

ACTION PLAN (JULY 2007 THROUGH JUNE 2008)

During the next 12 months in fiscal year 2008, the University District Partnership will be working with key partners for adoption of revitalization and strategic plan elements and development of programs to meet major priorities. The University District Steering Committee will continue its involvement in plan adoption, program development, and other implementation activities. In addition, the University District Partnership will convene workshops and forums for public input on key implementation initiatives.

PLAN ADOPTION

The University District Partnership staff will request time to present summaries of the final Revitalization Plan and Strategic Plan to the UALR Board of Visitors, the Little Rock City Board of Directors, the Little Rock School District, Broadmoor Property Owners Association, Fair Park Neighborhood Association, Oak Forest Movers and Shakers, Point O' Woods Neighborhood Association, Audubon Society, Methodist Family Health, Lions World Services for the Blind, area churches, and groups of business leaders, bankers, realtors, and developers. Where appropriate, the Partnership will seek approval, adoption, and assimilation of the plans into the policy framework of the key partners. For example, the University District Partnership will work with the Little Rock Planning Department and Commission to consider amending the city's Land Use Plan and Master Street Plan to determine whether design overlay districts should be put in place to guide architectural features of developments within the area.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The University District Partnership staff will work with key partners to develop program initiatives for addressing major plan priorities of developing affordable housing, improving education outcomes, and reducing crime in the area.

Community Development Corporation. The Partnership will convene a working group of about 25 people to develop the policy and governance framework for the University District CDC. The CDC will be incorporated and an application made to the IRS for its tax exempt status. During this time, the CDC Board of Directors will be selected, oriented, and trained to set the agenda for its initiatives to develop affordable housing and neighborhood improvements. Ideally, the CDC will be fully operational within the 12- month period.

Employer Assisted Housing Program. The University District Partnership will prepare a feasibility analysis for



an Employer Assisted Housing Program to encourage major employers in the area to provide financial incentives for employees to purchase or rent housing in the District.

Excellence in Schools. The first-year strategy for improving public school educational results will focus on expanding the existing outreach programs of Children International and the UALR College of Education. Children International already provides after-school programs, health screenings, and dental programs in six elementary schools including three within the University District area. The UALR College of Education already provides tutors and student teachers to elementary schools in the area. The University District Partnership will convene working groups including school administrators and teachers and determine short-term and long-range initiatives that can complement the school improvement plans at each of the elementary school campuses. Also, the Partnership will work with Children International to strengthen and support the newly organized Pre College Prep Program.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). The University District Partnership will work with neighborhood associations and City of Little Rock departments to incorporate CPTED principles into neighborhood improvement plans and programs. Several states and communities have developed very effective CPTED programs and can serve as models for the effort. These examples will be researched and assessed for application in Little Rock.

Code Enforcement. Preserving existing housing in University District neighborhoods depends largely on how effectively the city's housing, premise, and environmental codes are enforced and administered. The University District Partnership will work with the City of Little Rock Housing and Neighborhoods Department to improve the results of code enforcement efforts. The District will join and cooperate with ongoing efforts by several community groups that have been working for years to address problems of vacant and unsafe properties and weed lots. In addition, the staff will research successful programs in other localities to find new and more effective approaches that can be used in the University District.



Students participate in Children International activities.

