News Tools For Distressed Areas
Kansas City, Missouri
New Tools for Distressed Areas

• Why New Tools?
• Process
  – WEdevelopment framework
  – Community organizers
• Outcomes
  – A community vetting process
  – A community development credit union (CDCU)
• Discussion
Why New Tools?

Because “Old Tools” are not working

- TIF
- Super TIF
- LCRA
- PIEA
- Chapter 353
- Chapter 100
Economically distressed areas had median household incomes up to 70% of the Kansas City, Missouri median household income in the 2000 Census.
Mayor’s charge

To increase –

• Population and density
• Individual economic opportunities
  – individual income,
  – Employment
  – # of quality jobs
• Business activities & business profits
• Property values
• Safety and livability
WEdevelopment

“It’s not re-development. It’s WE-development.”
WEdevelopment Framework

Village Forums – Current State Analysis, Visioning and Strategic Planning

Community Capital Committee
Community Engagement Committee

New Tools Task Force

Financial Capacity Committee
Research/Evaluation Committee
Educational Capacity Committee

Committee Reports

Community Organizing

- 5 Community Organizers
- Engaging 1000s residents & business owners
- 4 rounds of Village Forums
  - Community assets
  - Community visioning
  - Strategic planning
  - Community validation
Outcomes

- Land Acquisition
- Increased Wealth
- Increased Manufacturing
  - Community Land Trusts
- Tax Abatements
- Leaky Bucket
  - Community Visions
- Recycling Center
  - Asset Inventory
  - Development Plan
  - Housing Development
  - Premium Development Incentives
- Urban Farms
- Entrepreneurial Education
Outcomes

• A community vetting process for development projects

• Over 10 projects with project leaders and teams
  – Community Development Credit Union (CDCU)
Community Vetting

1. Does the project pass the leaky bucket test?
2. Is the project locally owned?
3. Are there import substitution opportunities?
4. Are there export opportunities?
Committed Projects

• Community Skilled Trades Center
• Land Acquisition
• Urban Boutiques
• New Environmental Technology
• Sustainable Transportation Systems
• Locally owned grocery store
• Arts in Our Neighborhoods
• Recycling Center
• Community Development Credit Union (CDCU)
• Construction Cooperative
CDCU

• A financial institute
  – Bank the “unbankable”

• And so much more ...
  – An umbrella institution for community economic development
Discussion

Is WEdevelopment a place-based or people-based strategy?

It is both, with an addition of community-based
“The degree to which we can impact our most distressed areas, is the degree to which we can improve the quality of life and prosperity of the entire region.”

-- Ajamu Webster, New Tools Chair
New Tools Task Force

Mayor's Office > Mayor's Initiatives > New Tools Task Force

New Tools Task Force

Mayor's New Tools Task Force Releases Report

Mayor's New Tools Task Force Cover Letter

Mayor's New Tools Task Force Report

New Tools For Economic Development

Why New Tools are Needed

Potential developers bring proposals to the City requesting assistance in the form of incentives and tax breaks alike to attract investment to new or existing projects.