

CHALLENGE DETROIT – BLIGHT IMPACT

OVERVIEW

The Challenge Detroit/Detroit Future City *Blight & Neighborhood Quality of Life Challenge* looks at neighborhood blight through the lens of the DFC Strategic Framework. Through partnering with five neighborhood organizations throughout the city, this “challenge” provides the opportunity for stakeholders to give their perspective on blight and their needs to prevent it, eradicate it, and plan for the future land use once it is removed. This engagement, and subsequent deliverables of a Needs Assessment and Creative Concept Report addressing blight, will provide an on the ground picture that will enrich the fight against blight throughout the city, particularly the efforts of the City of Detroit Department of Neighborhoods and the implementation of the Detroit Blight Removal Task Force Report. The goal of the challenge is to ensure the perspectives of neighborhood stakeholders are meaningfully considered and help to shape the development of new tools and resources that can help eliminate blight.

EVALUATION METRICS

- Feedback from Challenge Detroit:
 - How this experience built their community development capacity
 - How this increased their feeling of connectivity to Detroit’s neighborhoods
- Feedback from neighborhood partners:
 - How this experience impacted their work and addressed their needs
 - How this increased their understanding of the DFC Strategic Framework and/or Implementation Office
- The number of entities to which the Needs Assessment is distributed
- The number of people to experience the DFC Homepage Blight & Neighborhood Quality of Life display

OBJECTIVES

- Create deliverables that are of value to the participating neighborhood organization, DFC Implementation Office, City Departments and other entities that are funding or implementing blight remediation;
- Understand what tools and resources neighborhood organizations need to address blight;
- Inform DFC as it looks to define capacity building efforts and inform a model for neighborhood engagement going forward;
- Influence ongoing DFC projects such as the Vacant Property Toolkit and open space planning; and
- Highlight existing community efforts that address blight and share best practices with stakeholders.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

A	ADDRESS QUALITY OF LIFE CHALLENGES THAT AFFECT ALL DETROITERS
D	REPURPOSE VACANT LAND TO CREATE GREEN NEIGHBORHOODS
E	RENEW TRADITIONAL NEIGHBORHOODS
B	USE VACANT LAND AS A TOOL FOR NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION
B5	Pursue targeted neighborhood stabilization strategies.
1	EXPAND CAPACITY FOR THE LONG TERM: BUILDING ON STRENGTHS TO INCREASE RANGE
2	INFORMED, INCLUSIVE DECISIONS: DEVELOPING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION
3	A MOSAIC OF TACTICS FOR A MOSAIC OF PEOPLE: DIVERSE PLATFORM OF OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE

Challenge Detroit/Detroit Future City
Blight and Neighborhood Quality of Life Challenge

SCHEDULE

MAY

JUNE

JULY

2014

INITIATIVE VITALS

CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS:
Detroit Future City, Challenge Detroit,
Michigan Community Resources, Warren
Avenue Community Organization, Congress
for Communities, Jefferson East, Creekside
CDC, Grandmont Rosedale Development
Corporation, Osborn Neighborhood Alliance

DFC INITIATIVE TYPE: Partner/Execute

DFC REPRESENTATIVES: Victoria Olivier,
Heidi Alcock

INITIATIVE SCALE: Citywide

INITIATIVE DURATION: May 2014–July 2014

RELEVANT PLANNING ELEMENTS:
Civic Capacity, Neighborhoods, Land and
Building Assets

DFC APPROACH

Detroit Future City joins Challenge Detroit as their final partner challenge for the 2013-2014 Cohort. Together, they've developed Blight & Neighborhood Quality of Life challenge to provide an opportunity for Challenge Detroit to work directly with neighborhood organizations to provide a needs assessment and a creative concept based on the neighborhood's prior planning efforts. The deliverables will be informed by the DFC Strategic Framework as well as the Detroit Blight Removal Task Force Report. Each of the five neighborhood teams are paired with an Implementation Office staff member that participates in meetings with the neighborhood partner and provides technical assistance to the challenge team, as needed. Project deliverables will be displayed at the DFC Homebase and may be shared with other stakeholders, such as the Department of Neighborhoods. The DFC team will debrief on the experience and determine how it can inform future neighborhood partnership activities.

RESOURCES

- Detroit Future City Implementation Office
- Challenge Detroit
- Partners (see Contributing Organizations)



Image Credit: Fares Ksehati, Challenge Detroit