Areas of opportunity. Participant comments were recorded as written or dictated, and categorized using colored Post-It notes related to the four domains listed above.

What community development opportunity should be focused on next?

- 1 The Wyandotte Towers building at 915 Washington Boulevard is currently being assessed with consideration to redistribute residents into a Choice Neighborhoods Program that supports locally driven strategies to transform distressed HUD housing and addresses the challenges in the surrounding neighborhood. This is preferred as it "puts residents into community houses rather than concentrating them in one location."
- 2 Earlier this year, Prairie Fire Development brought to the Unified Government a proposal to build a 92-unit, mixed-income apartment project that would be flanked by an urban agriculture center. The complex would be located at 8th St. and Washington Blvd., near the Healthy Campus. DTS was told that they were a "first time applicant and that they should try again in the future."
- 3 The city is discussing the removal of the north leg of the downtown freeway loop, the Lewis and Clark Viaduct and convert it into a parkway or pedestrian/transit-way park connecting downtown KCK to downtown KCMO.
- 4 A Bike Route is being developed in the area through local residents.
- 5 There is a privately-owned property at the corner Huron Park along 6th Street which was the location of a historic hotel. Some residents have expressed an interest to see it support a small band event space to incorporate a Street Blues Festival.
- 6 There are plans to extend the Complete Streets project between 8th to 10th Streets.
- 7 Many would like to see water fountains, water resources for dog-walkers, improvements to the rose gardens and lighting for the pavilion structure in Huron Park.
- 8 The empty school building, Central Elementary (813 Barnett Avenue), needs attention. It's "emptiness is noticeable." Could it be redeveloped as an apartment building?
- 9 The 9th and Armstrong Avenue Apartment building is boarded up. Could it be renovated?
- 10 Rob Richardson is currently working with a firm out of Chicago called Camiros to develop a Northeast Area Master Plan.

Where has there been a recent project or improvement in your neighborhood?

- 1 Sumner Academy has received a grant to renovate their football field
- 2 LISC supported a study that created the Self-supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID), which was initiated in 2008 and has provided the following: availability of Security Ambassadors; provides Cleaning Ambassadors; replaced trash receptacles and updated Banners and is contracted with the UG. This is a self-imposed property tax among business and property owners in this District (ends west of 12th Street as those property owners felt they were getting the needed services. In this area, there "seems to be a cultural difference" where these business owners don't understand the benefit of this program.) It has "increased walkability and reduced trash in the district." The Community Ambassadors are liaisons with the police and with their training, they are able to connect people with social services when needed.
- 3 The UG, through the DTS, contracted with inSITE Planning, LLC and Rosin Preservation, LLC to conduct an intensive "Historic Resources Survey" of the commercial, civic, and institutional resources that comprise Downtown Kansas City, KS along the two, primary east-west streets, Minnesota and State Avenues/5th to 18th Streets.
- 4 The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) building is currently vacant. There have been various discussions about how to bring in some new user. The UG owns the parking lot across from the street, along Minnesota Avenue, and is scheduled for renovation.
- 5 The DTS supports the Sixth Street Arts Corridor with the Kansas City Cupcake Co., Epic Clay Studio (CHWC), Epic Park (CHWC) as "assets/partners."
- 6 St. John's Park is developing a dog park through the Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Association
- 7 There have been recent developments along Central Avenue: SLAPS BBQ and the Splitlog Coffee restaurant. There is an apartments/retail project being planned in the area.

- bus route # 107 on 7th St.- Parallel
- bus route # 106 on Quindaro
- bus route # 104 on Argentine
- bus route # 103 3rd St.- Fairfax
- bus route # 102 on Central Ave
- bus route # 101 on Minnesota
- neighborhood audit area

What are your favorite community programs/events? Who organizes them?

1. Downtown Shareholders Association: Chuck Schlitter and Mary Collins (913.371.0705) admin@downtownkcc.org.
2. Resident & Hilton Garden Inn Director of Sales, 520 Minnesota Avenue, (913.907.1604), tim.ryan@hilton.com
3. DTS supports the annual DASH KCK 5K run event each fall. See for more detail: <https://www.dashkck.com>
4. Kansas City. Kansas Latino Arts Festival was initiated this past year.
5. Walking Clubs @ Huron Library

What health improvements would you like to see in your neighborhood?

1. "There is no shortage of parking structures downtown." Many of the parking structures have structural problems.
2. There is a "Dial A Ride" program where residents can pay a small bus fare to go to Price Chopper and Sun Fresh. (Is this still running? Cannot find on the internet.)
3. There's a lack of banks in the area; many have closed in recent years. There's a need for community focused banks, lobby services and Spanish speaking tellers. Need ATMs

