

Crafting RFP Language Workshop Summary

February 27, 2017

The purpose of this workshop was to engage in dialogue around neighborhood values, share considerations on approaches for meeting Dudley Square's needs, and to set the stage for prioritizing goals for community development. Information and discussion materials from this workshop can be found online at: <http://bit.ly/PlanDudley>.

OPEN HOUSE AND NETWORKING

Prior to the start of the workshop, staff from the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) and City of Boston spoke with workshop participants. Several informational boards summarizing findings and community input from previous workshops and other public meetings were displayed, as well as boards highlighting development parcel information. Workshop participants were provided with handouts summarizing information and themes from previous workshops. The handouts are included at the end of this summary.

DISCUSSION & PRIORITIZATION EXERCISE

After reviewing the handouts and the PLAN: Dudley Square process to date, workshop participants engaged with each other in small group conversations facilitated by BPDA staff members. Discussion was guided by themes and value statements generated from the January PLAN: Dudley Square workshop. The value statements from the workshop were organized into five categories: affordable housing, job creation, ownership, arts, culture and history, and destination. It was noted that some statements fit into multiple categories.

Workshop participants worked individually and with their group to prioritize their top six value statements. With the value statements on large boards participants marked their individual top priorities with a sticker, so they could see how their priorities compared to all participants. After workshop participants completed the exercise, BPDA staff members read back tallies from each board for workshop participants to record for reference. The small groups briefly reflected on results and the overall top voted statements. The boards and tally are included at the end of this summary.

CRAFTING RFP LANGUAGE

After the prioritization exercise, facilitators explained that similar prioritizations are made when drafting Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for publicly owned land. Facilitators shared examples of language from previous RFPs issued by the City and helped guide workshop participants in drafting their own example RFP language based on values and statements prioritized during the exercise.

PLAN: Dudley Square

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REPORT BACK

Following the small group conversations, a participant from each group reported to the entire workshop about their group's intermediary RFP language. Discussion focused on topics of housing affordability, job creation, and ownership. Notes from the report back are included at the end of this summary.

Common priorities from the prioritization exercise regarding affordable housing included a strong preference for homeownership opportunities and creating housing available at many income levels for both current and new residents. Some groups prioritized establishing alternative housing models, such as cooperative housing, to promote homeownership. In addition, participants also prioritized a range of unit sizes, especially larger unit sizes, at affordable levels to house larger families.

Workshop participants also presented common priorities for job creation. Participants prioritized creating high-skilled job for residents; education and training for high-skilled jobs; and other programs to further wealth generation and expand opportunity for residents. Participants prioritized supporting existing small and local businesses. Finally, workshop participants prioritized livable wages for neighborhood jobs.

NEXT STEPS

The next PLAN: Dudley Square workshop is scheduled for Monday, March 20, at the Dudley Square branch of the Boston Public Library. More details about this workshop will be coming soon. We look forward to having you join us!

ABOUT PLAN: DUDLEY SQUARE

PLAN: Dudley Square is an initiative to think strategically about the types of uses and the scale of development best suited for the future of Dudley Square and Roxbury. The goals of this study are to provide an inclusive community engagement process, create an updated vision with the community, and establish an implementation plan that will lead to the issuance of Requests for Proposals ("RFPs") for publicly-owned and vacant privately-owned parcels in Dudley Square.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the project website at: <http://bit.ly/PlanDudley>

For any questions, comments or to join our mailing list, please contact:

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