

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY & PROJECT UPDATE



Actions for Health Equity in Settegast

August 2022



About the project

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) Houston was selected in August 2021 as a grantee for ULI National's District Council Partnerships for Health Equity program. Harris County Public Health (HCPH), the Houston Land Bank (HLB), and the Kinder Institute (KI) are serving as key partners for this project, with the HCPH team leading the research and engagement efforts.

The **purpose** of the grant is to examine the history of racial discrimination in land use and planning, understand the impacts on health and socioeconomic outcomes today, and create an Action Agenda to drive equitable change in planning and development in the Settegast neighborhood in Northeast Houston.

This is an 18-month grant divided into three 6-month phases. Phase 1 focuses on partnership building. Phase 2 is dedicated to understanding the impacts of discriminatory planning practices through data collection and analysis and community engagement. During Phase 3, an Action Agenda addressing historical and current inequities will be co-created with the community and project stakeholders.

Project Phases



Due to a history of inequitable planning and lending practices—and because it remains comparatively under-planned, under-resourced, and under-developed—the focus of this project is the Settegast Neighborhood.

The **primary goal** for this project is to develop a community-driven Action Agenda with steps the real estate development community, residents, local organizations, and local government can take to repair historic injustices and improve health and well-being in Settegast. As part of this effort, actions will be paired with strategies and tools for implementation that begin to address the community's needs.

To create the action agenda, the project team has engaged with the community, collected data, and mapped the impacts. The following summaries provide important context for understanding the neighborhood's needs and will serve as the foundation of the action agenda.

Community Engagement

Over the last year, the Actions for Health Equity in Settegast project team has engaged with residents of Settegast and of the greater Northeast Houston area to determine Settegast's assets, concerns, needs, and hopes for the future. Residents were engaged through one-on-one listening sessions, small focus groups, large community workshops and events, presentations to community groups, door knocking, and informal conversations.

The key themes described below were identified from the notes, recordings, and comments collected during the community engagement process.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



5 Focus Groups

Project Kick-Off Event

6 Listening Sessions



Community Data Workshop

3 Presentations to the Community

2 Community Ambassadors Hired

5 Steering Committee Meetings

Bilingual Communication at Events

Individual Conversations

100+ Hours Door Knocking & Phone Calls



HOUSING AND LAND USE

Key Themes

- Property taxes are rising. Residents are worried it will cause gentrification and displacement.
- Homeownership rates are declining in the neighborhood.
- There is a need for better access to financial, mortgage, and tax education resources.
- Homeowners are having difficulties when trying to pass down their homes.
- Many homes in Settegast need renovations and repairs.
- Newly built homes in the area are not affordable for current residents.
- Abandoned properties and empty lots are safety and environmental concerns.

MOBILITY: HEALTH AND SAFETY

Key Themes

- Sidewalks and crosswalks are missing or poor quality. This makes it difficult for residents to access goods, services, parks, schools, and bus stops.
- The lack of streetlights makes the neighborhood feel less safe at night.
- Stray and unleashed dogs are a threat to people in the community.
- Speeding traffic on streets throughout the neighborhood is a safety concern.
- 18-wheeler trucks damage infrastructure when driving through the neighborhood.
- Neighborhood public transportation options are limited and infrequent.



ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

Key Themes

- The community lacks access to affordable, healthy food options.
- The community lacks access to shipping, copying, printing and other business services.
- There are limited options for shopping at local businesses in the area.
- It is difficult to access goods and services outside the neighborhood by public transit.
- Access to quality health services is limited.
- The community lacks access to pharmacies.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Key Themes

- Illegal dumping is a serious problem with many negative impacts on health, walkability, flooding, and safety.
- Trucking and manufacturing industries are growing in the neighborhood. These industries negatively impact health, community-feel, and the environment.
- Nearby highways, landfills, truck lots and the railyard have negative impacts on air and water quality.
- Heavy truck traffic throughout the neighborhood adds to air pollution.
- Flooding is a serious problem with negative safety, health and economic impacts.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Key Themes

- Residents want more activities for all ages at Hobart Taylor Park and the pool.
- There is limited sidewalk access to the park and pool.
- Residents want to see upgrades, better maintenance and longer open hours at the community center and pool.
- After dark, safety becomes a concern at the park.
- Residents would benefit from access to additional parks and green spaces.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Key Themes

- Children and youth need access to sports leagues and other organized activities in the neighborhood.
- Youth could benefit from job training, college readiness programs, and internship and job opportunities.
- Parents want their kids to have opportunities to be physically active in the neighborhood.
- Public schools in the area need more resources, funds, and programs.

CRIME AND SAFETY

Key Themes

- Crime makes residents feel unsafe and uncomfortable.
- Crime is a concern for people walking, biking, or taking public transportation.
- Illegal dumping is a widespread problem in need of a long-term solution.
- Law enforcement and 311 response times are slow.





Take the survey to
share your thoughts on
the key themes.

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