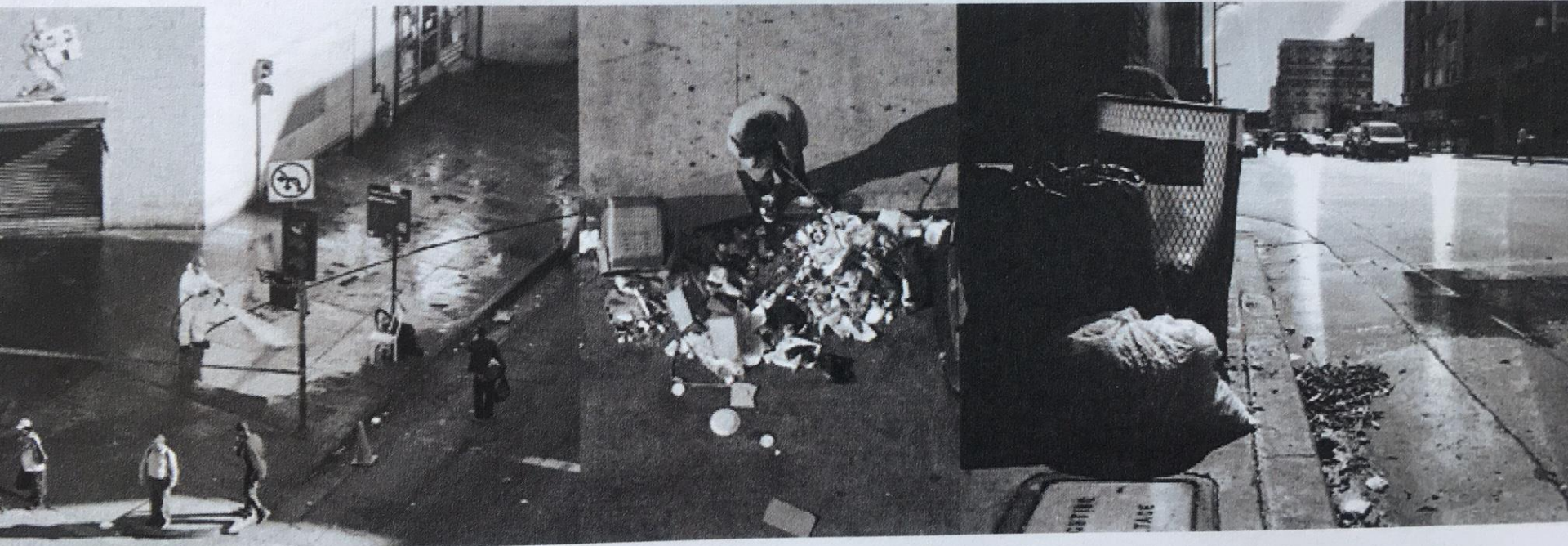


NO PLACE TO GO

No Place to Go

An Audit of the Public Toilet Crisis in Skid Row



What is Skid Row?

50 blocks (ish)

0.5 sq. miles

10,000+ people

Majority African American

4,485 homeless people

- 1,939 unsheltered
 - 395 in makeshift shelters
 - 686 in tents
 - 808 on street



Quick Skid Row Chronology

- 1890's - 1970's: Industrial, transient, last resort housing. Redlined.
- 1975: Containment Policy
- 1980's: South LA factories close, jobs disappear, crack arrives (and War on Drugs), homelessness explodes.
- 1989: Preserve disappearing SROs.
- 2000: Big Business searches for cheaper rent
- 2003-06: Arrests for sleeping on sidewalk
- 2005-07: Hospital patient dumping
- 2006-11: Zero Tolerance Policing
- 2007-18: Permanent Supportive Housing projects
- 2013-15: Property Seizures
- 2016 -18: Outreach, services and housing. Police "Reset"

Following in footsteps...

- L.A. County Dept. of Public Health's Jacqueline Taylor
 - "Request of City of Los Angeles to address public health issues in the Skid Row area of downtown Los Angeles" (May 21, 2012)
- Los Angeles Community Action Network
 - "The Dirty Divide: A Call for Public Health Equity" (2013)

Step 1. Building Trust

- Principles for Collaboration
 - ▣ Only price of participation
 - ▣ Develop collaboratively
 - ▣ Revisit, as needed
- Membership committee tasked with increasing accessibility
- Lots of chances for input and feedback
- Emphasize local voices
- Dramatize problem, not homelessness
- Most important: It's all about the toilets.

Adopt Principles

No Place to Go's Operating Guidelines

In order to participate in the No Place to Go campaign, you have to be willing and able to comply with the following Guidelines:

How are we going to make decisions? We will...

- Stay Curious and be open to new ideas
- Strive to reach agreements that are based on mutual understanding, and transcend personal interest

How are we going to resolve conflict? We will....

- Use a consensus model, and strive for 2/3 of the group to agree before making a decision
- Offer alternatives if we cannot agree on an idea/issue
- If personal conflicts or issues arise and are not resolved within one minute, it will be tabled and referred to a voluntary mediation process that Jason Robison will facilitate for the conflicting parties. Personal issues include things that aren't on the agenda and conflict with other people not over agenda items.
- When communicating strong feelings, use "I" statements such as "I feel angry" rather than "you" statements such as "you make me angry."

How are we going to conduct meetings? We will....

- Leave meetings with a summary of accomplishments, decisions made, and action items
- Stay focused on the scope of the committee and the agenda/purpose of each meeting
- Take time to ensure that everyone is up to speed before shifting gears or making decisions
- We will not use the meeting, emails or group communication to raise personal issues. The meetings and communication need to focus on substance so that we can adequately address the items on the agenda and make progress on increasing access to public toilets in Skid Row.
- Participation is voluntary. Anyone can volunteer for any role. However, for strategic or tactical reasons, it may make sense to have a limited number of people in a role or specific people in a role. The lead on any particular project or team makes the final call on participation in a role.

How are we going to communicate? We will....

- Practice "yes...and" vs. "yes...but"
- Not monopolize discussions
- Speak at a conversational volume
- Refrain from disparaging remarks
- Listen to others and respect everyone's opinions
- Avoid labels, and use people-first or person-centered language.
- Use plain language - that is, language that is accessible to all, including avoiding acronyms
- Create a welcoming environment in which it is safe to tell stories and express emotions

If anyone is unable or unwilling to comply with these Guidelines...

The person will work with Jason, and/or others as appropriate, to resolve any disputes or figure out how to comply. If there is still no compliance, the person will be free to work separately from No Place to Go.

September 14, 2017

Share Credit

Audit of Public Toilets on Skid Row

The "Audit of Public Toilets on Skid Row" is a project of the Los Angeles Central Providers Collaborative, Skid Row residents and partners. The Los Angeles Central Providers Collaborative is a group of Skid Row services, shelter and housing providers that include over 25 nonprofit, government, community organizations and residents.

The Skid Row Public Toilet Audit Team is...

- Eric Ares, Los Angeles Community Action Network
- Patricia Bacalao, Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects
- Stephany Campos, Homeless Health Care Los Angeles
- Eric Dean, Skid Row resident/activist
- Ian Dickenson, Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects
- Ashle Fauvre, Skid Row S.P.A.
- Tom Grode, co-founder Skid Row S.P.A.
- Steve Johnson, LA Mission
- Gina Jones, Los Angeles Christian Health Centers
- Rachel Kassenbrock, Downtown Women's Center
- Kevin Michael Key, United Coalition East Prevention Project
- Jasmine Kozowy, Lava Mae
- Elissa Kuykendall, co-founder Skid Row S.P.A.
- Alexander Laurent; Artist / Photographer, Downtown Resident
- Louise Mbella "Sinai" [Frenchy], Community Organizer Advocate and Former Downtown Women's Action Coalition Co-Chair/Secretary.
- Katherine McNenny, co-founder of Industrial District Green
- Charles Porter, United Coalition East Prevention Project
- Jason Robison, SHARE!
- Candace Leos, Midnight Mission
- Suzette Shaw, Skid Row resident / poet who writes, talks & advocates Skid Row From A Woman's Perspective
- Sara Short, The Peoples' Concern
- Greg Spiegel, Inner City Law Center
- Michael Unton, Skid Row S.P.A.
- Dorit Waldman, SSG Project 180

Step 2. Auditing

- Asset Mapping
 - Builds camaraderie
 - Inspires action

- Compiling Data
 - Framing is key
 - Compelling legal standard
 - Compelling visual presentation

- Sensitivity to the audited
 - Consumer
 - Provider

Step 3. Drafting Report

- Compelling...
 - Look
 - Narrative
 - Conclusion
 - Solutions
 - Call to Action

Step 4. Advocating for Change

- Media Strategy
- Targets
 - Meetings
 - Asset Mapping and Evaluation
- Not about controlling the issue; it's about more toilets
 - Let others take credit, solve problem
 - Refresh Spot comes to Skid Row

Skid Row Refresh Spot

