

Appendix B: Workshop Exercise Results

DRAFT

Day One Exercise Results – *“This I believe about potential in the Lafitte Corridor”*

Values drive and motivate people to implement change and make progress. Values provide a foundation for planning. To better understand the the values that drive and inspire the focus of this workshop, participants were asked to make a “This I believe...” short statement about the potential in the Lafitte Corridor. The instructions were fairly open in that the statement could be specifically about gardens and markets in the corridor or it could be about anything in the surrounding community or whatever beliefs came to mind. The results of this exercise are below:

- Great opportunity for community gardens
- Great opportunity for youth/adults
- Youth – education opportunity; no experience from parents about growing; good orientation about community gardens
- Spend money on healthy food now or spend money on doctor’s later
- Help with education
- Right to clean, right, fare food
- Reclaiming food culture – slow food movement
- Children, elderly, come together to create community gardens; community asset
- Teach children/adults how to eat well
- Increasing physical activity through gardening
- Great opportunity for a lot of sickness to disappear
- Healing corridor/forest
- Want to eat better
- Better access to healthy local foods – don’t want to be considered a food desert; reduce obesity
- Community invested in greenway with a community garden – all times of day/times
- Orientation to community keep greenway clean needed for community gardens
- Project will highlight what is strong about the community and not what is weak
- Bring together a lot of common interest in the community; complimenting organizations
- Resurrect community with this project
- Foster community and economic development – sustainability
- Connect this community with itself and connect communities to one another
- When everybody eats healthy we can be stronger
- Health of community reflected in our greenspaces
- Model for rest of the city
- Community gardens are great spacing for sharing (family history, cooking recipes)
- Beautify city
- Help to connect different neighborhoods; promote healthy lifestyles
- Catalyst for community relations; impact on generation to come; entrepreneurial ship
- Take a lot of hard work with a lot of fun

- Extraordinary opportunity to show off how wonderful we are and how wonderful we will come
- Great project once it is done; promote people to change their lifestyle
- Develop ownership, healthy eating – intergeneration community; strengthen community resilience

Day One – Feedback from the Small Working Group Exercise

The Master Plan for the Lafitte Corridor identified the intention to have gardens and markets in the greenway corridor. Participants at the day one public workshops were asked to work in small groups to help to understand what that means, why it's important, how it can work to best serve the communities along the greenway. The following questions were presented on a worksheet.

1. Why do it? What does this mean to you, is it important and necessary, and if so why?
2. Define what success means. What do these look like to you, what does success mean say 15-20 years from now. If it helps, imagine an event 20 years from now and describe what has happened, why it matters.
3. Opportunities. Discuss the potential and opportunity for gardens and markets in the corridor?
4. Constraints? What challenges exist, possible barriers to success?
5. Operations, and sustaining progress? If you had a magic wand, and could make this happen, describe how you would make it work and function on a practical level? Who is involved, who organizes, who benefits, who operates? How is it supported and sustained?

The participants then shared the results from their individual worksheets and discussed similarities or themes that emerged. Each working group then presented their findings, which are collated by goal area below.

Why do it?

- Healthy environment
- Healthy foods for current/future generations
- People working together
- Chance to teach people
- Tired of choosing healthy v. affordable
- Good, clean fair food
- History
- Community asked for it
- Ownership
- Health, exercise
- Activating the space
- Safety
- Catalyst
- Connections and interactions
- Creating an inclusive public space for the community where people can share and be human

- Connects communities historically divided
- Promotes healthy lifestyles and learning
- Difficult transportation options to food/greenway is within walkable distance
- The greenspace can be an important education tool
- Healthy food is not affordable or accessible and that is a travesty in the wealthiest country in the world
- Community needs it, positive influence; teachers, youth skills, hard work, and respect for community

What does success mean or look like?

- Healthy parents/children
- Healthier lifestyles
- Community gardens present
- Spaces well-maintained
- Generations enjoying the space including those who have been here historically
- Second lines
- Measurable outcomes
- Gardens + Markets thriving
- Active programming and an active space (e.g. community dinner in garden, festivals), birthday parties
- Self-sustaining community garden
- Walkable space
- Tropical look of New Orleans; Increase in average wealth of residents and health; community deserves a robust local community; the area is beautiful; nice trees; edible forest
- Gardens still around and still being used 15-20 years from now
- Gardens spread all over the city
- Unity exists amongst communities
- People have learned to be greater contributors to community

Opportunities

- Cheaper transport costs (growing locally – traveling less distances)
- Opportunity for diverse growers (farmers/community gardeners)
- Non-GMO
- Edible landscapes/ no separation (fruit trees)
- Water management (bamboo)
- Compost program
- Recreation
- Maximize community think outside “just garden”
- Lots of garden space

- Expansion
- Start with where we are and plan for expansion (including vacant lots into the neighborhood)
- Health, education, personal happiness, family, sustainability
- Create and expand green space
- Connects local farmers to restaurants/markets/businesses
- Recruiting people from community for employment (job creation)
- Deliver fresh foods with CSA to area neighborhoods
- Fred as a mentor to future gardeners/teaching
- Carol Bell supervising
- Making history of gardens along the greenway

Constraints

- Narrow mindsets about healthy eating
- People destroying gardens
- Narrow minds
- Greed
- Not enough volunteers
- Maintenance issues/monitoring
- Safety (lighting) – feeling safe to garden
- Money
- Needing champions to support
- Limited City resources + attitudes of scarcity
- Funding infrastructure
- Short of producers
- Parking
- Limited public transportation
- Littering
- Politics/bureaucracy
- Sustaining budget
- Gentrification, exploitation
- Getting more community people involved (diversity of people)
- Worried about gentrification (rent protection) → job protection for people who live in area
- People from “outside” taking ownership
- Keeping it clean
- Keeping people from stealing or harming plants/veggies

Operations/Sustaining

- Recipes to teach people how to use products

- People growing a variety of products (not one person growing one certain crop) – unless the garden wants to figure out who grows what best and let them specialize in it.
- Think long-term outcome of garden (raised beds v. linear rows planted directly in the ground)
- Hire local youth (maintenance, training)
- Volunteers
- Master gardeners
- Maximize space (think about whole garden, not just individual plots)
- Plant indigenous foods
- Need perpetual funding
- Private/public partnership
- Staff + board
- Strong connections to community organizations, churches, schools, tenant’s association, Mardi Gras Indians, youth organizations, etc.
- Community drives, decides, and leads
- Volunteers participate
- Economic inclusion of long-term residents