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11th Street Bridge Park Creates Equitable Development Task Force

Washington, D.C. — Ensuring the new 11th Street Bridge Park will be a driver of inclusive development, we have established an Equitable Development Task Force to provide opportunities for all residents in neighborhoods surrounding the Bridge Park regardless of income and demography.

The Equitable Development Task Force will help create a series of programs and policies to encourage equitable development in the neighborhoods surrounding the park. The 11th Street Bridge Park recently received a grant from The JPB Foundation to support this work. Additional support has been provided by LISC DC.

Economic development is one of four key goals of the 11th Street Bridge Park. While the Bridge Park's design strategies will increase the connectivity and interaction between those living on both sides of the Anacostia River, more must be done to ensure that those currently living near the site will benefit on a continued basis from the success of this signature new civic space.

The Equitable Development Task Force will work with community stakeholders, government officials, business owners, and policy experts to identify actionable recommendations that the park and its partners can take in three areas: **affordable housing**; **workforce development**; and **small business enterprise**. In June, staff will hold a series of public meetings for continued input, recognizing the deep expertise and knowledge that exists in the community. The final output of the Task Force will be an Equitable Development Plan comprised of detailed recommendations and timelines for implementation to be completed this fall and announced at a November 5 Community Development Finance Summit presented by City First Bank of D.C.

Task Force Time Line

- **Fall 2014** – Core Task Force members meet to collect and analyze data about nearby neighborhoods to understand the existing conditions
- **February 2015** – Brainstorming session with representatives from government agencies, non-profits and foundations to create initial recommendation list
- **April 2015** – Community stakeholder meeting to review / comment on initial recommendation list and help prioritize actions
- **June 2015** - Public meetings for additional feedback on policies and procedures that can ensure equitable and inclusive development in adjacent neighborhoods
- **June – November 2015** – Finalize program and policy recommendations and actionable time line
- **November 5, 2015** – Share final recommendations at Community Development Finance Summit
- **November 2015** - Begin implementation of Equitable Development Plan

“The 11th Street Bridge Park has been driven by the community from the beginning,” said Scott Kratz, Director of the 11th Street Bridge Park. “This is an extension of that work to make sure the thousands of residents who have shaped this project can benefit from this new civic space for years to come.”

The 11th Street Bridge Park, a project of the Ward 8-based nonprofit Building Bridges Across the River, is scheduled to open by late 2018.

“LISC is proud to partner with the 11th Street Bridge Park in the development of an actionable Equitable Development Plan,” said Oramenta Newsome, LISC DC’s Executive Director. “We want to ensure that the park’s presence not only brings enjoyable amenities but also promotes development that is inclusive and equitable.”

The 11th Street Bridge Park has the potential to represent more than just an innovative public space with a direct physical link between two neighborhoods. In particular, the park can symbolize a new unity and connection between a booming area of the city and one that has long been overlooked and excluded from the city’s economic progress.

The Task Force began meeting in the Fall of 2014 collecting data on existing conditions – home ownership rates, median income, unemployment – so that future recommendations are based on an accurate understanding of the adjacent neighborhoods. The core Task Force includes: Peter Tatian and Brett Theodos, Urban Institute; Ed Lazere, D.C. Fiscal Policy Institute; Kimberly Driggins, D.C. Office of Planning; Adam Kent, LISC DC; and Scott Kratz and Irfana Noorani, 11th Street Bridge Park. This initial research illustrated the stark divide among communities on both sides of the river.

	<u>West of the River (Capitol Hill / Navy Yard)</u>	<u>East of the River (Anacostia / Fairlawn)</u>
Total Population	18,497	21,762
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing	\$653,737	\$262,601
Renter Occupied Units	49.2%	73.4%
Unemployment	5.5%	20.9%
Child Poverty	23.6%	51.8%

Recognizing that signature parks can increase nearby property values, it is important to strategize an actionable plan early in the process. In early February, 11th Street Bridge Park collaborated with LISC DC to convene over 35 policy experts, government officials and non-profits and foundations representatives. These experts focused on strategic recommendations to ensure that the new park will address potential economic and housing displacement while providing opportunity for nearby residents and businesses.

With the support of the generous grant from the national JPB Foundation, 11th Street Bridge Park staff will continue this work gathering community stakeholders to refine and prioritize these recommendations in April and a series of public meetings in June.

Working with the community, the Bridge Park’s Equitable Development Task Force and Equitable Development Plan can become templates for how cities can invest in and create world-class public spaces that are inclusive.

About the 11th Street Bridge Park

As the old 11th Street traffic bridges that connect Washington, D.C.’s Capitol Hill and historic Anacostia neighborhoods have aged out, the District government and a local nonprofit organization -- Building Bridges Across the River -- are transforming this old infrastructure into the city’s first elevated park: a new venue for healthy recreation, environmental education and the arts.

The 11th Street Bridge Park will be a place unlike any other in Washington, D.C. – one that supports the community’s physical, environmental, cultural and economic health. After a seven month design competition informed by more than 450 community meetings, the design team of OMA+OLIN was selected in October 2014. With the design in place, Bridge Park staff has launched a capital campaign to construct this new civic space. The D.C. City Government has committed \$14.5 million. For more information and to see the OMA+OLIN renderings, visit www.bridgepark.org.

About Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC

The 11th Street Bridge Park is a project of the Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC), a \$27 million, 110,000 square-foot campus located east of the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C.’s Ward 8. The mission of THEARC is to improve the quality of life for residents of Washington D.C.’s East of the River community, a key goal of the future 11th Street Bridge Park. THEARC is a home away from home for the many underserved children and adults of East of the River, enabling them to participate in dance classes, music instruction, fine arts, academics, continuing education, mentoring, tutoring, recreation, medical and dental care, and other services at a substantially reduced cost or no cost at all. On-site non-profit partners include Washington Ballet, Levine School of Music, Children’s Medical Center and eight other organizations.

About the Washington, DC Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC DC)

LISC DC’s mission is to help create healthy neighborhoods that are good places to live, work, raise children and conduct business. We mobilize corporate, philanthropic, individual donor and government resources and invest them into the projects, programs and initiatives that build on the assets and address the challenges of the neighborhoods in Washington, DC. By providing loans, grants, equity and technical assistance, we help build inclusive neighborhoods of opportunity in DC. Working with, through and for nonprofits, we use our resources to improve the quality of life for DC residents.

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