

TransFormation Alliance 2017 Key Accomplishments

Objectives

The TransFormation Alliance (TFA) is a partnership of nonprofits and government agencies that share a vision of changing how transit and community development investments shape the future, offering all residents opportunities for a high quality of life. The TFA aims to:

- Demonstrate the potential for a new approach to development that focuses on equity, health, and environmental outcomes, starting with the Lee Street corridor, which includes three MARTA stations in Southwest Atlanta
- Advocate for racial equity within the built environment during the MARTA expansion and continued development of the Atlanta BeltLine through both policy changes and best practices
- Address shortcomings and challenges that result from spatial segregation, including the health and climate disparities that disproportionately impact black neighborhoods
- Ensure residents, emerging community leaders, and civic institutions are included in the decision-making process by increasing capacity-building opportunities and incorporating arts and culture-based community engagement as a platform to engage and discuss issues
- Advocate for policies that reinforce TFA principles, including the allocation of additional budget and funding towards affordable housing preservation and development, arts and culture, and community organizing
- Use capital strategies, including the early acquisition of strategic parcels for affordable housing, healthy food initiatives, healthcare facilities, infrastructure development, the leveraging of green and energy efficient rehab programs, and advancing models of permanent innovative affordability

Key Accomplishments

Hired the First TransFormation Alliance Managing Director: Odetta MacLeish-White has been hired as TFA's first Managing Director, with the position administratively housed within the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Grant Allocations: Created a competitive process and distribution system for selection of Champion grantees, Supplemental Grantees and Community Fund grantees. Twenty-five partner organizations or community members have received funding.

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Community Organizing: Georgia Stand Up is building a foundation of community trust and conversation in the Lee street corridor through regularly scheduled resident meetings. Forty-two community stakeholders and leaders have participated in nine events held to inform and educate the community on the opportunities and threats to their neighborhoods due to development around transit stations. Partnership for Southern Equity will be recruiting a new class of community members to participate in the TransFormation Academy's expanded curriculum to learn how to be involved in community development decisions.

Advancing Racial Equity: TFA sponsored several of its members to attend the Interaction Institute for Social Change's *Fundamentals of Facilitation for Racial Justice Work*, a two day training designed to develop practical skills and tools for guiding others through productive conversations about race, racism, and racial justice.

Established New Data Partnerships: Neighborhood Nexus will provide the TFA with data management, visualization tools, analytic capacity, innovative surveys, and technical assistance. The data will be shared within the context of Partnership for Southern Equity's Metro Atlanta Equity Atlas underlining racial equity.

Exploring Cross Sector Approaches with Arts and Culture

TFA member, WonderRoot, hired staff to lead a cross-sector Arts and Culture framework in the Lee St. Corridor, as part of an innovative grant with Southface to explore climate and cultural resilience. A cultural assessment tool for community members is being developed, beginning with an oral history collection process. A curriculum for Arts-based Racial Equity Training for cross-sector partnerships is also under development.

Established Health Work Plan and New Partners: In partnership with ARCHI and the Georgia Health Policy Center, a data profile of community residents has been developed. The profile includes baseline health statistics, disease prevalence, insurance rates, premature death rates, and demographics. The information will be vetted with community members to understand the untold stories and issues that numbers can't always convey. In addition, Soccer in the Streets has started the Westside United Soccer team which kicked off in anticipation of a soccer field installation at the West End MARTA station, and in coordination with James Orange Recreation Center.

Established a Climate Work Plan and New Partners: A community-led Resiliency Plan for the Lee St. Corridor is under development, beginning with a needs assessment across climate change, housing, transportation, energy, water, health/food, and job access. With SPARCC technical assistance, TFA and its partners conducted a Rapid Climate Vulnerability Assessment which identified and implemented specific strategies to reduce the climate vulnerability in TFA's place based work. As part of Southface's Energy Efficiency for All (EEFA) grant renewal, there will be alignment with TFA climate-related work on low-income solar+storage, clean energy underwriting/proforma, and energy and water efficiency programming for affordable housing.

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Establishing a Community Investment Framework: A demonstration project with seven place-based initiatives to demonstrate a community investment framework is underway led by Enterprise Community Partners, leveraging Kresge's Capital absorption work and integrating the SPARCC Capital Screening tool. The table also raised capital for affordable housing by working with the Department of Community Affairs to influence policy and spur an allocation of funding to leverage CDFI capital for strategic acquisition.

Capital Deployment: TFA's Capital team led by Enterprise Community Partners continues to move forward in the development of the Tucker Avenue eTOD demonstration project. Action taken to move forward includes hiring a project management team, conducting market and parcel availability analysis, creating and releasing an RFP for conceptual design services, and the development of a community engagement plan. In addition, we continue to further define and prioritize our SPARCC capital pipeline.

Systems Change Efforts: TFA, led by Georgia ACT and in partnership with the City for All housing coalition, was instrumental in catalyzing the City of Atlanta's re-commitment to Inclusionary Housing policies. With Councilmember Andre Dickens' leadership, an Inclusionary Zoning ordinance for the area surrounding the Atlanta Beltline and Westside of Atlanta was passed in November. The table continues to work with City staff to include housing resources in future funding decisions. The table also partnered with various partners to plan or support three mayoral forums, focused on topics such as affordable housing, transportation, and the arts. TFA is actively pushing a policy proposal, The Living Transit Fund, to create a loan program from a percentage of MARTA Tax Referendum dollars to fund affordable housing around transit stations.

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