



CHARLOTTE.

2016 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



Westover Hills

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at UNC Charlotte Center City

The agenda for the day was as follows:

- Introductions
- Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?: Arrow Activity
- Where We Want to Be: Vision Statement Exercise
- Seeing the Forest through the Trees: Developing Strategic Priorities
- Working Lunch – The Year Ahead
- Idea Development – Time for participants for develop an action plan for goal achievement.

Where Are We Going, Where Have We Been?

We began our day with paired interviews, using the “Where Are We Going, Where Have We Been?” activity. The activity was intended to help us reflect on:

- What we value
- What are the best things about our community and the people who live here
- What are our past successes
- Where are the potentials and possibilities

After interviewing our partners we shared our discussion with the group, finding commonalities in our conversations.

| Where We Were: Reflecting on our past, what were some of the best/worst moments? | Where We Are: Why would or wouldn't a person/business want to move into our community? | Where We Want to Be: If you could make 3 wishes to make our community flourish, what would they be? |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very organized N.A. • Block Parties/youth focus • West Blvd Corridor Partnership with schools • Favorable school assignment system encouraged parent participation • No sidewalks • Poor lighting • Poor infrastructure • Brown water • No identity • White neighborhood, African Americans were not allowed in the neighborhood after WW2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good mixture of young and old neighbors • Great collaboration • Larger population of African Americans/more diversity • Homeownership is growing • Some sidewalks • Better lighting • Better water/sewer infrastructure • No grocery store, drug store, retail within walking distance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased involvement with youth, a recreation center • Safer streets • Crosswalks • Increased walkability • Safer neighborhood • More public art, beautification in hood • Free space for kids to play • Access to artists • More involvement in N.A. • Interpretive signs of history/website |

Our Vision

Our vision is the unifying statement for our community that will guide our decision making and reminds us of what we are trying to reach. It is based on our shared values and preferences for our community’s future. It combines the best of what was, what is, and what could be.

OUR VISION:

Westover Hills is a safe, clean, peaceful community of residents that display a sense of pride in our history and investment in our future.

Strategic Priorities

After committing to a shared vision, the board began to brainstorm on strategic priorities. This is where we began to define what is most important to us in order to achieve our vision. Strategic priorities are initiatives that will help us move closer to our vision of our community. The idea is to focus on a few things and do them very well as opposed to many things and missing the mark.

We started out thinking big and then narrowed down our focus using the Affinity Mapping Process, detailed below:

- Grab some sticky notes from the table. Keeping the vision statement in mind, write down as many of the following as you can think of, one per sticky note:
 - Current action items getting you closer to our vision.
 - Possible priorities/actions items to get us closer to our vision.
- Place the sticky notes on the wall.
- Organize the ideas by natural categories, once everyone agrees on the groups, give each one a name.



This activity led us to the following categories and action items being identified as important within our community:

Diversity

Increase in diversity

Youth

Park
Youth activities
Safe place for kids to go

Relationships

Shared skills/resources
Getting to know our neighbors and providing support
Real connections

Knowledge/Awareness

Resource fair
A neighborhood association that is agile and can take advantage of resources if they arise

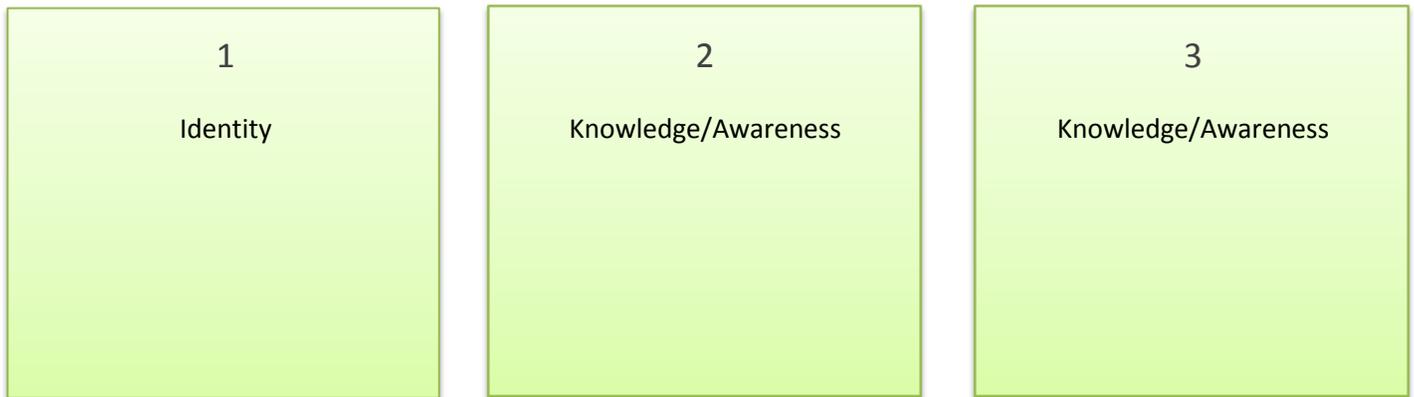
Identity

Neighborhood signs
Community signs
Entrance signs

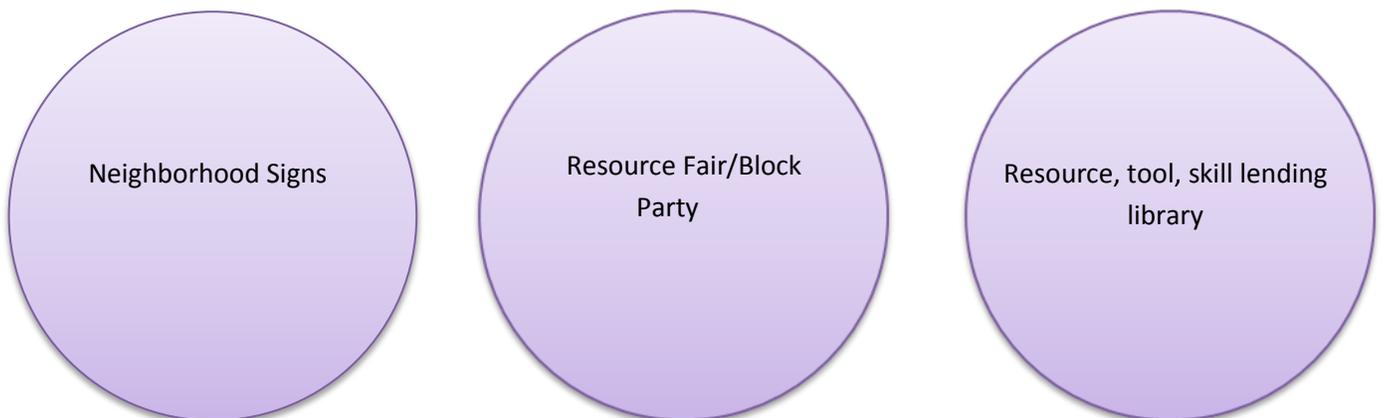
Arts/Culture

More art
Art incorporated in infrastructure
Music

Each participant was provided three (3) stickers to be used for voting. Stickers could be placed all on one or two items or shared amongst all of the ideas identified. The three categories receiving the most votes are the strategic priorities that are most important for us to begin working on to achieve our vision, these are:



Action Items for 2016-2017 The three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities are activities in 2016-2017 are:



2016 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Westover Hills

OUR VISION:

Westover Hills is a safe, clean, peaceful community of residents that display a sense of pride in our history and investment in our future.

TO HELP US REACH OUR VISION WE WILL FOCUS ON THREE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

1

Identity

2

Knowledge/Awareness

3

Knowledge/Awareness

IN 2016-2017, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:

Neighborhood Signs

Team Leader: Darius

Resource Fair/Block Party

Team Leaders: Frank and Josh

Resource, tool, skill lending
library

Team Leader: Victoria



Resources to Get Started- You’ve rolled up your sleeves and established your vision. The following resources may assist your organization in achieving your goals. Links and contact information are provided for information only and are subject to change. The “Getting Started” items are based in part on feedback from your Retreat.

| Project | Getting Started | Resources |
|--|---|--|
| Project #1 Neighborhood Signs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research location for sign(s) • Consider various graphic designers • Coordinate with CDOT if signs are to be in public ROW • Consider a NMG • Seek out volunteers (see Project 3 for resources) | <p style="text-align: center;">Neighborhood Matching Grants (NMG):</p> <p>Charlotte’s NMG Program can provide grants to eligible neighborhood organizations for community improvement projects. To determine eligibility or to review program details please visit http://charlottenc.gov/nmg or call 704-336-3380.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SouthWood Identifying our Community Grant Program: http://www.southwoodcorp.com/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Home Depot provides grants to communities: https://corporate.homedepot.com/community</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Useful Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Signage on City/County owned property and/or within the public ROW requires a CDOT Decorative Signage Agreement or Encroachment Agreement -Projects on private property require written permission from the property owner -For approval to place signage in Public ROW contact Chip Gallup, rgallup@charlottenc.gov or 704.336.3922 |
| Project #2 Resource Fair/Block Party | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Wok • Cafeteria • Need a Speaker • West Blvd Code Enforcement Office • Community Police • Park and Rec rep • Information on senior programs | <p style="text-align: center;">Neighborhood Event Planning Toolkit: http://www.sdsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Block-Party-Kit.pdf</p> <p>Charlotte Department of Transportation for information on street closure procedures and approval: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/Pages/Home.aspx</p> <p>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department for sound permits: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/CMPD/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p style="text-align: center;">More information on National Night Out: https://natw.org/</p> <p>Wells Fargo offers grants that support projects that revitalize and stabilize communities: https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/nc_guidelines</p> <p>Choose what topic you want to address and invite a speaker: Need a Speaker: http://charmeck.org/speakersbureau/Pages/default.aspx, or call 311</p> <p>Contact your Service Area Staff (see below) to connect with Code Enforcement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Find your community police officer: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/CMPD/response-areas/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation: http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/ParkandRec/Pages/Home.aspx, 980.314.1000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mecklenburg County Seniors’ Assistance Programs: http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/Pages/seniors.aspx</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Neighborhood Matching Grants (NMG):</p> <p>Charlotte’s NMG Program can provide grants to eligible neighborhood organizations for community events. To determine eligibility or to review program details please visit http://charlottenc.gov/nmg or call 704-336-3380.</p> |
| Project #3 Resource, tool, skill lending library | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing item at every meeting • Website • Nextdoor • Door-to- | <p style="text-align: center;">How-to lessons at Lowe’s: http://www.lowes.com/cd_How+To+Library</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Master Gardeners of Mecklenburg County: http://www.mastergardenersmecklenburg.org/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Home Depot Workshops: http://workshops.homedepot.com/workshops/home?cm_mmc=SEM THD G BT2 Resources&gclid=Cj3x9XeuMACFQ1p4AodDx0AmQ&gclid=ds</p> <p>Use NextDoor to discover neighbors who might be able to volunteer, donate materials, create a landscape design, and more. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9V1tlhGjSMc;</p> |

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| | <p>door</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook page • Block party sign-up sheet | <p>https://nextdoor.com/about_us/</p> <p>MAVA- Metrolina Area Volunteer Administrators offers workshops on volunteer recruitment: https://www.facebook.com/MAVA-Metrolina-Association-for-Volunteer-Administrators-212961772174019/</p> <p>Increase neighborhood participation: http://atlantahoamanagement.wordpress.com/2011/09/27/how-to-increase-attendance-or-participation-in-homeowner-committees/</p> <p>Increase Neighborhood Volunteers: http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/Attracting_Volunteers</p> <p>Volunteer Appreciation Ideas: http://blogs.volunteermatch.org/engagingvolunteers/2012/04/05/7-ways-to-appreciate-your-volunteers/</p> <p>Neighborhood Matching Grants (NMG): Charlotte’s NMG Program can provide grants to eligible neighborhood organizations for community improvement projects. To determine eligibility or to review program details please visit http://charlottenc.gov/nmg or call 704-336-3380.</p> |
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Your community is located within Charlotte’s Southwest Service Area. Your staff contacts for following up and community assistance are:

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| Millicent Powell, Community Engagement Specialist | Eugene Bradley, Community Engagement Lead |
| mepowell@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-6814 | ebradley@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-1579 |

