



November 2020

SKID ROW NOW & 2040

RESPONSE TO THE DTLA2040 UPDATED COMMUNITY PLAN

1. Thanks to the Department of City Planning for creating a special zone where only affordable housing with extremely low and deeply low-income levels, can be build: **the Ix1 zone. But the zone doesn't cover all of Skid Row**, it squeezes affordable housing into the blocks East of San Pedro: between Alameda and 5th and 7th street. Skid Row residents want the expansion of the I X 1 zone to the existing, legal **Skid Row neighborhood boundaries**: from Main to Alameda, and from 3rd to 7th street.
2. We want the **“Preservation and maintenance of existing housing stock at the foundation of the community's affordable housing supply,” applied to the existing Skid Row neighborhood boundaries to avoid displacement of current residents** (3rd to 7th, Main to Alameda).
3. The draft's focus on **“Accessible, healthy, and safe housing opportunities affordable to low-income households”** should include **extremely low and deeply low-income households**.
4. We want the plan's commitment to **“Facilitate the integration of locally produced and community oriented public art projects and cultural programming into public spaces to reinforce community character”** to include **consistent maintenance and additional amenities like hygiene stations, cooling stations, trees, shade structures and seating to occur at the Skid Row parks** including San Julian Park and Gladys Park, and we want the **creation of new Skid Row parks** where possible. We also want this **street safety and comfort investment on primary corridors in Skid Row** (San Pedro, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th streets).
5. Poor communities/ communities of color bear the brunt of climate change and so special attention must be paid to the vulnerabilities of folks in Skid Row and the Urban Heat Island effect. It is crucial to **“Identify areas and buildings as resiliency centers for public use during future climate events and other emergencies,”** but these **resiliency centers need to be available 24/7 in Skid Row** where residents are often living in a stage of emergency.

6. The draft's intention to **"Foster opportunities for individuals facing barriers to employment"** is best achieved in Skid Row by **offering Skid Row residents work opportunities in their neighborhood** related to parks, hygiene stations, resiliency centers, art projects, cultural programming and other facility and engagement work identified in this plan.

7. We stress the importance of the draft's claim to **"Facilitate access to affordable, healthy, and fresh food** for all Downtown residents and support **community serving small businesses that sell affordable, fresh, and culturally relevant foods"** for Skid Row residents.

8. **Skid Row has a high number of artists and culture bearers that live and work in the neighborhood**, in order to make sure Skid Row residents benefit we ask that specific measures be included such as a property owners fee for the arts, contracts with local artists, Firehouse 23 renovation with extensive and accessible programming for adults and youth, dedicated cultural space in new construction and street vending support for local merchants.

9. Skid Row believes that **promoting community participation and partnering with community organizations and local residents** for cultural and historic preservation efforts, should be expanded to develop a process and dedicate resources to **support a neighborhood council/representative body for the Skid Row community**. Residents and workers should have a **direct channel** to express their voices on **all City decisions related to Skid Row, not just cultural and historic preservation efforts**.

