Community Forum
The Collision of Best Intentions:
Public Health, Smart Growth and Land Use Planning

Wednesday, April 9, 2014
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Millennium Biltmore
506 S Grand Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90071
Gold Room

Hosted by
Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center (SCEHSC)
SC-Children’s Environmental Health Center (SC-CEHC) &
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
with additional funding from
The California Wellness Foundation and The Kresge Foundation
Forum Agenda

1:00 pm Welcome: Frank Gilliland

1:10 pm Remarks from the Director of NIEHS: Linda Birnbaum

1:15 pm What We Mean by the “Collision of Best Intentions”: Andrea Hricko

1:25pm Why Different Perspectives are Colliding: Maria Cabildo

1:35pm Near Roadway Air Pollution, Asthma and Obesity: Challenges for Urban Planning: Rob McConnell

1:45pm Introduction to Case Studies from the Community: Kafi D. Blumenfield

1:50pm Posters/photo displays demonstrating environmental health/urban planning challenges: community leaders, government officials, EJ groups, architecture and urban planning students, affordable housing developers, urban gardeners, and advocates for clean air and livable streets.

2:40pm No Mitigations or Solutions are Perfect; Here are Some Approaches: Doug Houston

2:50pm Open Microphone Session: Brainstorming Solutions and Feedback from Attendees. Moderated by Jean Armbruster

3:30pm Adjourn
Speaker and Moderator Bios

Frank Gilliland, MD, PhD, is Director of the SCEHSC and Professor of Preventive Medicine at Keck School of Medicine of USC. His research focuses on environmental epidemiology of acute and chronic diseases, epidemiology of respiratory diseases, obesity and environmental genomics.

Linda Birnbaum, PhD, has been director of the NIEHS since 2009. She is the first woman and first toxicologist to be head of NIEHS, which is an institute of the National Institutes of Health. The NIEHS conducts biomedical research to discover how the environment influences human health and disease.

Andrea Hricko, MPH, is Director of the Community Outreach and Engagement Program of the SCEHSC and Professor of Preventive Medicine at USC, where she has built community/academic partnerships around environmental health issues, in particular dealing with ports and freight transport issues.

Maria Cabildo is co-founder and president of East LA Community Corporation (ELACC), which has faced many of the affordable housing development challenges being discussed in today’s Community Forum. She is on the City of Los Angeles' Planning Commission, appointed by Mayor Garcetti.

Rob McConnell, MD, is Deputy Director of the SCEHSC, Director of the SC-CEHC and Professor of Preventive Medicine at USC. His research has focused on the effects of air pollution on the development and exacerbation of asthma.

Kafi D. Blumenfield, president emeritus of the Liberty Hill Foundation and member of the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Commission, appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Doug Houston, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Planning, Policy & Design at the School for Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine. His research focuses on the environmental and health implications of urban development and transportation systems.

Jean Armbruster, MA, is Director of the L.A. County Department of Public Health’s PLACE Program. PLACE stands for Policies for Livable Active Communities and Environments. The program provides bike/pedestrian grants to cities & non-profits, written input to city and county plans, staff time to help cities change their policies, and city plans for transit-oriented developments.
Poster/Photo Session Participants

**Advocates 4 Clean Air – El Marino:** Mobilizing a school community to mitigate freeway air pollution
An organization “dedicated to improving the air quality for all who work, learn and play at El Marino, an exceptional elementary school located 40 feet from the biggest and busiest freeway in the nation.”
[Facebook](#)

**Asian Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance:** Engaging API youth around air quality
The mission of APIOPA is “to empower Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities to improve their health by proactively addressing social, cultural, environmental, and political factors that contribute to the growing rates of obesity among API residents in Los Angeles County.”
[Twitter](#)

**Ballona Institute**  
*Speaking for Nature*

**Coalition for a Safe Environment:** How to use community fenceline science to reduce exposure to air pollution
CFASE is a “nonprofit community-based organization based in Wilmington, CA that seeks to improve environmental health and justice in the Harbor communities near the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.”

**East LA Community Corporation:** Boyle Heights People’s Plan: community planning with residents to form a vision for a healthy community
ELACC’s mission is to “advocate for economic and social justice in Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles by building grassroots leadership, developing affordable housing and neighborhood assets, and providing access to economic development opportunities for low and moderate income families.”

**East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice:** Ignoring health impacts by siting a rail yard next to homes and schools
EYCEJ is “an environmental health and justice non-profit organization working towards a safe and healthy environment for communities that are disproportionately suffering the negative impacts of industrial pollution.”
[Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

**Environmental Health Coalition:** Creating healthy neighborhoods: community planning to overcome injustice
EHC is “dedicated to achieving environmental and social justice. We believe that justice is accomplished by empowered communities acting together to make social change. We organize and advocate to protect public health and the environment threatened by toxic pollution. EHC supports broad efforts that create a just society and fosters a healthy and sustainable quality of life.”
[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [RSS](#)
Esperanza Community Housing Corporation: Breathe in, breathe out: addressing South L.A. air quality disparities
Esperanza “works to achieve comprehensive and long-term community development in the Figueroa Corridor neighborhood of South-Central Los Angeles.” Twitter Facebook

From Lot to Spot: Empowering neighborhoods one vacant lot at a time
FLTS’s unique approach involves grassroots, community engagement to ensure that disadvantaged communities contribute their voice in developing healthy spaces in their neighborhoods. The group aims to convert vacant LOTS into urban SPOTS for recreation, exercise and play. Facebook Twitter

Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust: Urban parks and gardens– community-led design and stewardship in L.A.’s low-income, communities of color
LANLT’s mission is to “grow healthier, safer and stronger communities by creating small, accessible urban parks and gardens that help remedy the critical lack of green and recreational spaces in greater Los Angeles’ underserved neighborhoods.” Facebook Twitter

Move L.A.
Accomplishments in increasing transit and TOD under Measure R
“Move LA's mission is to build a broad constituency that will advocate for the development of a comprehensive, diverse, robust, clean, and financially sound public transportation system for Los Angeles County and champion strategies to accelerate its implementation.” Facebook Twitter RSS

Pacoima Beautiful: The Pacoima Wash: a vision for a healthier community
The mission of Pacoima Beautiful is to create a healthy, environmentally safe, prosperous and sustainable community through programs that provide environmental education, advocacy and local leadership. Twitter

Social Justice Learning Institute: 100 seeds of change: local food system initiatives
The Institute is “dedicated to improving the education, health, and well-being of youth and communities of color by empowering them to enact social change through research, training, and community mobilization.” Twitter YouTube Facebook LinkedIn
**Strategic Actions for a Just Economy:** Evaluating zoning changes in community plans & their impacts on health
SAJE works “on behalf of economic democracy, neighborhood integrity and tenants’ rights to help make L.A. a happier, more just place.” They “work to find positive solutions to conflicts between institutions and low-income city residents, negotiating landmark agreements that benefit all participants.”
Facebook, YouTube, Flicker, Twitter

**Streetsblog LA:** Bicycling in the urban environment: the MyFigueroa project
Streetsblog LA describes itself as “a daily news source, online community and political mobilizer for the Livable Streets movement. We are part of a growing coalition of individuals and organizations in cities around the world working to transform our cities by reducing dependence on private automobiles and improving conditions for cyclists, pedestrians and transit riders.”
Twitter, Facebook, RSS

**T.R.U.S.T South LA:** Slauson & Wall Village: brownfields redevelopment in South Central LA
T.R.U.S.T. (Tenemos que Reclamar y Unidos Salivar la Tierra) South LA works on land stewardship, mobility and recreation, and economic development issues. It works to “build community control over land to ensure affordable, healthy housing opportunities and related community-serving uses” and it works toward maximizing mobility and recreational activity in our community to support healthy living and economic vitality.”
Twitter, Facebook

**Urban & Environmental Policy Institute:** L.A. freeways past and future: can freeway caps, transformations and removals contribute to a healthier Los Angeles?
UEPI is “a social change organization at Occidental College that connects ideas and actions to create a more just, livable, and green society.”
Twitter, Facebook
Background for the Community Forum

Our children and community residents need more exercise to reduce the epidemic of obesity in the U.S. Smart growth can help, by building high density housing near transit stops, more urban parks and more community gardens. Such efforts can also reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases in the long run, if residents use their feet, their bikes and public transit instead of their cars. But sometimes housing near a transit stop is also right next to a freeway.

Or residents might want to build new parks, but the only land available is adjacent to highways and traffic pollution. Urban gardens may be created … but the land may be contaminated. There are other challenges, such as new industrial facilities like rail yards and warehouses that continue to be proposed in close proximity to homes and schools.

This community forum will address:
- the public health dilemma of incompatible land use decisions;
- how we can achieve physical activity and other health benefits from building transit-oriented development (TOD) while also considering near roadway air pollution; and
- the need for considering public health as we develop community gardens, urban parks, more walkable streets and new bicycle lanes.
For more information and follow-up regarding this meeting, look for an email update to be sent to all Community Forum participants in the near future!

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