



Skid Row Now & 2040 Coalition

Essential community plan principles for Skid Row

A community plan should be a vision for supporting and responding to the needs of existing neighbors and neighborhoods, while paving a roadway to a better tomorrow. It should be community-focused, and not solely driven by business interests or the incongruent placement of buildings to maintain a status quo. Below are essential principles for Skid Row.

Neighborhood Preservation

No Net Loss of Affordable Housing: All existing units must be protected so no affordable housing loss occurs in Skid Row.

Anti-Displacement Protections: Protect tenant legal rights from being violated and prohibit discriminatory practices that prevent access to affordable and low-income housing. Create a process for unhoused Skid Row residents to access housing in Skid Row as a first option.

No Changes to Skid Row Boundaries: The proposed IX1 zone for affordable housing only, with extremely low and deeply low-income levels (and all principles contained in this document) must extend to the traditional boundaries of Skid Row; Main Street to Alameda Street and Third Street to Seventh Street. This includes restrictions on new market rate housing. A buffer zone extending beyond these boundaries is recommended as additional protection and support for Skid Row and adjacent communities.

Arts and Culture: Support the creation and sustenance of community cultural centers as creative places to preserve and share local history, enhance neighborhood pride, and strengthen social cohesion. This includes the integration of locally produced and community oriented public art projects and cultural programming into public spaces. Cultural space must offer substantial and accessible programming for all ages and in more than one dedicated cultural facility, including renovation and new construction. Expand support for the large number of artists and culture bearers that live and work in the Skid Row neighborhood (i.e. property owners fee for the arts, contracting with local artists, and supporting street vending for local artisans). Implement a process to facilitate the community ownership of creative space and encourage art production. Ensure exhibition spaces are accessible and affordable to community-based artists.

Health & Well-being

Green Space and Common Space: Ensure that Skid Row parks receive their fair share of resources to support the many patrons that daily utilize them. This includes maintenance, facility improvements, and programming. Create new parks and green space when possible. Prioritize the creation of common spaces that are responsive to community social (i.e. performances, markets, events, tournaments) and personal needs (i.e. access to restrooms, handwashing, drinking water, seating, Wi-Fi, charging stations, cooling stations, shade, heat). Expand hygiene supporting resources based on the 24/7 ReFresh Spot model, including utilization of Skid Row parks. Implement street safety and comfort investment on primary corridors in Skid Row. Protect pedestrian and biker safety utilizing longer crosswalk timers, speed bumps, crossing signals, bike lanes and improved signage on all Skid Row streets. Create community gardens utilizing converted City land.

Sanitation and Neighborhood Maintenance: Create jobs for Skid Row residents to conduct neighborhood street cleaning and 311 bulky items pickup. Employ residents to staff, monitor and maintain community resources (i.e. permanent toilets, water fountains, portable toilets and showers).

Health and Wellness Protections: Skid Row has long prioritized resources for treatment, recovery, and self-help for trauma and system impacted individuals manifesting mental and substance use disorders. This is threatened by alcohol-fueled redevelopment in the 5 census tracts in and adjacent to Skid Row. The State allows 27 alcohol licenses in these census tracts while a staggering 273 currently exist. No new alcohol permits shall be issued in Skid Row (including restaurants, bars, and convenience stores). No new marijuana businesses shall be permitted (with a possible exception for community run Social Equity businesses). Access to affordable, culturally relevant healthy food options and nutritional support is a major community priority. Incentives must be provided to convert existing stores, promote new businesses, and support community gardens and farmers markets.

Resiliency Centers: Identify areas and buildings as resiliency centers for public use during climate events, multi-casualty incidents, and other emergencies. Implement community responsive and informed approaches to address and minimize casualties, harm, trauma, and threat. These resources should be accessible 24/7 in Skid Row where residents are often living in a stage of emergency.

Neighbor Engagement and Participation

Skid Row Neighborhood Council or Other Representative Body for DTLA 2040: A process must be implemented to support a neighborhood council or other representative body for the Skid Row neighborhood. This will give residents and workers a direct channel to weigh in on City decisions related to Skid Row including implementation of the community plan. With Skid Row being a predominantly Black neighborhood, this representative body could address equity concerns, including systemic practices that have historically disenfranchised community members, as well as identify and promote best practices.

Bridging the Digital Divide: Neighborhood-wide internet and computer access must be provided for Skid Row community members to easily access vital information, participate in meetings, and correspond with the City and other supporting groups and agencies.

End the Criminalization of Homelessness: Stop the over-policing and arrest of homeless people. Redirect police funding to Skid Row community members and advocates and partner with people experiencing homelessness to create opportunities to address their immediate needs and inform systems change. This includes leadership and employment opportunities (aimed at improving safety, wellness, autonomy, and social connection) for community members including those with lived expertise.

Employment Opportunities: Offer Skid Row residents work opportunities in their neighborhood related to parks, hygiene stations, resiliency centers, art projects, cultural programming, sanitation and neighborhood maintenance, community safety, and other relevant facility and engagement work.

Development Opportunity Enhancement & Investment

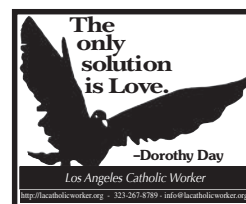
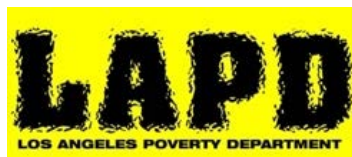
Inclusionary Zoning: Developers must be required to set-aside no less than 25% of all Downtown Los Angeles residential units built for affordable housing at a deeply affordable level for residents currently living in poverty. Require a range of affordable housing levels in all new housing construction, possibly for new mixed-use and commercial construction.

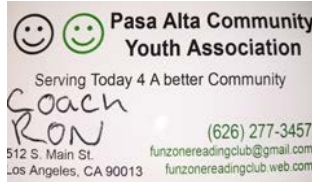
Affordable Housing Financing: The City must create new funding sources for affordable housing through developer fees, tax increment financing, and a vacancy tax. Activate developer fees from the existing TFAR program as well as a new 1% impact bond for rental subsidies. Assess the feasibility of tax increment financing mechanisms such as EIFD, CRIA, NIFTI and AHA, and establish a tax increment financing district in Skid Row and Downtown Los Angeles. Charge a 1% tax annually on any vacant building's value for every year it is vacant and route this funding to affordable housing in Skid Row.

Land Banking: Local government should purchase, manage and repurpose an inventory of underused, abandoned or foreclosed property for affordable housing and other development described in this document.

Public Housing: This infrastructure can be mixed-use and mixed-income housing produced and managed by local government with public and private funding, possibly as part of existing government buildings and property.

Save Mom-and-Pop Program: Prioritize the preservation of and support for local business to avoid displacement.





STREET SYMPHONY

- United Coalition East Prevention Project
- Los Angeles Poverty Department
- Los Angeles Catholic Worker
- Los Angeles Community Action Network
- Urban Voices Project
- Piece by Piece
- Skid Row Coffee
- Skid Row Peoples Market
- Inner City Law Center
- Skid Row 3 on 3 Street Ball League
- Skid Row Brigade
- Side Walk Project
- Creative I
- Street Symphony

1600+ signed petitions from Skid Row residents and stake holders.
 348 online petitions signed.

[Public Comments](#) by Skid Row community members and advocates, submitted to the Department of City Planning for the Public Hearing on December 8, 2020, in response the updated DTLA2040 community plan.

[The Blue Book](#), a very brief history of Skid Row, 1973 – 2021.