Presentation by: Contente Terry, Principal – Contente Consulting, Inc. October 18, 2007

#### THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS HUD / HBCU NATIONAL CONFERENCE DALLAS, TEXAS

### AGENDA

- × Introductions
- The 4–Step Community Planning Process
- Outcomes of a Community Plan
- Case Studies
- Lessons Learned

### Inventory & Assessment

#### TASKS:

- Compile Physical Conditions & Demographics Analysis
- Conduct Kick Off Workshop
- Conduct Market Analysis

#### **PLANNING PRODUCTS:**

**I&A Report** 

#### **PLANNING MEETINGS:**

Kick-Off Meeting Project Management Team Stakeholder Group Community Workshop







#### Visioning

#### TASKS:

- Conduct Community Workshop
- Identify Vision
- Develop Alternatives
- Create Draft Framework Plan

#### **PLANNING PRODUCTS:**

#### **Visioning Plan**

#### **PLANNING MEETINGS:**

Project Management Team Stakeholder Group Community Workshop







#### **Plan Preparation**

#### TASKS:

- Create Project Illustrations
  Housing
  - **Economic Development**
  - Public Improvements
- Illustrative Plan

#### **PLANNING PRODUCTS:**

Master Plan

#### **PLANNING MEETINGS:**

Project Management Team Stakeholder Group Community Workshop













#### Implementation

#### TASKS:

- Develop 5-10-20 Year Action Plan
- Create Public/Private Partnerships
- Highlight Funding Source
- Finalize Strategic Action Plan
- Conduct Public Hearing

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#### **PLANNING PRODUCTS:**

**Action Plan** 

#### **PLANNING MEETINGS:**

Project Management Team Stakeholder Group Public Hearing

## **OUTCOMES OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN**

- A vision statement that was developed and agreed upon by all stakeholders
- ★ A document or "blueprint" of services and projects that prioritizes the activities necessary to accomplish redevelopment / revitalization
- A document describing the process and methodology Land Use and Zoning maps
- Renderings that illustrate desired concepts
- Transportation Improvement Plans
- Housing & employment projections
- A set of actions including land use, zoning and urban design guidelines and/or legislation
- Buy-in from stakeholders including residents, business & property owners, government officials and others
- **x** A development strategy for a catalytic project
- × Partnerships

### CASE STUDIES

- University Community Development Corporation (UCDC) – Atlanta, GA (2001)
- × Morehouse College Atlanta, GA (2007)
- × Jackson State University Jackson, MS (2007)
- × English Avenue– Atlanta, GA (2006)

#### **BLUEPRINT FOR THE GREATER AUC COMMUNITY**



- **CLIENT**: University Community Development Corporation (UCDC)
- **STAKEHOLDERS**: AUC institutions, community residents and neighborhood representatives, property owners, City of Atlanta, and the Atlanta Housing Authority
- MARKET (2001): Evolving single family neighborhoods, redevelopment of Harris Homes critical to improving the housing market, soaring land prices due to speculation, and unmet demand for retail services
- LAND USE/DEVELOPMENT: Identify clear institutional growth patterns, maintain the single family character of the neighborhoods with housing options for all, formalize the community development structure, address the separation of campuses and neighborhoods
- CIRCULATION: Congestion issues along Ashby St., create better north/ south connections, address the lack of pedestrian amenities throughout the community, served by two MARTA stations
- VISION: Identify development and preservation opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships that will redevelop the community to sustain and facilitate desired growth for all partners

## **STUDY AREA CONTEXT**

- Master Plan/ Redevelopment Plan Areas
- AHA Redevelopment Projects
- Transit Oriented
  Development Area
- Atlanta Public School Projects
- Transportation
  Initiatives



## **STUDY AREA CONTEXT**

- Seven surrounding single family neighborhoods
- **x** The AUC Institutions:
- Clark Atlanta University
- The Interdenominational Theological Center
- Morehouse College
- Morehouse School of Medicine
- Morris Brown College
- Spelman College



## PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT

- 17 Revitalization Areas
- Institutional Expansion Areas
- Transportation Improvements Projects
- Existing land use dedicated to single-family residential
- Abundance of vacant property
- Housing stock in various degrees of deterioration



### VISION

- The area is witnessing a significant amount of uncoordinated development -"Becoming a Town"
- The area needs a coordinated and collaborative approach to community development -"Maintaining and Growing the Town"
- The area needs further study and long-range planning in specific locations - "Planning for the Future"



### **ROLE OF UCDC AS DEFINED BY THE PLAN**

- Facilitate communication among AUC and neighborhoods
- Advocate and provide support for larger planning issues (metropolitan/regional)
- Pursue collective housing and economic development resources

Coordinate public improvements



## **REDEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- New infill and rehab of single family developed by UCDC
- 14-unit brownstone development proposed
- College Town Completed
- University Homes to be redeveloped
- Campus expansion initiative progressing
- New loft development at West End Mall







#### MOREHOUSE COLLEGE Morehouse College Community Revitalization Initiative Update COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

- **CLIENT**: Morehouse College
- MARKET: College campus surrounded by an evolving single family community, increased land costs, soft market, and abandoned residential units
- LAND USE/DEVELOPMENT: Maintain the single family character with infill and rehabilitation initiatives where possible, new construction loft, condo & mixed-use development in along the periphery, expansion needs for the institution
- CIRCULATION: Congestion along Ashby St. a major issue, improve pedestrian circulation & amenities, transportation improvements planned
- **× VISION**: Enhance existing fabric of the community

### **STUDY AREA CONTEXT**



### **REVITALIZATION TARGET AREA**



## PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT

- 17% increase in vacant land
- 47% increase in deteriorated property
- ✗ 86% increase in unoccupied units
- Housing market on a decline
- Redevelopment of Harris Homes (College Town)
- Major sewer line construction underway
- Campus expansion



### **REDEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Partnered with UCDC to develop affordable single family units and rehab senior owner occupied units
- Partnered with AUC institutions and AHA
- Provide capacity building assistance to neighborhood associations and merchant associations
- Funded 100+ residents to participate in community development training
- Led an economic development planning initiative for the area surrounding the AUC

### WASHINGTON ADDITION MODEL BLOCK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



- **× CLIENT**: Jackson State University
- \* LAND USE/DEVELOPMENT: Include mix of land uses along Valley, Morehouse, and Dalton Streets, develop design guidelines to create and preserve character of Washington Addition, and create gateway entrances into community
- ★ CIRCULATION: Clean up existing neighborhood, streets, and drainage, add sidewalks, bike paths, and crosswalks, and incorporate traffic calming recommendations
- ➤ VISION: Preserve the single family character while providing quality, affordable housing and retail services for existing and future residents

### **STUDY AREA CONTEXT**



#### Washington Addition Neighborhood Neighborhood Plan & Model Block Development



Prepared for Humany Californities & Jackness State University Prepared By: APD, Ion In subdimension with Consume Consulting, Ion

## PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT

- Study area adjacent the Jackson State University
- 26% of land is vacant lots
- 363 single family dwellings in poor to deteriorated condition
- Target areas focused around vacant lots, deteriorated structures and unoccupied units



# VISION

- Focus on assembling of vacant lots
- × Focus on vacant buildings
- Identify model block projects
- Support existing homeowners
- Establish neighborhood gateway areas
- Create opportunities to reestablish neighborhood retail
- Identify links from the neighborhood to Jackson State University





# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Structure and Purpose of Initiative

- Initiative is designed to develop and/or renovate houses
- Initiative is a network of organizations that will act as a team to increase ownership opportunities

#### Initiative Goals

- Inform prospective homeowner of available mortgage financing assistance
- Increase homeownership opportunities
- Foster the use of architecturally compatible building design

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

#### **Responsibilities of the Parties**

- **x** Generic Roles and Responsibilities
  - Actively support the marketing of the Initiative
- **x** Specific Roles and Responsibilities
  - Provide construction services for new homes
  - Provide construction services for renovating homes
  - Provide homeownership training and counseling

#### **Performance Objectives**

An agreed number of homes developed or renovated by the end of each phase of the initiative

# **PROPOSED HOUSE DESIGNS**

- Architecturally
  Sensitive Design
  Elements
  - Off Grade Construction
  - Full Front Porches
  - Deeper Roof Overhang
  - Contemporary Floor Plans
  - Green Design Features





### **REDEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- **x** JSU undergoing acquisition phase with State funding
- **x** Development partners in place:
- Washington Addition Neighborhood
- Development Foundation
- Housing Collaborative
- City of Jackson
- State of MS
- **x** City of Jackson commitments:
- Prepared to make zoning changes
- First phase infrastructure improvements focused on target development areas

### ENGLISH AVENUE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

- **CLIENT**: English Avenue Neighborhood Association
- MARKET: Housing and land cost rising, speculators have developed single family homes that they are unable to sale or rent
- \* LAND USE/DEVELOPMENT: Majority single family community, underutilized property, scattered dilapidated property, surface parking, numerous recently completed or planned development projects along the periphery of the study area
- CIRCULATION: Abandoned railroad divides the neighborhood, numerous east/west connectivity breaks, vehicular access points into the neighborhood are plentiful, topography provide downtown views, localized drainage problems and lack of pedestrian facilities
- VISION: Establish a self sustaining single family residential community with higher density along the periphery

# **STUDY AREA CONTEXT**

- Official English Avenue Neighborhood
- Northern boundary of NPU-L
- Single family, multifamily, industrial, and institutional uses
- Numerous recently completed or planned development projects along the periphery of the study area



## PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT

- 19% of land area is Vacant Land
- 30% of neighborhood is Residential Development
- 17% of land area is Industrial uses located along the rail road corridors and major arterials
- Only 1% of land area designated for Open Space
- 63% requiring some level of rehabilitation
- 83% of structures are occupied



## VISION

- \* The core of English Avenue should remain single family residential
- Concentrate high density mixed-use development along the major roads – Northside Drive, Donald Lee Hollowell and Simpson Road
- Buffer the single family from higher density development with low & medium density residential
- Create nodes for neighborhood serving retail at James P. Brawley & Kennedy and at North Avenue & English Avenue
- Enhance the major roadways & interior connector streets with pedestrian improvements such as sidewalks, trees, paving and lighting
- Create new open space and develop connections to planned parks/ trails
- Develop gateways & identity markers for the community



### **REDEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- With the adoption of the land use and zoning recommendations by the Atlanta City Council in 2006, English Avenue is on its way to being a selfsustaining urban community for existing and future residents
- English Avenue CDC Awarded TAD funding for redevelopment of Proctor Village
- Demolition of Proctor Village
- English Avenue was recognized as a 2007 Weed and Seed Site
- Atlanta Public Schools seeking residential/ mixed-use developer to redevelop/ adaptively reuse the English Avenue School



#### **COMMUNITY PLANNING LESSONS LEARNED**

- Community engagement is critical to build consensus and establish action steps
- Understand the realities of the market
- Challenge of enhancing the quality of life for the existing residents and businesses while providing opportunities for new housing and economic development
- Emphasis on safe, attractive pedestrian community with enhancements to circulation and open space system

#### COMMUNITY PLANNING LESSONS LEARNED CONT.

- Emphasis on creating a unique sense of place building on historic strengths and fabric
- Desire for regulatory changes to support collective vision and mixed-use development
- Implementation strategies focus on catalytic public/private partnerships
- Neighborhood Master Plans facilitate implementation
- Be a Good Neighbor!

### **THANK YOU!**



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