



CHARLOTTE.

2016 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



Historic Washington Heights

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at Johnson C Smith University

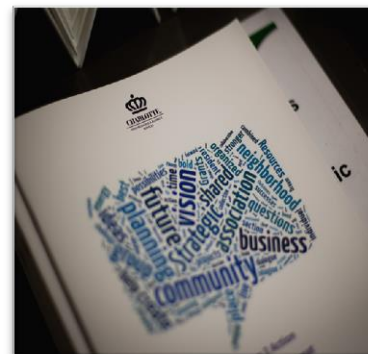
Historic Washington Heights

2016 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday March 19th, 2016, the board members of the Historic Washington Heights participated in the Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at Johnson C Smith University. The following board members participated in the retreat:

- Mattie Marshall
- Vera Williams
- Joel Odom
- Yvonne Adams



The City of Charlotte values citizen leadership and its ability to make an impact in the communities, in which we all live, work, play and shop. With this in mind, the board retreat process was initiated to help neighborhood based organizations develop strategic plans to improve quality of life in their communities.

Purpose

The purpose of the board retreat was to

- Generate meaningful conversations around improving quality of life in our community
- Set clear goals and priorities for the upcoming year(s)
- Develop a vision and strategic priorities for our community

By participating in the retreat, our board earned a \$1,500 match credit toward a Neighborhood Matching Grant (NMG) to help execute one of the projects we identified.

To receive this credit we'll submit our completed Vision to Action Idea Development Plan Workbook with our NMG request. This credit will expire following the June 1, 2017 NMG application deadline.

Process

Our board retreat was conducted by trained facilitators tasked to keep our conversations on-task, productive, and focused on achievable objectives. The process was designed to help capture the best of the past, the best of the present, and how we can add to our strengths to build a better future. The focus was:

- Developing a vision to guide our decision making and activities
- Developing strategic priorities that aligned with our vision
- Developing project ideas

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 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

We shared these commonalities:

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?
<p>Best moments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the drug/alcohol/violence problem thanks to the police presence with CMPD and putting the station in the neighborhood • Partnerships with City of Charlotte • Reclaiming the Park • Community Leadership by Ms. Mattie Marshall <p>Worst moments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are lower regulations and quality for businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's location is close to Uptown Charlotte • The rent is affordable • It has great walkability • It is safe • Street car line planned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better educational opportunities • More youth involvement • Neighborhood & Historic preservation

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:

Historic Washington Heights is an established and engaged neighborhood where the future is our families and children, where there is a strong sense of pride, place and diversity, where we all may be equal.

(Est. 1910) this could go on the back of the t-shirt

Note: Board members would still like to work on this statement.

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:

Category One: Children & Family Services <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student living conditions and support services 2. Student transportation 3. Title 1 Support 4. An educated population – family & children with a value of education 5. After school/out of school activities 6. Digital Inclusion – access & connectivity 	Category Four: Housing Quality and Affordability <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Home care 2. Lead paint 3. Home ownership 4. Affordable housing
Category Two: Historic Preservation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historic Designation 2. Historic Preservation Education Workshops 3. Brochures for neighborhood 4. Walking Tours 	Category Five: Safety and Nuisance Control <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Home repairs 2. Dog noise 3. Nighttime neighborhood patrols
Category Three: Neighborhood Communication and Engagement <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get involved with neighborhood 2. Neighborhood website – increase traffic/viewership 	Category Six: Environment <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train noise 2. Air quality 3. Adopt-a-street 4. Community garden

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

Historic Washington Heights

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

1
Historic Preservation

2
Housing Quality and
Affordability

3
Children and Family Services

IN 2016-2017, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:

Apply for historic
designation

Create an inventory
of homes needing
repair and
rehabilitation

Create internet/wi-fi
connections for the
neighborhood

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.

Please list any parking lot issues or items here:

Board members would like the planning department to look at NPA 85. They do not feel the lines currently drawn for Historic Washington Heights are correct. Please see attached photo which has lines drawn that board members feel is a better representation.

- Feedback: the Quality of Life data is built upon US Census block level data. This same data is what determines NPAs. This is the smallest group of meaningful data we can produce.



Project	Getting Started	Resources
Project #1 Apply for historic designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research process and complete required actions 	<p align="center">Charlotte Historic District Commission: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/planning/HistoricDistricts/pages/home.aspx</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a committee 	<p align="center">How to organize a committee: http://www.mycommittee.com/BestPractice/Committees/Startingacommittee/tabid/244/Default.aspx Board development online resources: https://boardsource.org/eweb/</p>
		<p align="center">Hands On Charlotte matches volunteers with projects: www.handsoncharlotte.org Volunteer Match will post volunteer opportunities online: http://www.volunteermatch.org/ Habitat for Humanity Group Volunteers: http://www.habitat.org/getinv MAVA- Metrolina Area Volunteer Administrators offers workshops on volunteer recruitment: https://www.facebook.com/MAVA-Metrolina-Association-for-Volunteer-Administrators-212961772174019/ Set up a conference call option for meetings: www.freeconferencecall.com Nextdoor: Create a private social network for your neighborhood: https://nextdoor.com/about_us/ Make signs to announce meetings with FastSigns® Reusable Yard Signs: http://www.fastsigns.com/sg-yard-signs/Yard-Signs</p>
Project #2 Create an inventory of homes needing repair and rehabilitation		<p align="center">City Housing Programs: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/housing/Pages/CityHousingPrograms.aspx How-to lessons at Lowes: http://www.lowes.com/cd_How+To+Library_615580068 Master Gardeners of Mecklenburg County: http://www.mastergardenersmecklenburg.org/ Home Depot Workshops: http://workshops.homedepot.com/workshops/home?cm_mmc=SEM THD G BT2 Resources&gclid=CJi3x9XeuMACFQ1p4AodDx0AmQ&gclsrc=ds Contact Code Enforcement Inspector: Contact Randy Harris (see below) to connect with your code inspector Charlotte Community ToolBank is a great place to borrow tools for projects http://charlotte.toolbank.org/</p>

		<p>Home Depot provides grants to communities https://corporate.homedepot.com/community</p>
<p>Project #3</p> <p>Create internet/ Wi-Fi connections for the neighborhood</p>		<p>Digital Charlotte: http://digitalcharlotte.org/ Low-Cost Internet Resources: Flyer Goodwill has refurbished technology at very affordable prices: http://www.goodwillsp.org/shop/thegrid/</p>

Your community is located within Charlotte’s Northwest Service Area. Your staff contact for following up and community assistance is:

Randy Harris, Community Engagement Lead
rharris@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-1579

