



The Institute for Community Collaboration
Legacy Communities Initiative



Legacy Green Empowerment Program
South Florida Regional Planning Council

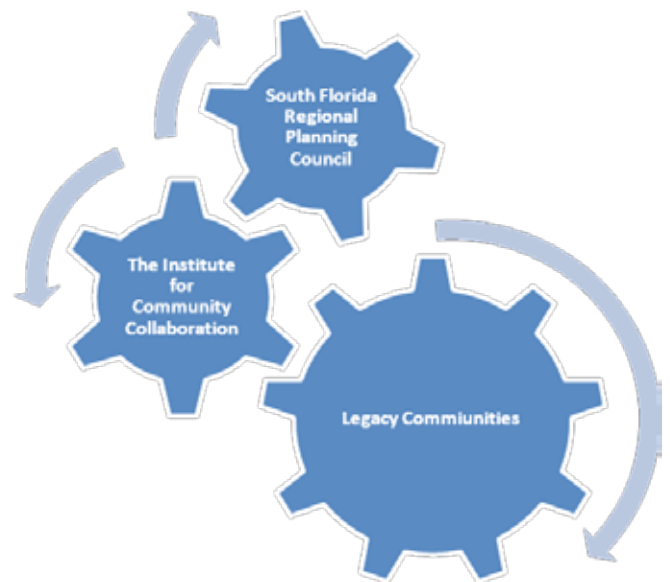
www.sfrpc.com/Legacy.htm

The South Florida Regional Planning Council's mission is to identify the long-term challenges and opportunities facing Southeast Florida and assist the Region's leaders in developing and implementing creative strategies that result in more prosperous and equitable communities, a healthier and cleaner environment, and a more vibrant economy.



The Institute for Community Collaboration

has undertaken the Legacy Communities Initiative. The Institute for Community Collaboration, Inc. (ICC) is a not-for-profit corporation organized and existing under the Laws of the State of Florida and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The ICC provides professional research, training, mediation, facilitation, and other services to governments, institutions, private parties, and organizations in order to bring collaborative processes and consensus decision-making to South Florida communities regarding the myriad issues they face in this diverse region. These services include, but are not limited to, economic and community development and revitalization, conflict resolution, environmental protection and justice, visioning, land planning, program advocacy, and administrative oversight and support.



The Legacy Communities Initiative provides expert assistance to each community to network communities, train community builders, help them understand how to develop funding and resources to address their concerns and to help communities develop activities that protect and preserve their businesses and cultures, sacred places and families. Most importantly this work is done by building teams and galvanizing the combined efforts of grassroots residents, community organizations, businesses, and faith-based, financial and educational intuitions; every aspect of the community that is willing to work together. They can establish a common and comprehensive vision, pool their collective resources and expertise and present a strong competent voice of advocacy and toolbox of resources to rebuild their community.

The Legacy Communities Initiative is “A Solution Comparable to the Scale of the Problem”. The tremendous problem requires a tremendous solution. Now, when the entire national economy is seriously threatened, gentrifying communities are most at-risk. South Florida communities have rich cultures but extremely low-income residents losing their homes, jobs and families. These communities, characterized by indicators of economic distress, in fact, all have very culturally rich histories and illustrious backgrounds, now buried under the rubble of disinvestment and poverty.

Employing the expertise of Legacy staff and consultants and drawing on the pool of resources and best practices throughout the nation, The Legacy Communities Initiative will provide the following services for each Legacy community:



1. Assessment of community needs and capacity;
2. Consultation and advisement;
3. Community and board education;
4. Community builder training;
5. Development or enhancement of existing programs and services that embrace the 14 fundamental strategies;
6. Resource development;
7. Assistance for plan implementation;
8. Establish linkages within the Legacy Communities network;
9. Establish linkages to resources and potential partner extraneous to the Legacy Communities network;
10. Serve as liaison and interface with legislators and resource providers;
11. Provide expertise and technical assistance in fund development;
12. Troubleshoot, mediate, facilitate local processes; and
13. Promote Legacy Communities and the Initiative activities as shared and leveraged resources and;
14. Assist with evaluation and corrective actions to promote sustainability.

These communities are linked through the Legacy Communities Initiative to create a strong network of similarly situated, educated and active constituents who know how to develop resources, attract funds and investments, and articulate their needs in ways that maximize support. They are able to implement programs market their communities that generate revenue and as a cohesive network, each community supporting the other. They break down the artificial boundaries and reach



out to help and support other communities experiencing the same kinds of challenges and potentially the same kinds of victories for their people. In this way they preserve a legacy for their children, grandchildren and their children they may never live to see.

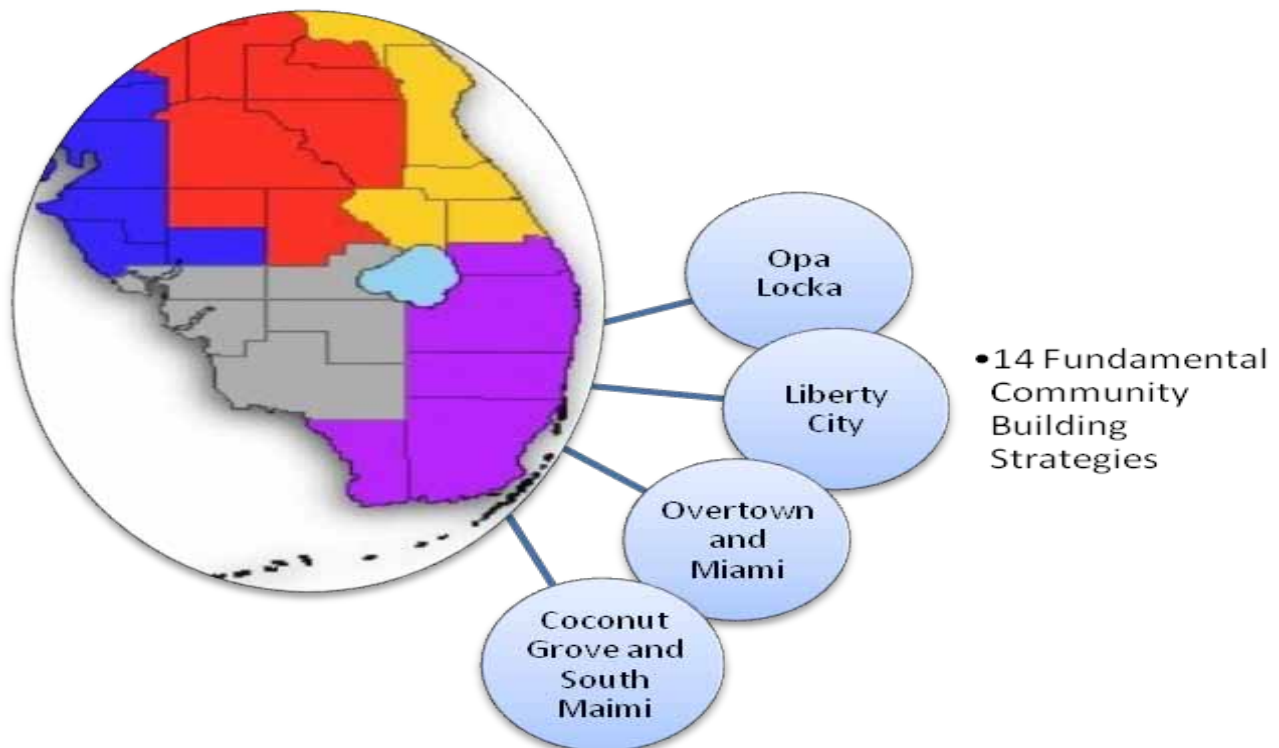
Each Legacy Community will receive technical assistance from the Legacy Development Team to develop, promote and or implement these strategies if they are not already in place in the community. Where these strategies already exist, the Legacy Community Initiative will help strengthen and sustain the effort.

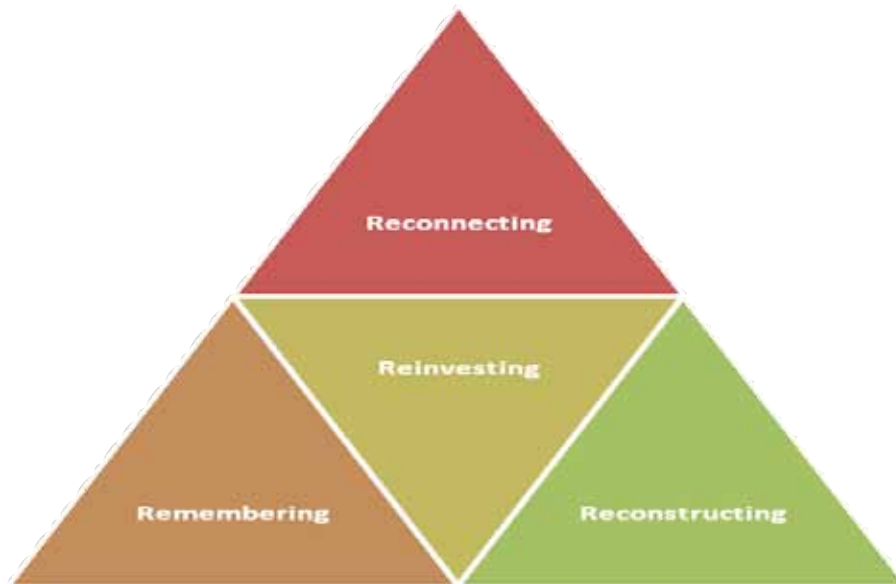
Best practices will be added to a "Toolkit" of resources for all Legacy Communities to utilize. Each Legacy Community will have a "Cookbook" which is their community-specific Legacy Plan for technical assistance. And each Legacy Community will have a "Schoolbook" which contains educational information and marketing proto-types for the Legacy Community to utilize in educating constituents and potential partners.

Successful Legacy Communities will serve as Legacy Consultants to emerging Legacy Communities, sharing their process and programs so that new Legacy Communities benefit from the networking.

Each Legacy Community will establish a team of community builders, who will be trained by the Legacy Development Team, for the purpose of continuing to assist the community in the implementation of its revitalization plan exceeding the technical assistance phase and going forward as a sustainable team of local Legacy Consultants.

Additionally, each Legacy Community will establish a Community Chest to deposit and distribute funds to support local Legacy Communities and to support the implementation and sustainability of their revitalization plans and strategies.





The Legacy Communities Initiative seeks to help these communities utilizing 14 fundamental strategies of the Legacy Communities Initiative. This represents the basic elements necessary for communities to persevere and produce healthy families, healthy businesses and healthy environments. These 14 fundamental strategies intersect, overlap and interchange to maximize resources and create a comprehensive and cohesive approach to community building in communities with similar challenges and opportunities.

Remembering

1. Cultural programs, festivals, storytelling, oral histories and educational activities and other activities that inform, preserve and promote the culture of the community and its people;
2. Faith based and community organizations partnering to provide a system of communication, community education, advocacy and support for the community, its families, educational institutions, health care and spiritual /ethical health;
3. Restoration of traditional cultural values system by training families to implement historically known spiritual principles and to remember the values taught by their ancestors that guide and keep them strong, healthy and compassionate;

Reinvesting

4. Preservation of affordable land and Community Land Trusts to insure that the community property remains under the jurisdiction of the community, to insure affordable ownership of the community property, to address urgent gentrification threats and to preserve the properties for generations in the future;
5. Property acquisition and physical redesign of local properties to reflect the culture of the community, promotion of environmentally healthy mixed-use and mixed-income development and utilization of resident ownership mechanisms;

6. Charrettes, community design workshops, to develop community consensus building and participation in planning and community design, through ordinances, rezoning, special districts and other neighborhood conservation efforts;
7. Economic development and wealth building initiatives through job creation, business development and resource generating strategies that will help the community develop and access non-traditional resources and funds;

Reconstructing

8. Youth initiatives that help re-introduce traditional values and behavioral mores to our youth. These initiatives are those that help improve our youth academically, personally and spiritually, socially and at home with the family and in the community;
9. Health initiatives: including mental, spiritual and physical health, effective homeopathic and holistic health, healthy foods, wellness and nutrition programs;
10. Reclamation of estranged males through innovative crime prevention, intervention and deterrent programs, effective homeopathic and holistic health programs, effective grassroots substance abuse prevention strategies, alternatives to incarceration, family investment, economic empowerment and reclamation rites of passage activities;



11. Women, Elderly and Family Empowerment: working with non-profit organizations to help women become empowered to deal with issues that most affect them and their children, including but not limited to, domestic violence issues, economic development, women's health care, child rearing and support for single mothers;



Reconnecting

12. Community building training to develop a team of local community builders in each Legacy Community who can continue to carry out the activities and provide leadership in the community to sustain the efforts;
13. Leadership and political empowerment through screening, selection and support of candidates who are knowledgeable of community concerns, responsive to community needs and proactive in creating opportunities for the families and communities, educating the community through small group discussions and family based dialogue;



14. Marketing strategies that promote Legacy Communities and link cottage industries through a continuous cultural corridor and engage support and promotion by African and Caribbean American notables and companies willing to underwrite portions of the Initiatives.

The *Legacy Green Empowerment Program* is an example of an economic development project specifically funded for job creation that has far reaching impact in other Legacy Strategies. It benefits families, businesses, organizations and the entire community. The Legacy Green Empowerment Program is funded under U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. Dep't H.H.S.), Administration of Children and Families (AGF, Office of Community Services (OCS): Job Opportunities for Low Income Individuals (JOLI).

The *Legacy Green Empowerment Program* will create and retain 30 new jobs for Liberty City, Overtown, and Coconut Grove (West Grove) residents and expand two (2) existing Miami businesses: Master C Culinary Training in Liberty City and Elfin Acres Organic Farms in Homestead.



Legacy Green Empowerment Program/Legacy Communities Initiative

Partners: The Institute for Community Collaboration, South Florida Regional Planning Council, The Urban Empowerment Corporation, Master C Culinary Arts, Inc., Keep Miami Beautiful, Elfin Acres Organic Farm, US Dept. HHS, ACF, OCS, Coconut Grove Cares, St. Matthew Community Church, Positive Partners, Master Gardner Andres Mejides, Master Chef John Townson, CC Holloman



Starting the Roots of the Grove Garden, Coconut Grove



Bringing the community together around healthy foods: planning and training

Partners: Architects for Humanity, Fertile Earth, Fairchild Botanical Garden, Shell Lumber



Legacy Green Empowerment Program Trainees and Garden Coordinators

Partners: Senator Larcenia Bullard, Lynn Gelfman, Southwest Grove Net, Slow Foods Miami, Pointe Group



Classroom training and employability skills development: Juanita Shanks

Partners: City Year, FPL, Aqua Terra Solutions, City of Miami, Home Depot, US Dept. HUD



Culinary Arts Training, Commissary Training Kitchen



Rebuilding the Harvest of Love Garden, Liberty Square





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