



CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GRANT

SIEMBRA NEBRASKA YOUTH ENGAGEMENT REPORT

PREPARED BY SOUTHSIDE REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



STUDENTS DESIRED WELCOMING SPACES FULL OF NATURE AND PLACES FOR THE COMMUNITY TO GATHER, HOLD MARKETS, AND BE ENTERTAINED.

PROCESS

In partnership with Latino Center of the Midlands, 13 Siembra Nebraska student interns participated in a neighborhood Block Talk and visioning exercise. Prior to the activities, a presentation was given to introduce Southside Redevelopment Corporation and provide an overview of the neighborhood revitalization process. Mask and social distancing guidelines were followed throughout.

Beginning at the Salvation Army Kroc Center, students walked to Upland Park to first discuss the park building and then moved to review the vacant lot between Y Street + Upland Parkway, and garden lot on 32nd + Y Street. During the discussion, students were asked to take note of what they liked about the area, what it needed, and what they wished to see in the future. Some interns connected with local residents at the park by asking for their feedback related to neighborhood transformation.

Following the Block Talk, the interns returned to the classroom to complete a visioning exercise and vote for their favorite ideas. When compiling a list of the top three ideas for redevelopment for each location, students were asked to use their own preferences from the Block Talk to lay a foundation for which would serve the community best.

Ideas for each location were shared and written in a place everyone could see. Once all the options had been presented, students used dot-voting to narrow down their preferences. The findings from these activities are found in the following report.

VISION

UPLAND PARK BUILDING IDEAS

- Tear down the building and extend the park by adding more seating and landscaping
- Utilize the building for community gatherings
- Public pool
- Arts + culture or learning center - intergenerational
- Auto shop for MCC students
- Ice cream or coffee shop
- Covered flea and farmers market
- Haunted House

VOTING RESULTS

#1 - Public pool

#2 - Intergenerational learning center

VACANT LOT - 30TH STREET + UPLAND PARKWAY IDEAS

- Add housing such as apartments
- Develop into commercial or retail space - auto shop, restaurants, convenience store, etc.
- Adding more park space and a dog park
- Building a pool, skatepark, and or iceskating rink - to add more activities to the area
- Building a career center
- Utilize space for open markets and art exhibits
- Build an amphitheater for outdoor events

VOTING RESULTS

#1 - Flea and farmers market

#2 - Art center + bike park with trails

GARDEN LOT - 32ND + Y STREET IDEAS

- Make the existing garden bigger by adding individual plots for community members
- Add a water park
- Connect to bike trails and other parks nearby
- Cover the garden for year-round use
- Create a serenity garden with fountains, seating, and art
- Build a neighborhood learning center

VOTING RESULTS

#1 - Flower garden

#2 - Park with water features and comfortable seating