

Community Development Done Right:

Putting Environmental Justice and Equity into Action

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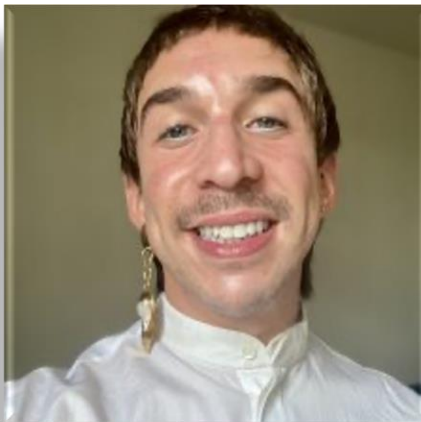
Meet the Team!



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Workshop Agenda

1. Groundwork USA Overview
2. Workshop Objectives
3. Contextualizing Environmental Justice & Equitable Development
4. Resource Overview
5. Questions and Closing





GROUNDWORK USA

*Changing Places, Changing Lives,
Changing Systems*



Workshop Objectives

Gain

Gain an understanding of environmental justice and equitable development

Appreciate

Appreciate the importance of centering equity and justice

Identify

Identify equitable development in action

Apply

Apply concepts and tools to center equity and justice in your work

Environmental Justice and Equitable Development: Key Questions

- What *is* environmental justice?
- What do we mean when we say equitable development?
- Why does any of this matter?



Environmental (In)Justice



Environmental (In)Justice



Why Does This All Matter?

- History shapes the current conditions of our neighborhoods and environment.
- People shape history.
- Together, we can build a brighter, equitable, and racially-just future through equitable land reuse and community development work.



Environmental Justice History: Crash Course







THE FIRST NATIONAL PEOPLE OF COLOR ENVIRONMENTAL
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

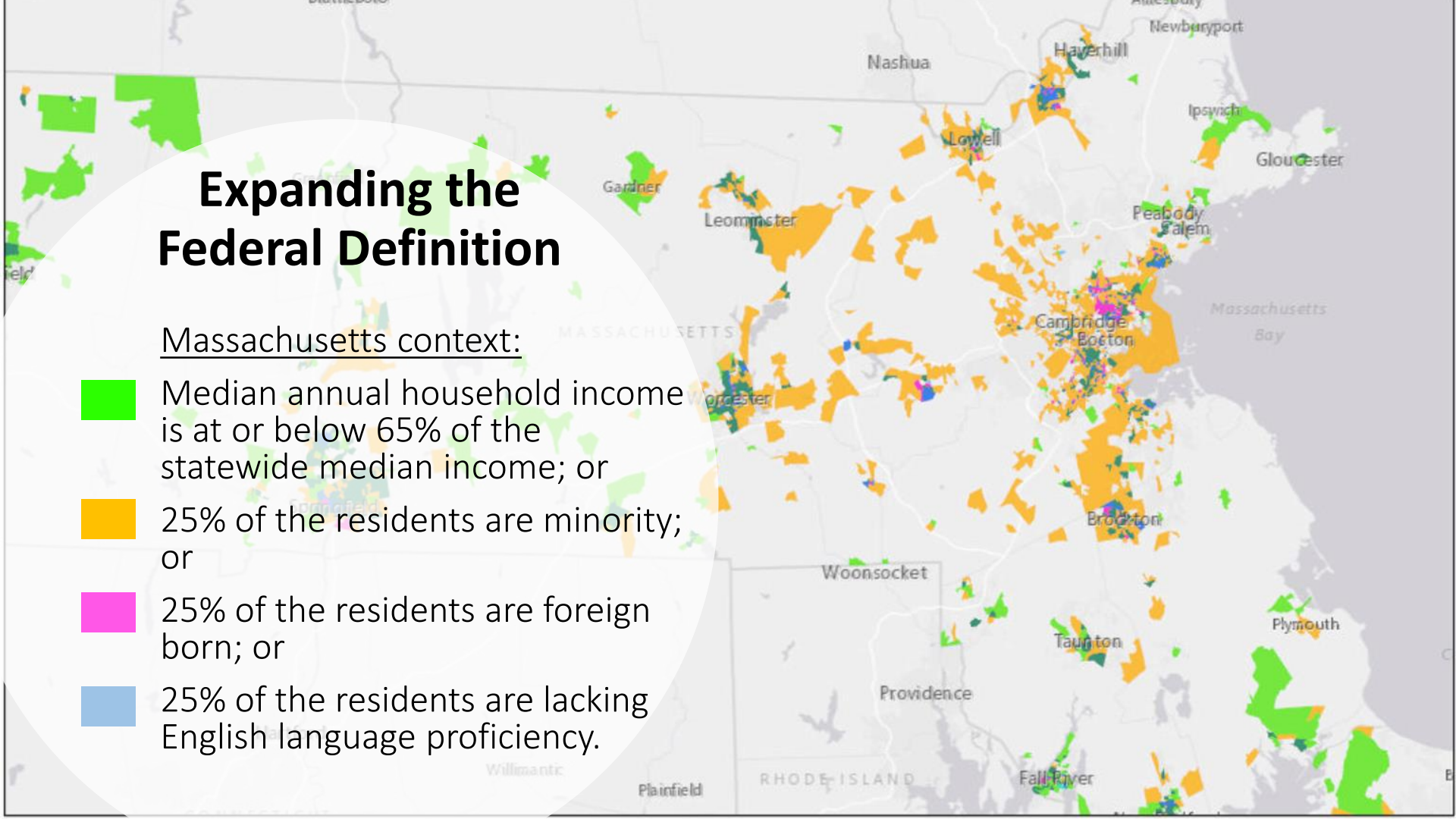


“Environmental justice (EJ) is the **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.”

Expanding the Federal Definition

Massachusetts context:

-  Median annual household income is at or below 65% of the statewide median income; or
-  25% of the residents are minority; or
-  25% of the residents are foreign born; or
-  25% of the residents are lacking English language proficiency.



Justice40: A Historic Commitment to Environmental Justice

- **At least 40% of federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities** that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution
- Climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, **remediation and reduction of legacy pollution**, and the development of critical clean water and wastewater infrastructure.
- “All Justice40 covered programs are required to engage in stakeholder consultation and ensure that community stakeholders are meaningfully involved in determining program benefits.”



Source: Justice40.com

Brownfields: Impact, Legacy, & Relevance

The EPA defines Brownfields as:

“Real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.”



Brownfields: Impacts and Action

Impacts

- Reinforces cycles of disinvestment in marginalized communities
 - Perpetuates vacancy, illegal dumping, and other activity
- Detracts from quality of life and health
- Maintains and compounds historical harm

Action

- Assessment (testing)
- Remediation (cleanup)
- Interim use (holding pattern)
- Land Reuse (revitalization)

Equitable Development: Guiding Questions



1. Who should be at the table?
2. How do you get stakeholders to come to the table?
3. How will you keep the community involved for the long haul?

Equitable Development Principles

**Center the
Community**

**Develop Diverse
Partnerships**

**Inclusive
Participation**

**Recognize and
Value Local
Knowledge**

Center the Community

Prioritize, uplift, and include residents at each step of the process



Develop Diverse Partnerships

Build unlikely cross-sector partnerships and coalitions to develop a common vision and an action plan for achieving it as a coalition.



Inclusive Participation

Meet People Where They're At

Ditch the idea that a single community meeting format will get you the participation you need!



Recognize and Value Local Knowledge

Neighborhood residents are experts within their communities.


Honor this knowledge by incorporating it into your work!



Additional Takeaway

Minimize Barriers!

Equitable Development in Action Group Activity:

- Watch the video!
- Look out for examples of equitable development 
- Identify equitable development principle through a group poll

Center the Community

Develop Diverse Partnerships

Inclusive Participation

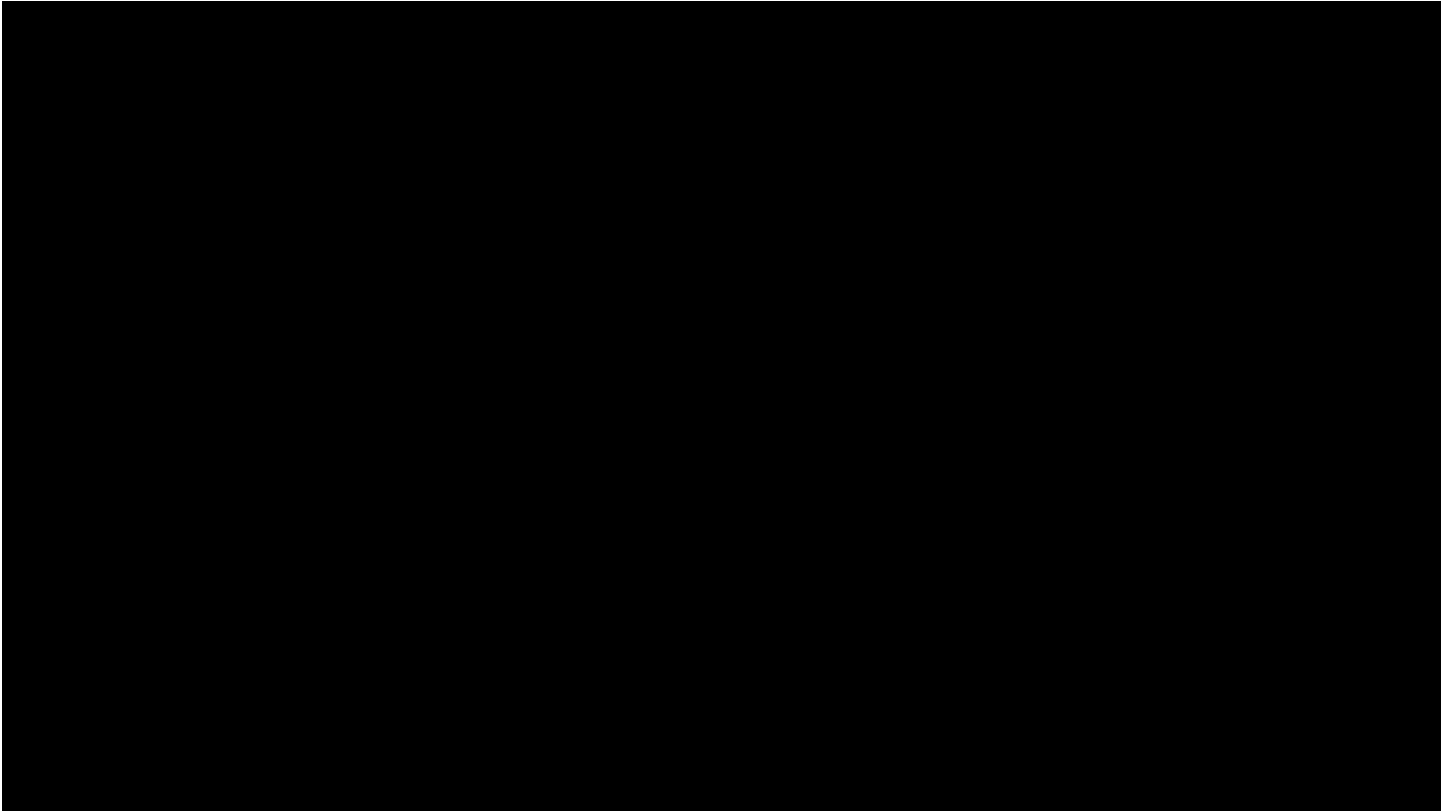
Recognize & Value Local Knowledge

Environmental Justice & Equity in Action


Unity Park - Richmond, California



- Eight-block linear park along the Richmond Greenway
- Beautiful and much-needed green space for the community
- Driven over six years by a coalition of nonprofits called Friends of the Richmond Greenway



Equitable Development in Action Group Activity:

- Watch the video!
- Look out for examples of equitable development 
- Identify equitable development principle through a group poll

Center the Community

Develop Diverse Partnerships

Inclusive Participation

Recognize & Value Local Knowledge

Identifying Equitable Development Principles in Action

“We did video’s, we did community meetings, we had presentations at planning commissions, we involved our green team in doing some door-to-door canvassing”

Inclusive Participation

- ❖ Provide multiple and varied points of entry for participation. Ditch the idea that a single community meeting format will get you the participation you need- be creative and use all of the physical, social, structural, and digital tools that are at your disposal.

Minimize Barriers

- ❖ Anticipate, address, and minimize barriers to participation—and think broadly about what those barriers might be: access to childcare, physical barriers, language barriers, etc.

Identifying Equitable Development Principles in Action

“When residents showed a particular interest or had a particular skillset they were brought on to the formal design team. So our design team had 57 community residents who had never been involved in building a park before. And so we paid people prevailing wage for their ideas for a park that was going to land right in their backyard.”

Recognize & Value Local Knowledge

- ❖ Value local residents as neighborhood experts (and compensate them accordingly).

Identifying Equitable Development Principles in Action

“Here you have a collaboration between the City of Richmond, contractors, 17 non-profit organizations and community members. Not everyone has the same agenda or priorities.”

Build Diverse Partnerships

- ❖ Build unlikely cross-sector partnerships and coalitions to develop a common vision and an action plan for achieving it as a coalition.

Develop Local Relationships

- ❖ Seek out and develop relationships with residents and constituencies.

Identifying Equitable Development Principles in Action

“We get a chance to be heard out here and really get a chance to tell our own story.”

“We’re really getting community input at the ground level. That’s a new way of operating for municipality that’d we’d like to see modeled throughout the country.”

Center the Community

- ❖ Everyone benefits from land development, re-use initiatives, and investments when local communities define those benefits for themselves and their surrounding neighborhoods, and, together, hold municipal leaders, developers, and residents mutually accountable for realizing those benefits.

Okay, Now What?

Complete Equitable Development in Action Worksheet!

- 3 page interactive worksheet
- 12 Equitable Development Principles with descriptions
- Black & white version available for printing

Community Development Done Right: Putting Environmental Justice and Equity into Action Workshop

Equitable Development in
Action Worksheet

Instructions: Review each principle and principle in practice. Then, share how you will apply these principles to a current or future land reuse project. See examples in the last column below.

Principle	Principle in Practice	How can this principle be put into practice in your land reuse project?
Center the Community	Everyone benefits from land development, re-use initiatives, and investments when local communities define those benefits for themselves and hold municipal leaders, developers, and residents mutually accountable for realizing those benefits.	Example: In my community, we spent time really thinking about who lives here, where they live, and how they could contribute to the overall vision for the community project by making space for residents to lead the work.
Develop Local Relationships	Seek out and develop relationships with residents and constituencies.	
Listen Deeply	Listen deeply for community needs, hopes, visions, and dreams.	

In Summary

1. Collaborative, community-led projects like Unity Park are driving healthy transformation in Richmond and beyond.
2. Follow the lead of the most vulnerable and disproportionately impacted
3. We all have a role in shaping the future of inclusive, healthy, and environmentally-just communities.



Mural of community members at Unity Park, Iron Triangle

Groundwork USA Brownfields Resources & Offerings

MORE INFORMATION AT:
**[HTTPS://GROUNDWORKUSA.ORG/
TA-SERVICES/](https://groundworkusa.org/ta-services/)**

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and case studies to
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trainings to build
capacity to meet your
equitable
development goals.

DIRECT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Free one-on-one
customized strategy,
tools, and peer
support for your
brownfield project.

Questions?



GROUNDWORK
USA

Please submit any questions
or comments to
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