Urban Habitat &
Great Communities Collaborative

New Partners for Smart Growth:
Putting Schools on the Map

Vu-Bang Nguyen, Land Use Program Coordinator
www.urbanhabitat.org
Urban Habitat Mission

Urban Habitat’s mission is to build power in low-income communities and communities of color by combining education, advocacy, research and coalition building to advance environmental, economic and social justice in the Bay Area.
Urban Habitat & the Great Communities Collaborative

**Regional Planning**: Work in communities with a funded planning process around a regionally connected transit station.

**Coalitions**: Create partnerships with a range of allies with experience in health, land use, transportation, housing, and the environment.

**Technical Assistance**: Economic Development reports, affordable housing analysis, GIS mapping, transit oriented development tours, etc.

**Local Partnerships**: Support for local organizations deeply involved with their communities: faith-based organizations, environmental groups, and affordable housing advocates on issues such as Local Hire, Affordable Housing, Transit Access, and Quality Job Development.

**Leadership Institutes**: Boards and Commission placement/training and panels.
Urban Habitat: 4 Key Areas

1. Policy analysis, development and advocacy
2. Capacity building and technical assistance
3. Regional coalition building
4. Reframing the debate through publications/media.
Urban Habitat: 4 Key Areas

1. Policy analysis, development and advocacy
2. Capacity building and technical assistance
3. Regional coalition building
4. Reframing the debate through publications/media.
Case Study 1: East Palo Alto, CA

- Ravenswood Business District Specific Plan
- Priority Development Area
- Last Swath of Developable Area in EPA
- Community Partners:
East Palo Alto, CA: Whisky Gulch
Whisky Gulch Today: Four Seasons & University Circle Offices
- Carlmont High School (Belmont)
- Menlo-Atherton High School (Atherton)
- Woodside High School (Woodside)
- Sequoia High School (Redwood City)
Ravenswood High School
1958-1976
Ravenswood High School Site Today
Community Plan Goals

1. The RBD is predominantly an area of mixed industrial/business uses, providing for a variety of activities. It is a model for community development with businesses that are based on the job needs of EPA residents.

2. The RBD also provides an opportunity for larger community-serving institutions such as a city hospital, school, 1-stop social services, multi-cultural center, theater of arts, after school program, and sports facilities.

3. The RBD is a place with uses for youth to learn good things ---> “Da Spot”

4. The RBD is a model for new and creative and clean use of contaminated lands.

5. The Plan Area is also an opportunity for resident-serving businesses and stores along the adjoining Bay Road corridor and 4-Corners area.

6. The Plan Area is an opportunity for community spaces and social gathering and homegrown EPA arts. It is safe, fun, and family-friendly. It is EPA’s “downtown.”

7. The Plan Area has active sidewalks with a variety of businesses, making connections between the RBD, Cooley Landing, Bay Road and the 4-Corners areas.

8. The Plan Area has sound infrastructure with an upgraded, undergrounded powerline system.

9. The Plan Area has affordable housing for CURRENT East Palo Alto low-income residents.

10. The RBD maintains the honest character, quality and priorities of East Palo Alto.
Community Plan Goals

2. The RBD also provides an opportunity for larger community-serving institutions such as a city hospital, school, 1-stop social services, multi-cultural center, theater of arts, after school program, and sports facilities.

3. The RBD is a place with uses for youth to learn good things ---> “Da Spot”

6. The Plan Area is an opportunity for community spaces and social gathering and homegrown EPA arts. It is safe, fun, and family-friendly. It is EPA’s “downtown.”
1. The RBD also provides an opportunity for larger community-serving institutions such as a city hospital, **school**, 1-stop social services, multi-cultural center, theater of arts, after school program, and sports facilities.

2. The RBD is a place with uses for **youth to learn good things** ---> “Da Spot”

3. The Plan Area is an opportunity for **community spaces and social gathering** and homegrown EPA arts. It is **safe, fun, and family-friendly**. It is EPA’s “downtown.”
Community-led Process

Redevelopment Agency Process
Case Study 2: San Leandro, CA

- Making a case for mixed-income, family housing in San Leandro
- Affordable housing near transit at BART/BRT TOD
- Affordable housing and school enrollment for existing San Leandro residents
- Disconnect between older white residents and newer residents of color
- See Center for Cities and Schools: Putting Schools on the Map Report for more information
Vu-Bang Nguyen
Land Use Program Coordinator

www.urbanhabitat.org
vubang@urbanhabitat.org
(510) 839-9510 ext. 318