

Buena Vida Choice Neighborhood Plan

Working Group Meeting 1 – Arts, Culture and Neighborhood Identity

May 24, 2017

Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville

Included below is a summary of potential strategies and initial project ideas described by participants at the first Working Group Meeting.

ARTS, CULTURE AND NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTITY

Draft Strategy 1: Create an environment for vending and entrepreneurship

- Objectives Economic development, Job interaction, cultural.
- Designation of requirements for vendors.
- Syndicate approach for vendor financing.
- Affordable Mexican- food the magnet that attracts people to the neighborhood. Food vendors would attract families and bring income to the area. Once families are here, then they will appreciate art and music of painting.
- The tianguis concept is key to vitalization cultural and economically food courts.
- Have your own R.A/A then have your residence show their project at city wide shows or sell, farmers.
- Classes to improve on culture, each organization can have one monthly class. Such as, art, music and animals.
- Effective communication with families, provide GED classes to families or computer classes (free classes), provide classes for families such as, art, culture for all ages.

Draft Strategy 2: Develop public and private neighborhood enhancements

- Work with city for sidewalk improvement and street crossing lighting.
- Develop a written commitment from the community to take action of the development of the Buena Vida Community.
- Address sidewalk with B metro and city to extend sidewalks and improve bus stop like they did for Bolden Trail.
- Bring a cyclobia area to close down streets to encourage walk and bike.
- Have yard of the month, best or newly improved residence receives a stipend.

Draft Strategy 3: Emphasize arts and culture to strengthen the community network

- Better communication for community here in Brownsville at large Flyers. Posters, books, local changes.
- Develop a Big brother/ sister program to mentor on arts and culture.

- Implement a neighborhood block party to invite neighbors and encourage conversations among neighbors, communication.
- Invite neighborhood to participate in the painting of the mural of the jail and painting wall on 11th and pull street lime/ Edelstein and downtown.
- Promote all programs that are tied to stimulating this neighborhood to a media partner such as El Heraldo.
- For effective communication: a “Pde” like stand when people can put flyers for events.
- Select people from community to sit on meetings then help to work like messengers.
- How to make services feel like their own; free access to museum, have a family or group of members, own projects at those places.
- Schedule meeting with families (mind set),
- Enhance programming and develop pride in area.
- Connect and enhance recreation area.
- Effective communication, start at Buena Vida learning center by getting the youth involved, who must communicate to parents, first then to rest b.v.
- No selfishness between organizations. More communications and collaboration with the organizations.
- Art and music: collaboration and develop at programs.
- Maximize children’s talents and expose through performances.
- Engage teens and children from the community in art projects about their neighborhood. Working on murals when they feel part of something to protect it, avoid graffiti a well-cared neighborhood. Art may prevent them in engaging in other activities like gangs. Include fitness and wellness programs for teens and children.
- More connections to arts and culture programs.
- More communication with the surrounding programs. Important culture classes/courses.